

## REPORT ON GFoRSS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*November 2022 – August 2024*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)</i> .....	2
OVERVIEW .....	2
KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT .....	3
A. Codex Outreach Program .....	3
B. Structuring Food Laboratory Networks and Communities in Targeted Regions .....	5
C. Development Food Laboratory Science Foundations .....	6
D. Development of a Centre for Food Laboratory Science .....	6
KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION .....	6
E. Learning Activities .....	6
F. Webinars .....	6
FOOD SAFETY NETWORKS .....	7
DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS .....	7
G. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) .....	7
MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT .....	8
H. GFoRSS Members and Partners ( <a href="https://gforss.org/team/">https://gforss.org/team/</a> ) .....	8
I. GFoRSS Organizational Management .....	8
J. GFoRSS Procedures and Protocols .....	8

## *Introduction of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society*

### *(GFORSS)*

---

*GFORSS is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada and hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)), of the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) of Laval University, Quebec, QC, Canada.*

*GFORSS aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, defined as the scientific disciplines underpinning food regulatory decisions as a multi-disciplinary field of food science, including, but not limited to, the application of food risk analysis and associated disciplines, the development of food laws and the assessment of economic impacts of food regulatory measures.*

*GFORSS was recognized by the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) as a disciplinary group for Food Regulatory Science in November 2022, at the 2022 Singapore IUFoST World Congress.*

## OVERVIEW

---

Since its creation and over the past 3 years, GFORSS has worked to promote the various food regulatory science disciplines through the development and dissemination of knowledge, creation of networks, investments in food regulatory science competency development and the

advancement of resources of potential use for the benefit of the food regulatory science community.

## KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT


---


### A. Codex Outreach Program


GFORSS continues to implement its Codex outreach initiative, aiming to enhance codex capacities in the Near East, Asia and the Southwest Pacific regions. Implementation of this initiative is accomplished by GFORSS, in collaboration with LandoLakes Venture 37, the Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform of Laval University (PARERA) and partnerships with regional coordinators of the targeted region, where possible, as well as with regional standardization organizations.

This initiative is funded by the United States Codex Office (USCO), United States Department of Agriculture (US DA). This initiative continues to contribute to the development of Codex communities of practices in the targeted regions and countries, including the development of training material on Codex procedures and protocols, the development of analysis of agenda items in relation with upcoming Codex committees and the development of approaches to strengthen Codex programs in the targeted countries and regions.

The following narrative presents the recent accomplishments of the Codex Outreach Program, for the past two years, with qualitative and quantitative achievements.

<div><div>المبادرة العربية للدستور الغذائي</div><div></div></div>	<b>20 Codex Committee meeting</b>	
	<b>2 Arab Codex Colloquiums</b>	<b>The Second Arab Codex Colloquium   10 – 11 June 2023, Muscat, Oman</b>
		<b>The Third Arab Codex Colloquium   11-13 June 2024, Amman, Jordan</b>
	<b>The 6th Oman Food Safety and Quality Conference, 12-14 June 2023, Oman</b>	
	<b>3 Working groups</b>	<b>The electronic Arab working group on the collection and analysis of data on moisture in fresh dates in the Arab region.</b>
		<b>The electronic Arab working group on the maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts.</b>
		<b>The electronic Arab working group on Camel Milk Standard.</b>
<b>7 CCAFRICA-CCLAC-CCNE-US Interregional Colloquiums</b>		

<p><u>SWP Codex Initiative</u></p> 	<b>9 Codex Roundtable meetings</b>	
	<b>2 Codex Colloquiums</b>	<b>The First SWP Codex Colloquium   8 – 9 November 2022, Auckland, New Zealand</b>
		<b>The Second North America Southwest Pacific (NASWP) Codex Colloquium   26-28 February 2024, Nadi, Fiji</b>

<b>Asia Codex Initiative</b>  	<b>2 Codex Colloquiums</b>	<b>CCASIA Codex Colloquium 2023  </b> <b>15-16 November 2023, Xiamen, China</b>
		<b>CCASIA-US Codex Colloquium (Virtual) on</b> <b>Contaminants in Food (CCCCF) </b> <b>2 April 2024</b>

## B. Structuring Food Laboratory Networks and Communities in Targeted Regions

GFORSS contributed to structuring food laboratory communities and developing relevant regional sections of AOAC INTERNATIONAL in order to take advantage of the resources offered by the broad network of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, the leader of standardization of laboratory science used for regulatory purposes. Such efforts have been carried out in the Arab and Southwest Pacific regions.

<b>Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL</b>  	<b>5 Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL</b>	
	<b>The 2nd Symposium of Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, 7-8 May 2024 Amman, Jordan.</b>	
	<b>2 Trainings</b>	<b>Training on Gluten Detection in Food, 5 - 6 May 2024, The Military Laboratories for Quality Control - Jordan Armed Forces - ARAB ARMY –Jordan</b>
		<b>Training on the Determination of Gluten in Gluten-Free Foods , 20-21 August 2024 , The Oman Food Safety &amp; Quality Center (OFSQC), Muscat, Oman</b>
	<b>2 Initiatives</b>	<b>Call for Methods: Gluten Analysis in Food</b>
		<b>Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program</b>

### **C. Development Food Laboratory Science Foundations**

GFORSS continues to invest in knowledge dissemination and practical implementation of specific projects supporting the foundation of risk assessment, such as the development of guidance on the collection and management of occurrence data and food consumption information.

### **D. Development of a Centre for Food Laboratory Science**

A Centre for food laboratory science was established in collaboration with the Jordan Armed Forces Military Laboratories to support the creation of a Centre of Excellence in food laboratory science for training, capacity development, application development and generation of food occurrence data.

## **KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION**

---

### **E. Learning Activities**

GFORSS, in collaboration with partners, invested in the development of an e-learning platform (<https://learning.gforss.org/>) that has contributed to the design and delivery of several training programs in food regulatory science. More efforts will be deployed to standardize training courses, enable their certification and offer a more diverse variety of disciplines to benefit GFORSS members and the broader food regulatory science community.

### **F. Webinars**

Webinars were periodically organized on various themes of food regulatory science spanning from food contract material, food fraud or food consumption data collection. A YouTube channel was launched (<https://www.youtube.com/c/GlobalFoodRegulatoryScienceSociety>) and hosted a series of programs on food regulatory knowledge dissemination under the title of GFORSS TV.

## FOOD SAFETY NETWORKS

---

GFORSS, in collaboration with other organizations, co-organized the following events:

- ❖ [The African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum \(AFRAF\) in Cairo, Egypt from 11-13 October 2023](#)
- ❖ [The Food Safety Symposium— Hybrid Event – 28 November 2023, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)
- ❖ [Arab Food Consumption Data Initiative, 23 February 2024 • Doha, State of Qatar](#)
- ❖ [International Best Practices on the Review and Approval of Food Additives 28 May 2024, Giza, Egypt](#)
- ❖ [The First EGYPTIAN GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY SYMPOSIUM \(EGFoSS\) 29-30 May 2024, Giza, Egypt](#)

## DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

---

### G. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

GFORSS discussed and signed a series of MoUs with partners from the international food regulatory science community to support the development and implementation of joint programs and contribute more effectively to joint initiatives.

MoUs were signed with:

- The Ministry of Health of Republic of Lebanon.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and National Institute of Food Safety of Suriname (NIVS).
- The Military Laboratories of the Jordan Armed Forces.
- The Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO).
- Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA)

Additional agreements are currently being discussed with various organizations from the Arab and African regions, as follows:

- The National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)
- The German Institute of Food Safety Risk Assessment
- The African Union Commission
- The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)

## MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

---

### H. GFORSS Members and Partners (<https://gforss.org/team/>)

GFORSS continues to grow its membership and intends to develop additional resources to attract more members and partners. The membership has grown to over 200 members, across 45 countries, spanning all continents – the aim being to continually diversify contributions of the organisation.

### I. GFORSS Organizational Management

All meetings of the GFORSS management structures (Board, Executive Committee) are made available publicly and can be consulted online (<https://gforss.org/governance/>)

### J. GFORSS Procedures and Protocols

The organization's procedures and protocols continue to be developed to strengthen management practices and to equip it with solid foundations enabling effective management of its programs (<https://gforss.org/governance/>)