

رؤية عمان 2020
التعاون مع
In partnership with
IUFOST GFRSS
Global Food Regulatory Science Society

سلطنة عمان
وزارة التربة الزراعية
والسمكية وموارد المياه

أسبوع سلامة الغذاء
Food Safety week

**THE 7TH OMAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY**
Towards Resilient & Dynamic Food Systems
21-23 April 2025, Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Introduction

By 2050, the world population will exceed 9 billion individuals, leading to ever increasing demand on food and agrifood production. The various climatic and geopolitical shockwaves we are presently experiencing, are impacting how the food and agriculture sector is evolving and are resetting several agendas of food production, management and oversight, with long term consequences on food security and the sustainability of food production systems.

Some constant imperatives of safety and consumer protection remain unchanged though, while opportunities of new technologies, data-driven solutions are offering avenues for transformation of global food systems: production, consumption and oversight.

The 7th Oman International Conference on Food Safety and Quality will review drivers of change impacting food systems and support discussions related to efforts underway to address challenges and build on arising opportunities enabling dynamic and more resilient food systems.

Day 1 • 21 April 2025

SESSION 1 • 9:00-10:00 • OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION

9:00-10:00 Official Opening Ceremony

Conference Keynote Lecture: Addressing resilience of food systems globally - the indispensable transformation

- **Featured Speaker: Professor Christopher Elliott**, Professor of Food Security, International Joint Research Center on Food Security, Thammasat University; Honorary Professor, Queen's University Belfast

10:00-10:30 Health Break • Visit of Booths and Exhibition

SESSION 2 • 10:30-13:00 • MODERNIZING FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT -
ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- ❖ **Chair: Dr. Salem Al-Shuail**, Director of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies Projects Unit, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Oman

This session will review the role of modern technology in developing innovative solutions that enhance food safety and quality, including but not limited to Modern traceability systems, Novel methods used to improve production, storage and distribution processes, as well as using smart sensing technologies that support rapid detection of contaminants.

10:30-11:00 **Featured Speaker from the Singapore Food Story (SFS) – TBC**

11:00-11:30 Innovation in Phytosanitary Products

- **Featured Speaker: Crop Life - TBC**

11:30-12:00 **Subject - TBC**

- **Featured Speaker: Mr. Brendan Ring**, Creme Global, Ireland

12:00-12:30 **Advancing Halal Compliance in the Food Industry Through AI and Digital Innovation**

- **Featured Speaker: Dr. Reem Al-Shamsi**, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman

12:30-13:00 **AI in Clinical Nutrition**

- **Featured Speaker: Fathia AlRashidiah**, Ministry of Health, Oman

13:00-14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00-14:30 **Panel Discussion: Managing Innovation – Regulatory Oversight**

- ❖ **Moderator: Dr. Lyutha Al-Subhiah**, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

- **Panel Members:**

- **Mr. Brendan Ring**, Creme Global, Ireland
- **Prof. Chris Elliott**, Professor of Food Security, International Joint Research Center on Food Security, Thammasat University; Honorary Professor, Queen's University Belfast
- **Ms. Reem Al-Shamsi**, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman
- **Ms. Fathia Al-RAshidiah**, Ministry of Health, Oman
- **Speaker**, Crop Life
- **Salah Al-Shanfari**, Chair, Food Security Committee, Oman

SESSION 3 • 14:30-17:00 • FOOD FRAUD

❖ **Chair: Dr. Abeer Alkabaniah, Director In-Country Value Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman**

This session will be dedicated to reviewing methods and approaches supporting efforts to ascertain authenticity of food products, inputs (e.g., pesticides) and processes, thus contributing to the protection of consumers' health and confidence in food products available for sale.

Such efforts are also associated with the reduction of the rate of food loss and waste and would contribute positively to national economies overall. This session will review food quality management processes and analytical methods used to verify food authenticity and to detect adulterated or counterfeit ingredients, including Mass Spectrometry-based techniques, Infrared spectroscopy (IR), Genetic analysis and sensory or organoleptic tests. Determining food authenticity is the process of verifying the validity and truthfulness of claims related to the characteristics or the source of food ingredients and products.

14:30-15:00 Food Fraud Session – Part 1

- **Featured Speaker: Mr. Ali Badarneh, Chief, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, Agri-Business and Infrastructure Development Department, United Nations Industrial Development Organization - TBC**

15:00-15:30 The Role of Regulations and Legislation to Preserve Food Authenticity

- **Featured Speaker: Dr. Israa Al-Anbariah, Nazwa Municipality, Oman**

15:30-16:00 Health Break

16:00-16:30 Food Fraud Prevention and Mitigation as one of the Objectives of FoodSafeR

Introducing the Food SafeR Hub for Food Incidents Alert

- **Featured Speaker: Dr./Prof. Martin Wagner, Scientific Director, Austrian Competence Center for Feed and Food Quality, Safety and Innovation; Head of the Unit for Food Microbiology at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria**

16:30-17:00 Report from the Arab Codex Workshop: Food Fraud Prevention and Management Tools from Theory to Application

Proposed Discussion Paper to Support Availability of Food Fraud Prevention Resources

17:00-20:30 Conference Event – Launching the Arab Food Regulators' Network

Event by Invitation Only, Location TBC

Day 2 • 22 April 2025

SESSION 4 • 8:30-10:00 • FOOD ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS AND OFFICIAL TESTING

❖ **Chair: Dr. Amine Kassouf, President AOAC International – Arab Section**

This session will address the development, validation and adoption of food regulatory Analytical Methods, which are used to ensure the safety and quality of food and verify conformity with health and quality standards.

Discussions will include:

- *Local and international food legislative and regulatory requirements associated with food methods.*
- *Requirements of Food Analytical methods used in quality management systems and to ascertain food labelling provisions.*

8:30-9:00 Introduction of the Arab Section of AOAC International

Activities of Standardization of Analytical Methods in the Region

➤ **Featured Speaker: Dr. Amine Kassouf, President of the Arab Section, AOAC International**

9:00-9:30 Latest Developments in Methods and Applications from the Arab Region

Radiation Testing for Contamination in Food and Groundwater and Public Health Protection

➤ **Featured Speaker: Dr. Ahmed Cherif, Abu-Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council**

Ascertaining Precision and Trustworthiness of Laboratory Testing

➤ **Featured Speaker: Mr. Othman Allamki, Oman Center for Food Safety and Quality**

9:30-10:00 Presentation by Waters / R-Biopharm

10:00-10:30 Path Forward for Gluten Methods

➤ **Featured Speaker: Colonel Khader Al-Daoudia, Director, Quality Control Laboratories, Jordan Armed Forces, Jordan**

10:30-11:00 Health Break • Visit of Booths and Exhibition

SESSION 5-1 • 11:00-13:00 • FOOD SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT SUPPORTING FOOD REGULATORY DECISIONS – PART 1

❖ **Chair: Dr. Mohamed Al-Ruzaiki, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman**

This session will focus on developments made in the Arab region and globally to build capacities and competencies associated with risk assessment to support standard setting and decision making.

The session will aim to offer updates on most recent risk assessment studies enabling documented food regulatory decisions globally.

Enablers of risk assessment, such as availability of food consumption data and food occurrence information in the Arab region and beyond will be discussed.

11:00-11:30 International Benchmarks for Food Risk Assessments

The Approach of the WHO/FAO Expert Advisory Body

➤ **Featured Speaker: Dr. Moez Sanaa, Head, Scientific Advice, Food Safety and Nutrition Department, World Health Organization**

11:30-12:00 **Role of Risk Assessment in Protecting Public Health and to Enhance the Trust in the Food Control System**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Ms. Israa Al-Anbariah, Department of Municipalities, Ministry of Interior, Oman*

12:00-12:30 **Integrating Risk Assessment in a Food Safety Enforcement Strategy to Protect Public Health**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Richard Springer, Highfield International, Dubai, UAE*

12:30-13:00 **Distinguishing Levels of Titanium Dioxide used as a Food Additive - Discussing the Discrepancies of Risk Assessment Outputs,**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Intisar Al-Gharibi, Center of Food Safety and Quality, Oman*

13:00-14:00 **Lunch Break**

SESSION 5-2 • 14:00-17:00 • FOOD SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT SUPPORTING FOOD REGULATORY DECISIONS – PART 2
Chair: Dr. Intisar Al-Gharibi, Center of Food Safety and Quality, Oman

14:00-14:30 **Consumption of Salt: State of Knowledge, Positions and Practices between Adults and Youth in Oman**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Halima Al-Ghanemi, Ministry of Health, Oman*

14:30-15:00 **Nutritional Data on Selected Food Products Consumed in Oman: An Update of the Food Composition Table and Use for Future Food Consumption Survey**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Salima Almaamaria, Ministry of Health, Oman*

15:00-15:30 **Assessing the Risks Associated with Energy Drinks supporting the Establishment of a Monograph in Regulations – the Egyptian Approach**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Rasha Galal, Egyptian Food Safety Authority*

15:30-16:00 **Health Break**

16:00-16:30 **Discussing the Challenges of Risk Assessment in the Arab Region – Data Gaps –**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Karima Zouine, Bureau of Food Safety Morocco*

16:30-17:00 **Introducing the Arab Food Contaminants Database**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Amine Kassouf, President of the Arab Section, AOAC International*

17:00-17:30 **Managing non-Registered Pesticides in Various Jurisdictions in the Absence of a Codex Standard**
➤ **Featured Speaker:** *Dr. Intisar Al-Gharibi, Center of Food Safety and Quality, Oman*

17:30-18:00 **Panel Discussion**
❖ **Moderator:** *Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor, Université Laval, Canada; President, International Union of Food Science and Technology; President / COO, Global Food Regulatory Science Society*
▪ Discussing Efforts of Harmonization of Food Regulatory Measures in the Arab Region Underpinned by Risk Assessment
▪ Data Limitations and Efforts to Access
▪ Risk Assessment Training

Day 3 • 23 April 2025

SESSION 6 • 8:30-11:30 • QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN

❖ **Chair: Dr. Abeer Alkalbani, Director of In-Country Value Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman**

This session will discuss strategies, initiatives and programs aimed at reducing negative impacts on the environment (as a result of food supply chains), in addition to enhancing the sustainability of resources and consumers' health. To ensure the sustainability of natural resources and meet nutritional needs, efforts must be synergized (governments, companies and local communities). Among the topics that can be presented under this theme are the reduction of food loss and waste and sustainable production practices from farm to table.

The session will also tackle supply chain management including process of planning, organizing, controlling and monitoring. Discussions aim to consider approaches supportive of achieving operational efficiency and cost reduction, while ensuring product safety, quality and maintaining consumer confidence.

8:30-9:00 Food Safety Audit: A New Approach to Control Food Safety Risks

- **Featured Speaker: Ismail M. Al-Bulushi, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman**

9:00-9:30 Challenges of Implementing HACCP in Small Food Businesses: Enhancing Regulatory Decisions Through Risk Assessment

- **Featured Speaker: Dr. Bassem Azzam, Director TSI Quality Services, United Arab Emirates**

9:30-10:00 Production of Liquid Sugar from Unripe Mabseli Dates

- **Featured Speaker: Dr. Al-Farsi, Food Science and Technology Laboratory, University of Nazwa, Oman**

10:00-10:30 An explorative study on the bactericidal effect of sodium benzoate in combination with selected acids for the development of food preservative

- **Featured Speaker: Dr. Muzna Salim Abdullah Alsaadi, University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Muscat, Oman**

10:30-11:00 Health Break

11:00-12:00 Reporting on the Outputs of the Conference

Rapporteurs of the different sessions report on the key recommendations related specific thematic objectives of the Conference.

12:00-13:00 Official Closing Ceremony

13:00-14:00 Lunch