



GF  **RSS**
Global Food Regulatory Science Society

fenagri
fédération nationale de l'agroalimentaire

 **ONSSA**

WORKSHOP ON

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

RELATED TO THE REVIEW

AND APPROVAL OF

FOOD ADDITIVES

Reviewing international best practice related to food additive review and approval, including the JECFA approach as well as approaches followed by international regulators to assess and approve food additives.

Wednesday 16 APRIL 2025

(9:00 AM – 3:30 PM)



The View Hotel,

Bouznika , Morocco

INTRODUCTION

Food additives are chemical substances added to food for the purpose of exerting a technological effect, such as a change in colour, texture or microbiological load.

Food additives are subject to a strong level of oversight by most food regulatory jurisdictions before being allowed for use in conjunction with food production. Before being allowed for use, additives are examined for their safety and for their technological effectiveness. It is only when both criteria are fulfilled, meaning when the use is justified, and the safety is established that conditions of such use are approved by food regulators.

The conditions of review and approval of food additives adopted by most food regulators internationally are based upon the guidance provided by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which is a risk assessment body, managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

This workshop co-organized by the Federation Agri-Food Industries – Fédération Nationale de l'Agroalimentaire (FENAGRI) in Morocco, in Partnership with the National Bureau of Food Safety – Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des produits alimentaires (ONSSA) and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)

The workshop aims to review international best practice related to food additive review and approval, including the JECFA approach as well as approaches followed by international regulators to assess and approve food additives. It also aims to share the experience of ONSSA as the leading food regulatory body in Morocco in the review and approval of food additives and to present developments in the management of food additives resulting from scientific advances in international food regulation.

PROGRAM

9:00 -9:30

Registration

Opening Ceremony

Opening remarks:

- Representative of ONSSA
- Dr. Moez Al Sanaa, Head of Scientific Advice, Food Safety and Nutrition, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Laval University, President IUFoST and Chief Operating Officer, Global Food Regulatory Science Society
- Representative of the Fédération Nationale de l'Agroalimentaire (FENAGRI) –Morocco

9:30-10:00

10:00-10:10

Background of the Meeting and Sought After Objectives

- Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Laval University, IUFoST / GForSS

10:10-10:30

Introduction to Regulatory Management of Food Additives: General Considerations

- Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Laval University, IUFoST / GForSS

Supported by a Short Video produced by GForSS

10:30-11.00

Review of the JECFA Process for Assessment of Food Additives

- Dr. Moez Sanaa, Head of Scientific Advice, Food Safety and Nutrition, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Includes Question and Answers

11:00-11:30

Food Additive Control Systems in Morocco – Role of ONSSA

Evaluation, control and regulation of food additives in Morocco and restitution of Morocco's participation in the last Codex CCFA Committee

Representative of ONSSA

11:30-11:45

Reviewing Food Additive Approval in the Arab Region

Current practices in regulating food additives in the Arab region - Reviewing safety assessments and approvals – Opportunities of Convergence of Decisions

Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager, GForSS

11:45 -12:15 HEALTH BREAK

PROGRAM

Case Study Discussions:

12:15-13:15 Case studies related to safety assessment results of food additive applications and associated food regulatory measures

- Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Laval University, IUFoST / GForSS

Round table and animated discussions

Discussion of challenges and opportunities related to the food additive approval process at national and international level:

13:15-14:00

- Necessary prerequisites for the use of food additives: Health regulatory requirements and the role of the competent authority in analyzing the risks associated with their use;
- The role of the agri-food sector in the use of food additives to ensure and guarantee the health safety of food products;
- Challenges faced by the agri-food sector regarding their need for food additives ;
- Prospects for strengthening communication between the private sector and the competent authority in the context of food additive approval.

Representatives of FENAGRI, ONSSA and WHO

14:00-14:15 Take home Messages, Summary and Official Closing

14:15 – 15:30

LUNCH

15:30

Adjournment