HYBRID EVENT

GFRSS Global Food Regulatory Science Society

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

INTRODUCTORY TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON

BUILDING FOOD RISK ASSESSMENT COMPETENCIES FOR NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST



2026 | NOVEMBER | 18

09:00–14:00 | MARRIOTT HOTEL AL JADDAF, DUBAI, UAE

PROPOSED LAUNCH SESSION — TRAINING PROGRAM

Building Food Risk Assessment Competencies for North Africa and the Middle East

Food Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis for Evidence-Based Food Regulatory Decision-Making

From Scientific Evidence to Robust Regulatory Decisions: Applying Codex Alimentarius Principles and OECD Good Regulatory Practices

TIME	FORMAT	AUDIENCE
09:00–14:00	**Interactive technical seminar**	Food regulators, risk managers, risk assessors, policymakers and technical experts

01 Background and Rationale

Effective food safety and nutrition regulation requires structured, transparent and scientifically grounded decisions. Regulatory authorities must demonstrate that interventions address identified public health concerns, are supported by evidence, and avoid unnecessary burdens and unjustified barriers to trade.

Codex Alimentarius establishes risk analysis—risk assessment, risk management and risk communication—as a framework for food safety decisions. OECD good regulatory practice complements this with regulatory impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, transparency, proportionality and evaluation.

Developing a regulation should not be the automatic response to a food safety concern. Authorities should establish whether intervention is warranted and select the instrument most likely to achieve the intended protection.

02 Objectives of the Launch Session

- Establish why risk assessment and risk analysis underpin credible food regulatory decisions.
- Introduce Codex and OECD guidance for evidence-based decision-making.
- Examine the regulatory development life cycle, from problem identification through review.
- Compare regulatory and non-regulatory risk management instruments.
- Highlight stakeholder consultation, partnerships, governance and accountability.
- Illustrate these principles through three practical case studies.

03 Proposed Programme

09:00–09:15	**Opening Session and Introduction to the Training Programme** ▪ Welcome and introduction of participants; programme objectives, learning pathway and expected outcomes.
09:15–09:50	SESSION 1 **Why Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis Matter** ▪ Regulators' public health and fair-trade mandate; evolving complexity of food decisions. ▪ Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication; distinction between scientific advice and management decisions. ▪ Codex principles; transparency, predictability and accountability.
09:50–10:30	SESSION 2 **The Regulatory Development Life Cycle** ▪ Define the problem and establish whether intervention is justified. ▪ Develop evidence, assess risk and identify uncertainties and data gaps. ▪ Compare options, consult stakeholders, conduct impact assessment and legal review. ▪ Adopt, implement, monitor, evaluate and revise the instrument.
10:30–11:00	SESSION 3 **Selecting the Appropriate Risk Management Instrument** ▪ Compare mandatory standards, voluntary codes, self-regulation, co-regulation, education, incentives and hybrid approaches. ▪ Assess effectiveness, feasibility, proportionality, cost, benefits and implementation capacity. ▪ Guiding question: Is regulation the best form of intervention?
11:00–11:20	**Health Break**
11:20–12:00	SESSION 4 **Governance, Stakeholder Engagement and Good Regulatory Practices** ▪ Institutional roles of risk assessors, risk managers and policymakers; scientific independence and documentation. ▪ Early, continuous engagement with industry, consumers, academia and government partners. ▪ Codex and OECD principles: transparency, regulatory impact assessment, consultation and continuous improvement.

12:00–12:45	SESSION 5 **Practical Case Studies** ▪ **Case Study 1 —** Managing the Risks Associated with Industrially Produced Trans Fatty Acids: From Scientific Risk Assessment to the Selection of Risk Management Instruments ▪ **Case Study 2 —** Assessing the Achievability of Risk Management Measures: Balancing Public Health Protection, Technical Feasibility and Regulatory Effectiveness ▪ **Case Study 3 —** Defending National Food Safety Measures Against Challenges from Foreign Jurisdictions: Scientific Justification, Risk Assessment and Compliance with WTO SPS Requirements
12:45–13:30	SESSION 6 **Interactive Discussion: National Regulatory Priorities** ▪ Challenges in using scientific assessments; identifying priorities and evaluating alternatives. ▪ Consultation mechanisms, governance improvements and defensibility of national measures. ▪ Priority capacity-building needs for subsequent modules.
13:30–14:00	SESSION 7 **Conclusions and Next Training Modules** ▪ Consolidate key messages: science-based decisions, appropriate instruments, governance, engagement and implementation. ▪ Present subsequent modules, identify priorities and close the session.

04 Programme at a Glance

TIME	SESSION	DURATION
09:00–09:15	Opening Session and Introduction to the Training Programme	15 min
09:15–09:50	Session 1 — Why Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis Matter	35 min
09:50–10:30	Session 2 — The Regulatory Development Life Cycle	40 min
10:30–11:00	Session 3 — Selecting the Appropriate Risk Management Instrument	30 min
11:00–11:20	*Health Break*	20 min
11:20–12:00	Session 4 — Governance, Stakeholder Engagement and Good Regulatory Practices	40 min
12:00–12:45	Session 5 — Practical Case Studies	45 min
12:45–13:30	Session 6 — Interactive Discussion: National Regulatory Priorities	45 min
13:30–14:00	Session 7 — Conclusions and Next Training Modules	30 min

05 Expected Outcomes

- Anchor regulatory decisions in scientific evidence and appropriate risk assessment.
- Apply a structured process from problem definition through monitoring and review.
- Evaluate alternatives before choosing mandatory regulatory measures.
- Strengthen institutional governance, transparent consultation and implementation capacity.
- Use Codex and OECD guidance to develop proportionate, effective and defensible measures.

06 Principal International Reference Frameworks

Codex Alimentarius	Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius; Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments (CXG 62-2007); Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013).
OECD	Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance (2012); Recommendation of the Council on Improving the Quality of Government Regulation (1995); guidance on regulatory impact assessment, stakeholder engagement and ex-post evaluation.
WTO	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, particularly Articles 2, 3 and 5.

CORE MESSAGE

Good food regulation is about making the right risk management decisions, using the best available evidence, choosing appropriate instruments and ensuring effective implementation, evaluation and defensibility.