



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Faculty of Agriculture
and Food Sciences



GFORSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY



PANEL DISCUSSION

Shaping a Path Forward for Harmonization of Food Regulatory Requirements in the Arab Region – Leveraging international experiences

Webinar through Zoom Platform - Wednesday 24 February 9:30 – 11:30 AM Dubai Time

Participants may join register and join through:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eHAHpo1nRjW3jZkbsuC13A

Various countries of the Arab region embarked on the modernization of their food regulatory systems aiming for added effectiveness and efficiency in support of their food production sectors and to optimize the protection of consumers in the region.

With the ongoing trend of food regulatory harmonization and convergence in parts of the world trading heavily with the Arab region – driven by free trade agreements such as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AcFTA) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) – it is more imperative than ever that the Arab food regulatory jurisdictions enhance their efforts for the convergence of food regulatory measures in order to create a competitive advantage for food and agrifood producers of the region and stimulate efforts of intra-regional trade.

A panel discussion is planned on the margin of Gulfood2021 held in Dubai from the 21-25 February 2021, gathering food regulators from the region, and beyond, as well as representatives from academic, metrology and standardization institutions and food producers to discuss:

- ❖ Recent progress and on-going challenges faced by the Arab region in adopting international food standards and fostering convergence of their food regulatory systems
- ❖ On-going initiative of food regulatory enhancements and contribution of various stakeholders to their success
- ❖ On-going efforts of contribution of Arab food regulators to international standard setting activities under the auspices of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ❖ Lessons learnt and experiences followed by other parts of the world to draw upon to enhance coordination, collaboration and convergence of positions of Arab Food Regulators.

This session is supported by the **Food and Beverage Regulations Committee of Dubai – Amcham** a member of the global network of American chambers of commerce and by the **Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS)**, a not-for-profit organization hosted by the [Food Risk and Regulatory Excellence Platform \(PARERA\)](#) of Laval University, Quebec, Canada and by the Dubai Municipality.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Wednesday 24 February 9:30 – 11:30 AM Dubai Time

Introduction – Objectives of Session and Context

- 15 minutes** Positioning current efforts of food regulatory integration and collaboration in the region-
Prof. Samuel Godefroy

Panel 1: Recent Efforts and Achievements in Arab Food Regulatory Enhancement and Coordination

Facilitated by Rola Arab

- 30 minutes**
- Proposed Arab approach for food standards development
Eng. Mariam Eid – Head, Food Processing Industries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon & Vice-Chair Codex Alimentarius Commission
 - Vision for enhanced codex coordination in the Near East
Mr. Moussa Al-fiffi – Coordinator for the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East, Executive Director Western Region, Saudi Food and Drug Authority
 - Recent developments of US DA – FFPr Programs in support of enhanced regulatory systems in the region – Insights from the “Transforming the Assessment and Inspection of Food Business (TAIB)” Project in Egypt
Mr. Alex Samel – Chief of Party, Transforming the Assessment and Inspection of Food Business, Venture 37
 - GSO’s efforts in harmonizing food regulatory measures in the GCC – 2021 Objectives
Dr. Oday Albuhamad, Director of Standards and Metrology, Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO)

Panel 2 Building Food Regulatory Measures Leveraging International Standards

Moderated by Prof. Samuel Godefroy

- 30 minutes**
- Challenges faced by food supply chains as a result of discrepancies of regulatory measures in the region
Mr. Mohamed ElKhishn, Intertek Middle East Region
 - Importance of Contribution in Codex Proceeding for Arab food regulators, the Kuwaiti Experience
Dr. Amal R. AlRashdan, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Kuwait
 - Harmonization of food regulatory measures & coordination with regional and international bodies
Nadia Mohammed Abbas, Director, Food Risk Assessment, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, United Arab Emirates and Dr. Fadi Alnatur, Expert Food Risk Assessment, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, United Arab Emirates

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Panel 3: Learning from International Experiences towards enhanced coordination and collaboration at the Regional Level

Moderated by Rola Arab

20 minutes

- Current efforts of coordination and Collaboration between Codex Regional Committees – fostering collaboration and enhanced reliance on Codex standards
Mr. Kenneth Lowery, Codex USA – Coordinator for North America
- China’s role as the Coordinator for CCASIA and vision for added effectiveness of regional work
Dr. Tian Jing, Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Codex Coordinator Committee for Asia (CCASIA), China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment
- Dr. Tom Heiland, Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Dr. Sarah Cahill, Senior Codex Officer joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

20 minutes **Input from the audience and overall discussion**

Conclusion / Wrap-up

5 minutes

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Rola Arab

About the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

GForSS is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)) of the Department of Food Science and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods of the Université Laval.

The Society aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, all disciplines applied in the context of developing, implementing and evaluating food regulatory decisions including, but not limited to, food risk analysis and associated disciplines.

The Society’s membership consists of scientists and regulators from food regulatory agencies at any level of government: municipal, state / provincial, national and international, including international organizations, scientists and professionals in any related food regulatory scientific discipline from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

About the Food and Beverage Regulations Committee of Dubai – Amcham

The **Food and Beverage Regulations Committee of Dubai – Amcham** is a member of the global network of American chambers of commerce. The food regulations committee was established to create a robust collaboration platform for US companies based in the UAE and seeks to create a favorable regulatory environment in the GCC.