



# 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GFORSS MEMBERS

## ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GFORSS

March 2024 – October 2025

18 November 2025

# Introduction

- key activities and achievements of GForSS since the General Assembly of March 2024.
- Overview of ongoing initiatives, their impact, and future directions.
- How GForSS programs strengthen capacities, advance the scientific foundations of food regulatory systems, and build sustainable collaborative networks.

**Through these efforts, GForSS continues to position itself as a global hub for generating and disseminating regulatory science to support effective, risk-based, and innovation-ready food systems.**



# GFoRSS Strategic Priorities



Advancing Analytical Science and Laboratory Competence and Analytical Training on Emerging Contaminants



Fostering Regional Coordination and Participation in Codex



Building Competence in Risk Assessment and Evidence-Based Decision-Making



Strengthening Linkages between Science, Policy, and Practice



# Advancing Analytical Science and Laboratory Competence



01

## Launch of the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Laboratory Proficiency Testing (PT) Program

Ensuring alignment with international standards (ISO/IEC 17025), and supporting reliable generation of analytical results,

02

## Call for Methods on Gluten Analysis in Food

To Establish a single regional reference for methods to be used by both regulatory authorities and the food industry for compliance verification,;

03

## Creation of an Expert Working Group *(under TSC-9 of the Arab Food Standardization Committee)*

To Provide technical advice and coordinate regional analytical method harmonization activities

04

## Emerging Chemical Contaminants & PFAS Capacity-Building Initiative

Enhancing analytical proficiency, updating monitoring protocols, and introducing harmonized training modules for national laboratories.

# Key Laboratory Capacity-Building Training and Activities

## 2<sup>nd</sup> AOAC Arab Section Symposium (**Amman, May 2024**)

Agreement on establishing an inter-laboratory validation scheme for key food matrices.

## Workshop on the Determination of Gluten in Gluten-Free Foods (**Muscat, August 2024**)

Launch of Arab Working Group; engagement from public and private labs

## Food Safety Capacity-Building Workshop on Emerging Contaminants (**Singapore, June 2025**)

Published screening toolkit.

## PFAS Capacity-Building Initiative (**Lucknow, India, November 2024**)

Updated monitoring protocols developed.



**+80** participants  
from 12  
countries



**35** professionals trained



**50** analysts  
trained



**60** laboratory  
experts trained

# IMPACT

## Advancing Analytical Science and Laboratory Competence



Enhanced analytical performance across 10+ Arab states; improved laboratory capacities in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco.



Setting up a formal expert advisory mechanism under Arab standardization structures (Launch of the Arab Working Group on Quantitative Methods for Gluten Analysis )



Integrated Arab laboratories into global analytical and regulatory science networks



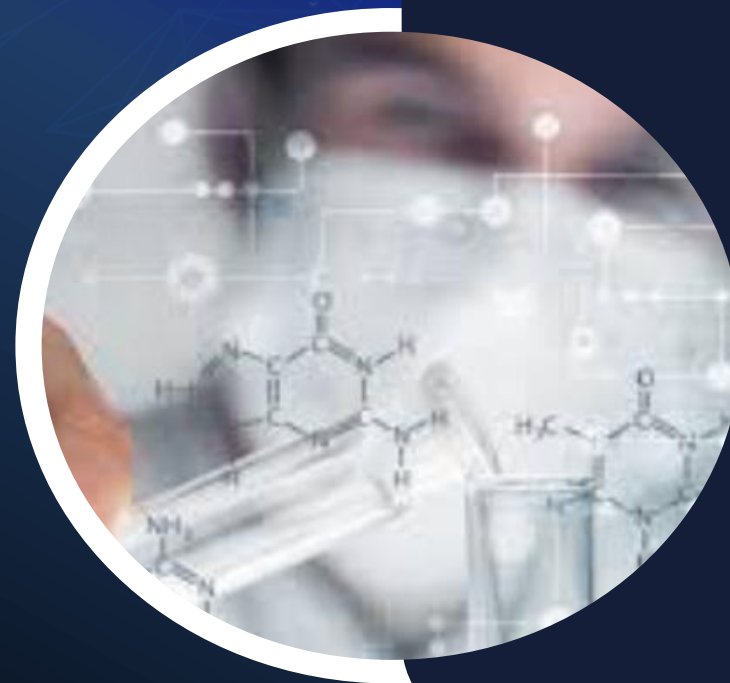
Advanced the harmonization of analytical methods



Improved of regional readiness to detect and monitor complex contaminants



Facilitated the generation of high-quality data to support exposure assessment and international standard-setting



# Fostering Regional Coordination and Participation in Codex

01

## Development of Codex “Communities of Practice” across regions

Enabling regional coordination and fostering thematic working groups under regional coordination structures

02

## Engagement in CCNASWP *activities (FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific)*

Enhancing data-sharing and analytical coordination

03

## Convergence of Asian Codex programs and regulators,

bridging science, innovation, and policy.





# Regional Coordination Initiatives Enhancing Codex Participation

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Codex Colloquia in Amman (2024) and Muscat (2025)

Representation from **15 Arab countries.**

Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) Side Event : Collaborative Program on Data Collection Related to Scopoletin in Noni Juice ( Nadi\_Fiji, February 2025)

Asia Codex and Food Regulatory Forum (Bangkok, August 2025)

Agreed framework for data exchange among Asian and multi-regional regulators.



**40** participants





# IMPACT

## Fostering Regional Coordination and Participation in Codex



Enhanced regional Codex communities of practice



Enhancing scientific engagement and inclusiveness in Codex participation across countries



Promoted evidence-based contributions to Codex processes



Engaged Arab, Asian, and Pacific regions in coordinated efforts



# Building Competence in Risk Assessment and Evidence-Based Decision- Making



01

## **Organized key capacity- building workshops (in**

Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Morocco,  
and Paris (2024–2025)

To promote risk-based decision-  
making, food additive safety,  
biotechnology oversight, and digital  
tools for hazard management.

02

## **Implemented a series of thematic webinars**

serving as a cornerstone of its  
knowledge dissemination program.  
covering topics like allergens, titanium  
dioxide, Halal methods, and ultra-  
processed foods.

03

## **Promoted preparedness for emerging hazards**

Through the EU-funded  
FoodSafeR dissemination  
workshop (Paris, 2025),  
showcased digital tools  
and methodologies for  
early hazard detection and  
international coordination.

# Capacity Building Activities in Risk Assessment and Evidence-Based Regulatory Approaches

Workshop on Risk-Based Regulatory Decision-Making (Muscat, 2024)

The Workshop on Biotechnology and the Future of Food (Abu Dhabi, 2024)

The Food Additives Workshop (Morocco , 2025),  
10 tools and case studies share

Dissemination Workshop on FoodSafeR Outcomes, Tools & Services (Paris, June 2025) Paris,



+40 participants



+120 participants  
from 10 countries



100+ participants





# Knowledge Dissemination: Webinars (Sep 2024 – Jul 2025)

- ❖ Allergen Risk Management (Oct 2024)
- ❖ Titanium Dioxide Safety (Oct 2024)
- ❖ Veterinary Residue Monitoring (Oct 2024)
- ❖ Halal Analytical Methods (Nov 2024)
- ❖ Camel Milk Standardization (Nov 2024)  
Draft framework for Codex camel milk standardization proposed
- ❖ Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) (Dec 2024)
- ❖ Food Safety Information Exchange (Sep 2024)
- ❖ Risk-Based Decision-Making in Food Regulation (Jul 2025)

All webinars gathered between **100–250** participants, targeting regulators, scientists, and industry.



# IMPACT

## Building Competence in Risk Assessment and Evidence-Based Decision-Making



Enhanced regulatory competence in food risk assessment and decision-making



Wider dissemination of technical knowledge



Expanded access to science-based resources across regions and sectors



# Strengthening Linkages between Science, Policy, and Practice



**01**

## **Adoption of best practices by food regulators and policy makers**

Encouraging the application of evidence-based and risk-analysis-driven approaches to food regulatory decision-making.

**02**

## **Integration across laboratory, Codex, risk analysis, and training streams**

Supporting national authorities and regional partners to build regulatory programs grounded in science and aligned with international good practices.

**03**

## **Reinforcement of science- to-policy dialogue through key events**

Enhancing the connection between scientific evidence, policymaking, and implementation



# Key Events Reinforcing Evidence-Based Dialogue

Egyptian Global Food Safety Symposium (Cairo, 2024),

Global Food Regulatory Science Symposium (Dubai, 2024)

Oman International Conference on Food Safety and Quality (April 2025)



150+ delegates



300+ participants

+ 200 participants



# IMPACT

## Strengthening Linkages between Science, Policy, and Practice



Reinforced integration  
between science and  
regulatory practice,



Improved translation of  
scientific evidence into  
practical regulatory measures



Improved institutional  
capacity to implement risk-  
based approaches to food  
control.



# Conclusion

From March 2024 to October 2025, GFoRSS has implemented a coherent, cross-regional program of work that aligns analytical capacity building, scientific training, and policy integration under a unified vision:



**To strengthen the science foundation of food regulation and foster globally interconnected communities of regulatory practice.**

Through the support of organizations such as AIDSMO, AOAC International, Codex regional coordination structures, the European Union, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – U.S. Codex Office, GFoRSS continues to act as a catalyst for knowledge generation, dissemination, and application in food regulatory science.





# Thank You!