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1. Introduction

The Arab Food Risk Analysis Network (AFRANet) is a collaborative platform bringing together scientists and experts primarily from food regulatory agencies in Arab countries. The network is also open to participation from academia, industry, and international organizations. It serves as a hub for sharing experiences, expertise, and resources across the various disciplines of food risk analysis, encompassing risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

AFRANet is one of the networks administered under the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS) — the disciplinary group for food regulatory science of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST). Through this affiliation, AFRANet benefits from global linkages, access to scientific resources, and alignment with international initiatives supporting food regulatory science capacity building.

2. Mandate

AFRANet aims to strengthen scientific and technical collaboration among Arab countries in the field of food risk analysis serving food safety and nutrition programs. The Network supports the modernization and harmonization of food control systems by fostering the exchange of data, methodologies, and best practices, and by contributing to the development of evidence-based regulatory decisions aligned with international standards, particularly those of the Codex Alimentarius.

3. Objectives

1. **Knowledge and Expertise Sharing** – Facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge, experiences, and tools related to food risk analysis across Arab regulatory authorities and partner institutions.
2. **Capacity Building** – Develop and implement coordinated training and mentorship programs to enhance institutional and individual competencies in food safety risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.
3. **Collaborative Research and Data Generation** – Promote regional initiatives aimed at generating and utilizing food safety data relevant to Arab dietary patterns, food occurrence data and production systems.
4. **Harmonization and Integration** – Support the alignment of risk analysis approaches underpinning food regulatory decisions among Arab countries to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of their food control systems.
5. **Networking and Partnership Development** – Establish and sustain partnerships with regional and international scientific networks, Codex structures, and standard-setting organizations to ensure coherence, complementarity, and shared progress.