

Under the High Patronage of



القيادة العامة للقوات المسلحة الأردنية - الجيش العربي
JORDAN ARMED FORCES - ARAB ARMY



2ND SYMPOSIUM OF THE ARAB SECTION OF AOAC INTERNATIONAL

7-8 May 2024

W Amman Hotel, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

– Report and Key Messages –



Contents

Organizers and Partners	3
Day 1 • Tuesday, 7 May 2024.....	4
Opening Ceremony	4
Session 1: Proficiency Testing Programs of AOAC INTERNATIONAL	4
Session 2: Pesticide Residue Analysis in Food	5
Day 2 • Wednesday, 8 May 2024	6
Session 3: Fraud Detection in Food	6
Session 4: Allergens and Gluten Analysis in Food	7
Session 5: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)	8
Closing Ceremony.....	9
Conclusion	9
Acknowledgments	9

Organizers and Partners

Organizer

The Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) – Operator of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, under the High Patronage of the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army.

International Partners

*The Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO)
(Host of the Arab Section)*

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Standardization Organization (GSO)

The International Union for Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)

Laval University and the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform (PARERA)

Local Partners

The Jordan Food & Drug Administration (JFDA)

The Jordan Standards & Metrology Organization (JSMO)

Sponsors

R-Biopharm AG

Waters Corporation

Day 1 • Tuesday, 7 May 2024

Opening Ceremony

The symposium commenced with an official opening ceremony that welcomed all participants, speakers, and distinguished guests. Insightful opening remarks were shared by distinguished guests:

- Brigadier General Talal Al-Ghabin, Assistant Chief of Joint Staff for Planning, Organization, and Defense Resources.
- Mr. David B. Schmidt, Executive Director at AOAC INTERNATIONAL.
- Prof. Samuel Godefroy, President and COO of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS).
- Eng. Lana Al Marashdeh, Acting Director - Accreditation and Standardization System, Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization.
- Colonel Khader Mohamed Al-Dawdyah, Director of the Military Laboratories for Quality Control.

Dr. Amine Kassouf, President of the Arab Section, and as per the tradition, invited Colonel Al-Dawdyah to officially open the symposium's activities. The opening ceremony witnessed also the signature of the MoU between the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) and the Military Laboratories for Quality Control - Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army to support capacity building in food laboratory analysis in the Arab Region and globally.

Prof. Samuel Godefroy started the symposium by a keynote talk on the role of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL in enhancing harmonization and coordination in the Arab Food Analytical Community.

Session 1: Proficiency Testing Programs of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

Chair:

Eng. Kholoud Abu Rumman, Manager of Proficiency Testing Department, Military Laboratories for Quality Control.

Presentations:

This session started with an introduction to the Proficiency Testing Program of AOAC INTERNATIONAL,

presented through a pre-recorded message by Mr. Shane P. Flynn, Senior Director of the Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program. Following this, Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck, Executive Committee Member of the Arab Section, delivered a presentation summarizing the primary results of a survey conducted by the Arab section targeting stakeholders in the Arab region. This survey assessed the level of interest in PT programs offered by AOAC INTERNATIONAL, aiming to shape future PT initiatives tailored to the specific needs of the Arab region.

Eng. Lana Al Marashdeh then provided an overview of the food laboratory accreditation efforts in Jordan, detailing the program's scopes, objectives, main activities, and outcomes. The session concluded with a presentation by Eng. Kholoud Abu-Rumman, who introduced the scope and activities of the proficiency testing program at the Military Laboratories for Quality Control and discussed opportunities for collaboration to benefit the Arab region.

Key Messages

The significance of proficiency testing in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of laboratory results.

The major challenges faced in the Arab region that hinder the expansion of the scopes of these PT programs are primarily financial, as these programs are considered expensive for the region. Additionally, the availability of PT programs and the lengthy time required for the shipment and reception of samples pose significant obstacles.

Prioritizing the needs for PT programs in the Arab region should begin with easily implementable analytes and matrices. The survey conducted in this context will offer valuable guidance on these priorities.

The Arab Section, along with its partners, particularly the Military Laboratories for Quality Control in Jordan, is committed to supporting the PT program for the Arab region, with the aim of overcoming the aforementioned obstacles.

Session 2: Pesticide Residue Analysis in Food

Chair:

Dr. Ruba Goussous, Director of the Laboratory Directorate, Jordan Food and Drug Administration.

Presentations:

Dr. Gouda Abdulla Ramadan Gouda, Consultant at the Food Safety Laboratory of the Food Safety Department,

Ministry of Public Health in Qatar, began with an online presentation on the Analytical Quality Control (AQC) aspects for pesticide residues analysis in food. His talk was followed by Mr. Khalid Ghaffar, Business Development Manager for Waters Corporation's Middle East Branch Office, who shared insights on multiresidue pesticide analysis in food and how to decode their complexity. The session concluded with Dr. Ghaith Algharibeh, Head of the Food Contaminant Monitoring Department at JFDA, providing an overview of the efforts for pesticide residues monitoring in Jordan.

Key Messages

Importance of harmonizing pesticide residues standards and methods of analysis to ensure food safety and fair trade across the Arab region and the world.

The primary challenge discussed was the absence of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for certain local food commodities of interest in the region, particularly composite foods and grape leaves.

The importance of seamless knowledge and data exchange between Arab laboratories through an Arab Laboratory Database.

Day 2 • Wednesday, 8 May 2024

Session 3: Fraud Detection in Food

Chair:

Dr. Amine Kassouf, President of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

Presentations:

Eng. PMN Rajesh from Waters Corporation began the session with a presentation on targeted and non-targeted analytical approaches for authenticity testing and the identification of food fraud. He highlighted various spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques for analytical fingerprinting, coupled with chemometrics for fraud detection. Following this, Prof. Hamzah Alqadiri, a Professor of Food and Water Microbiology at the University of Jordan, delivered a presentation on new non-targeted approaches to food authenticity testing. The session concluded with a presentation by Dr. Mohammad Hijaz from Hijaz Scientific Supplies Est., Jordan, who introduced some of the latest technologies based on NMR detection for identifying food fraud.

Key Messages

Food fraud is a critical issue for the Arab region, requiring increased efforts and collaboration between public and private sectors to combat it.

Non-targeted analytical approaches are essential for fast and reliable identification and thus prevention of food fraud.

Strengthening Arab networking is vital for the exchange of knowledge, competencies and data in this field.

Creating national and regional databases to compile analytical fingerprints for authentic products is crucial for the Arab region.

Session 4: Allergens and Gluten Analysis in Food

Chair:

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, President and COO of GForSS

Presentations:

Prof. Godefroy opened the session with a keynote presentation on food allergens and gluten management, emphasizing the analytical methodologies used in this field. Prof. Hanees Al-Dmoor from Al-Balqa Applied University in Jordan expanded on this topic by discussing theoretical aspects of gluten testing in gluten-free foods and research activities conducted in Jordan. Dr. Joseph Touma, Assistant Researcher at the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), presented a systematic case study on sesame allergens in Oriental-type products marketed in Lebanon. He highlighted a risk assessment study on these allergens conducted in collaboration with Laval University in Quebec, Canada. To conclude the session, Dr. Stefan Schmidt, Product Manager for Allergens at R-Biopharm, joined online from Germany to present the latest technologies and advancements in gluten testing, with a particular focus on the importance of incurred samples for method validation.

A panel discussion followed, titled “The Arab AOAC Method Harmonization Program - Call for Methods: Gluten from Wheat, Rye, and Barley.” The session aimed to highlight the importance of harmonized gluten testing in the Arab region, which is essential for making data-driven regulatory decisions. Mrs. Abida Kaisi, President of The Celiac Care Providers Society in Jordan, participated as a guest panelist, sharing valuable insights about the society's activities and the major challenges they face. Additionally, Lieutenant Eng. Arwa Salem Al-Hamaydah,

representing the Military Laboratories for Quality Control, discussed the efforts undertaken by the military laboratories to support conformity assessment of gluten-free foods in the Jordanian market.

Key Messages

The generation of data on gluten occurrence in foods labelled as gluten-free is crucial for regulatory management efforts.

Enhancing analytical competencies in gluten testing is essential to meet required thresholds and ensure analytical quality assurance, achieved through increased capacity-building efforts and harmonized methodologies.

It is important to involve all stakeholders, including celiac patient associations and industries, in these initiatives.

Session 5: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

Chair:

Eng. Nessma Shannak, Head of food Industries division, Jordan Standard and Metrology Organization (JSMO).

Presentations:

The session commenced with a keynote online presentation from Dr. Katerina Mastovska, Deputy Executive Director & Chief Science Officer at AOAC INTERNATIONAL. Dr. Mastovska discussed the general involvement of AOAC INTERNATIONAL in Codex proceedings, with a particular focus on the activities of the Codex Committee on Methods of Sampling and Analysis (CCMAS). Following her presentation, Eng. Nessma Shannak outlined the priority agenda items for CCMAS43.

Key Messages

The importance of standardizing methods of analysis and sampling to ensure global food safety and fair trade.

To support future directions and initiatives of CCMAS in enhancing food analytical methods.

CCMAS holds a vast archive of documents that can provide significant assistance to the food analytical community.

Closing Ceremony

The symposium concluded with a closing ceremony that featured a summary of key insights from each session, acknowledgments of the speakers and participants, and closing remarks by Dr. Amine Kassouf. Following this, official closing statements were delivered by Prof. Samuel Godefroy, COO and President of GForSS, Colonel Khader Mohamed Al-Dawdyah, Director of the Military Laboratories for Quality Control, and His Excellency Eng. Adel Sakr, Director General of the Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO).

The closing ceremony marked also the signing of the second Memorandum of Cooperation between the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) and the Military Laboratories for Quality Control - Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army, regarding the lending of a UPLC-MS/MS Instrument, to support capacity building in food laboratory analysis in the Arab Region and globally.

Conclusion

The 2nd Symposium of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL successfully provided a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among professionals in the field of food analytical sciences in the Arab region. The sessions covered a wide range of topics, from proficiency testing and pesticide residue analysis to food fraud detection, allergen, and gluten analysis, as well as the involvement of AOAC in the proceedings of CCMAS. The event highlighted the importance of continuous harmonization in analytical methods and regulatory standards to ensure food safety and protect consumer health, through effective collaboration between all concerned parties from the Arab region.

Acknowledgments

The Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL extends its gratitude to all speakers, participants, and sponsors for their valuable contributions to the success of the symposium.

For more information, please visit www.arabaoac.org or contact arabaoac@gforss.org.