



PROPOSED SESSIONS OF THE THIRD GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM*

21-24 October 2024 • Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE

*The online broadcast of select sessions is indicated in the event program below. **Registration is mandatory** to participate in these sessions, please scan / click on the QR code for more information.



Organized as part of the 18th Dubai International Food Safety Conference (DIFSC)



DAY 1 • 21 OCTOBER 2024

8:00-14:00 Participation in DIFSC Opening Ceremony and Morning Session

Session Not Broadcasted by GForSS

Session 1: Performance Criteria for Acceptance of Quantitative Gluten Methods – Development of Arab Analytical Method Standards for the Determination of Gluten in Gluten Free Foods

14:00-16:30 • Room: DUBAI F • Session Broadcasted by GForSS

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

14:00-14:30 Introduction to Food Allergens and Gluten Management from a Regulatory Perspective

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

14:30-15:00 Introduction to the AOAC Guidelines for Validation of Quantitative Gluten Methods

AOAC INTERNATIONAL, *Gluten & Food Allergens (GFA) Program*

15:00-15:30 Performance of ELISA-based Analytical Methods Supporting Compliance with Gluten-Free Regulations

R-Biopharm

15:30-16:00 The Arab Food Allergen Management Initiative: Summary of Achievements and Future Perspectives

Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS); President of Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

16:00-16:30 Round-table Discussion

Development of Arab Analytical Method Standards for the Determination of Gluten in Gluten Free Foods

MODERATORS

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS); President of Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

16:30-18:00 Arab Codex Contact Points Coordination Meeting – CCFL48 (Hybrid)

18:30-20:00 Group Dinner

DAY 2 • 22 OCTOBER 2024

Session 2: Current and Emerging Issues in Food Risk Assessment Affecting the Arab region and Beyond

9:00-11:00 • Room: Dubai F • **Session Broadcasted by GForSS**

CHAIR: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

9:00-9:10 Session Introduction

Importance of Risk Assessment to Guide Robust Food Regulatory Decisions

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

9:10-9:30 How Can Risk Assessment Support to Alleviate Food-Related Concerns?

Stochastic Health Risk Assessment of Aflatoxin M1 in Cow's Milk among the Lebanese Population

Dr. Jérémie Theolier and **Dr. Silvia Dominguez**, PARERA, Laval University, Quebec, Canada

9:30-10:00 Applying Evidence-Based Approaches to Manage Titanium Dioxide as a Food Additive

Review of the international context and next steps

Dr. Wiem Guissouma, GForSS Expert, National Agency for Risk Assessment, Tunisia

10:00-10:30 Egypt's Approach to Develop Risk-Based Management Approaches for Energy Drinks in Food

Dr. Rasha Galal, National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) – Egypt

10:30-11:00 Reviewing Emerging Issues in Risk Assessment Impacting the Arab Region and Beyond

Facilitated Discussion with Speakers and the Audience

Session 3: Harmonization of Food Regulatory Frameworks

11:00-13:00 • Room: Dubai F • **Session Broadcasted by GForSS**

CHAIR: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

This session will be structured in the form of G2B discussions aiming to review current food regulatory challenges in the region and internationally and the importance of the development and sustainability of food regulatory convergence forums

11:00-11:20 Current Efforts to Develop Harmonized Standards Among Country Members of the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization (GSO)

Eng. Ahmad Al-Basha, GSO

11:20-11:40 Introduction of the African Food Regulators Forum – Current Status and Future Activities

Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman of the Board, National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), Egypt

11:40-12:00 Introducing the Concept of the Arab Food Regulators Network (Arab FoRNet)

Prof. Hussein Masroori, Director General, Center of Food Safety and Quality, Sultanate of Oman
Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman of the Board, National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), Egypt

12:00-13:00

Open Dialogue G2B

- Current food safety regulatory irritants regionally and globally
- Lessons Learnt and Best practices in G2G and G2B Collaborations
- Harnessing Technology to Support Data Sharing G2G and G2B
- Codex Agenda and Perspectives of G2G Collaborations
- Managing Emerging Issues and Preventing Food Regulatory Divergence

Enhancing the Regulatory Framework for Food Imports and Inspection to Facilitate Regional Trade

14:00-16:00 • Room: Cheikh Rashed C • Session Not Broadcasted by GForSS

CHAIR: Rola Arab, Consultant, GCC Harmonization Initiative

16:00 -18:00

Student Symposium

DAY 3 • 23 OCTOBER 2024

Session 4: International Perspectives on Food Safety

8:30-10:30 • Room: SRH C • Session Not Broadcasted by GForSS

CHAIR: Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada; President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST); President and COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

Session 5: Data-Based / Decision-Making Workshop: Supporting the Arab Codex Community in Accessing and Providing Data to Codex Proceedings – DAY 1

14:00-16:30 • Room: Dubai F • Session Broadcasted by GForSS

14:00-14:15

Objective of the Workshop and Introduction of Participants

14:15-15:15

Exposure Assessment

- General principles
- Contaminants in Food - Veterinary Drug Residues in Food

Dr. Moez Sanaa, HQ-WHO

Dr. Luc Ingenbleek, HQ-WHO

15:15-15:30

Coffee Break

15:30-16:30

GEMS Food Database

- Data base interface and connection
- Data extraction
- Data submission

Dr. Luc Ingenbleek, HQ-WHO

16:30-17:00

DIFSC Closing Ceremony

Session Not Broadcasted by GForSS

DAY 4 • 24 October 2024 • 9:00-16:30

Session 5: Data-Based / Decision-Making Workshop: Supporting the Arab Codex Community in Accessing and Providing Data to Codex Proceedings – DAY 2

14:00-16:30 • Room: Dubai F • Session Broadcasted by GFORSS

9:00-9:45 Introducing Risk-Based Food Monitoring

Objective:

- To introduce the Importance of Food Monitoring and
- To offer an Overview on Methods of Risk Based Food Monitoring

Dr. Karima Zouine, Expert in Food Risk Assessment – GFORSS

9:45-10:00 GEMS Food Database – Introduction

The WHO's GEMS/Food (Global Environment Monitoring System - Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme) database is a global platform that compiles data on chemical contaminants in food. It provides essential information for risk assessments, supports international food safety standards, and helps monitor exposure to hazardous chemicals in the food supply. This database is a key tool for health agencies, governments, and scientists working to protect public health and ensure food safety worldwide.

Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager – GFORSS

10:00-10:30 Introducing Food Consumption Data

Introduction to Food Consumption Data: Overview of the significance of high-quality consumption data in assessing dietary exposure to chemicals.

Types of Food Consumption Data: Introduction to the various types of data used in chemical risk assessment, including:

- Household Budget Data: General insights into food availability at the household level.
- Cluster Diet Data: Grouping populations by dietary patterns to estimate exposure.

Individual Dietary Surveys: Accurate data on individual consumption using 24-hour recall and food frequency questionnaires.

Dr. Elie Bouyazbeck, Research Manager – GFORSS

Dr. Moez Sanaa, HQ-WHO

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-11:30 Practical Considerations Related to the GEMS Food Database

- Data Extraction: Step-by-step guidance on how to search for and retrieve data on chemical contaminants in food, with practical examples.
- Data Submission: Instructions on how to submit national food contamination data to GEMS, including data format, quality control, and reporting requirements.
- Hands-on Practice: Practical exercises on extracting relevant data and submitting sample datasets to the GEMS platform.
- Q&A and Best Practices: Discussion on common challenges, tips for efficient data handling, and a Q&A session to address participant queries.

Dr. Moez Sanaa, HQ-WHO

11:30-12:30 Food Consumption Data – Practical Considerations

This session will introduce participants to the different types of food consumption data critical for chemical risk assessments by JECFA and JMPR. The following topics will be covered:

- Developing Dietary Surveys: Explanation of the main steps in developing high-quality dietary surveys, including:
 - 24-Hour Recall and Frequency of Consumption: Gathering accurate, detailed consumption data.
 - Food Composition Tables: Using reliable data on nutrient and contaminant content in foods.
 - Sampling and Data Analysis: Proper sampling techniques and robust data analysis to ensure representative results.

Dr. Moez Sanaa, HQ-WHO

12:30-13:30 Lunch and Networking Break

13:30-15:00 Maximum Levels of Contaminants in Food

This session will provide an overview of the process for establishing Maximum Levels (MLs) for aflatoxins in cereals, focusing on balancing public health protection with practical implications for food supply and trade. The session will begin by introducing aflatoxin contamination in cereals and explaining the necessity of setting MLs to protect consumers. Participants will learn how data on aflatoxin occurrence informs risk assessment, including hazard characterization and exposure evaluation.

The training will explore the impact of different ML scenarios on rejection rates (the percentage of cereals exceeding the limit) and the reduction of consumer exposure. Participants will understand how stricter MLs reduce exposure but may lead to higher rejection rates, affecting food availability and production costs. The session will highlight how regulators balance these trade-offs to protect public health while maintaining practical feasibility for producers and traders.

Dr. Moez Sanaa, HQ-WHO

15:00-15:15 Coffee Break

15:15-16:15 Group Discussions

Contaminants Management Initiatives in the Arab Region – Prioritization for Data Generation and Collection Initiatives

Priorities of Training Under the Arab Codex Initiative

Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager – GForSS

All

16:15-16:30 Wrap-Up and Future Directions