



الهيئة القومية لسلامة الغذاء
National Food Safety Authority



FOOD AFRICA 2025

Second Meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)

10 -11 December 2025 • Cairo, Egypt

Face-to-Face Meeting on the Margins of Food Africa 2025

1. Background and Context

The **African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)** was established during the High-Level Meeting of African Food Competent Authorities, held from 11–13 October 2023 in Cairo, Egypt, which culminated in the adoption of the Cairo Declaration.

This Declaration recognized the need for a sustainable and collaborative mechanism among African food regulatory agencies to address the increasingly complex and interconnected environment of food production, trade, and public health protection across the continent.

AFRAF was conceived as a network of African food competent authorities at the heads-of-authority level, aimed to:

- ❖ Serve as a forum for information exchange, experience sharing, and collaboration among food regulators in Africa.
- ❖ Shape a collective agenda for the harmonization of food regulatory frameworks across African Union Member States, in line with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- ❖ Support the implementation of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA 2022–2036).
- ❖ Act as the General Assembly of the forthcoming African Food Safety Agency (AFSA).

Since its creation, AFRAF has convened virtual engagements to define collaborative priorities, including the **development of risk analysis capacity, food monitoring and data generation frameworks, and joint regulatory science initiatives** in partnership with the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFRSS) and other organizations.

Building on these milestones, and in anticipation of AFSA's operationalization, AFRAF members will reconvene in Cairo in December 2025 for an in-person meeting on the margins of Food Africa 2025 — a major platform to foster collaboration between regulators, industry, and scientific partners.

2. Meeting Framework

Conveners:

- National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), Arab Republic of Egypt.
- The Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFRSS), a disciplinary group of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST).

Participants: Heads and senior officials of African national food safety authorities, representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Codex Contact Points, and partner organizations including FAO, WHO, and others.

Format: Combination of Meetings Including Participation in the Food Africa 2025 Conference (open sessions) and Closed AFRAF Regulators' Meeting

3. Agenda Outline

DAY 1 – 10 DECEMBER 2025

Closed AFRAF Members Session (in person and online) 11:00-13:00

- ❖ **11:00-11:20 Official Opening of the Second Meeting of AFRAF**
 - **Welcome remarks** → *Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman of the National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA).*
 - **Welcome address** → *Dr. Khaled Soufi, Chairman Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) and President Elect, ISO.*
 - **Welcome address** → *Dr. Mamodou Bah, Director General Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA), The Gambia, and Coordinator for Africa, Chair of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAfrICA).*
- ❖ **11:20-11:40 Introduction of Participants** (in person and online)
- ❖ **11:40-11:50 Review and Adoption of Agenda**
 - Review of AFRAF progress since 2023 Cairo Declaration.
 - Adoption of meeting agenda (including review of the Scientific Sessions).

❖ 11:50-12:50 Facilitated Discussion: Future of AFRAF

- **Support Paper:** Discussion Paper on the Future of the Food Regulatory Authorities Forum, Strengthening Cooperation, Supporting Regulatory Integration and Positioning AFRAF as an Independent, Regulator-Governed Network.

Objective: To discuss the evolution of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF) as a voluntary, non-reporting network of food regulators across Africa — serving as a free and open platform to exchange experience, foster collaboration, and advance the alignment of food regulatory systems, without formal institutional attachment to the forthcoming African Food Safety Agency (AFSA).

Open Discussion on Perspectives from African Regulators:

- The value of maintaining AFRAF as a free, self-driven network.
- Opportunities to strengthen collaboration, capacity building, and data exchange.
- Practical modalities for sustaining engagement (rotating leadership, thematic working groups, peer learning mechanisms).

Open discussion among participants to gather views on future direction and governance of AFRAF.

Expected Outcomes:

- Consensus on AFRAF's continued role as an independent, voluntary network of African food regulators.
- Identification of priority areas for cooperation (e.g., food monitoring, risk analysis, regulatory innovation).
- Discussion of the Proposed Governance of AFRAF.
- Agreement on steps to sustain communication and on collaborative action within the network – Future agenda of AFRAF discussions up to June 2026 Face-to-Face meeting.

❖ 12:50-13:00 Conclusion of the Session: Taking Stock and Summary of Next Steps

- Group Picture.

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Conference Session (open session and broadcast)

14:00-17:00

❖ Theme 1 • Emerging Issues: Addressing Food Monitoring as a Foundation of Food Control Systems – Support to Market Access Opportunities

Objective: To discuss food safety emerging issues impacting the African Continent and explore how food monitoring programs underpin evidence-based regulation – demonstration of food analytical solutions to address emerging risks with a focus on pesticide residue surveillance as a driver for MRL development and harmonization.

- **14:00-14:30 Keynote Lecture** → *Prof. Chris Elliott, Founder of the Institute of Global Food Security, Queens University, Belfast, Bualuang; ASEAN Chair of Food Security – Emerging Food Safety and Authenticity Issues and their Importance for the African Continent.*

- **14:30-15:00 → Dr. Laurent Pascaud, Agilent Technologies** – Analytical Solutions for Pesticide Residue Analysis: Quantification of 1,000 Pesticide Residues in accordance with EU requirements.
- **15:00-15:30 → Dr. Elie Bouyazbeck, GForSS Food Safety Expert** – Importance of Food Monitoring Initiatives at the National and Regional Level – Support to Robustness of Food Safety Systems and Market Access Opportunities.
- **15:30-16:00 → Dr. Mustafa Sultan, GForSS Food Safety Expert** – Setting Import Pesticide MRLs as a means to prevent trade disruption of agricultural products.
- **16:00-16:30 → Dr. Laurent Pascaud, Agilent Technologies** – Analytical Solutions for Food Authenticity Testing.
- **16:30-17:00 Group Discussion**
 - Current and Future Food monitoring initiatives in Africa: challenges and enablers as a regulatory science tool for exposure assessment.
 - Role of AFRAF to promote mainstreaming of food monitoring initiatives as an enabler for food regulatory convergence.
 - Current efforts by Regional Economic Communities to support convergence in MRL requirements in Africa: Pathways to convergence under AfCFTA and Codex frameworks.
 - Current Efforts to Prevent and Mitigate food fraud and preserve authenticity.

Expected Output:

- Develop recommendations of efforts to mainstream food analytical approaches to address emerging food safety issues – and support the establishment of food monitoring collaboration mechanisms to enhance efforts of residues of pesticides/agricultural inputs surveillance and contribute to harmonization of MRL setting.
- Develop recommendations to support food authenticity in Africa.

DAY 2 – 11 DECEMBER 2025

Conference Session (open session and broadcast) 11:00-12:30

❖ Theme 2 • Food Innovation and Food Regulatory Modernization: A Lever to Strengthen Resilience and Revitalize Traditional Agriculture

Objective: To explore how modernization of food regulatory frameworks can both enable innovation in food systems and promote the sustainable transformation of traditional agriculture into value-added, resilient production sectors.

- **11:00-11:20 → Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman National Food Safety Authority of Egypt** – Proposed National Food Innovation Regulatory Transformation Strategy, Positioning Egypt as a Regional Hub for Innovation, Research, Manufacturing and Market Access.
- **11:20-11:40 → Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Laval University, Quebec Canada, President GForSS, President International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)** – Regulating Food Innovation as an Important Contributor to Resilient Food Systems: Current Approaches and Future Developments.

- **11:40-12:00** → **Prof. Pavinee Chinachoti**, *President Elect, International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)* – Thailand's Experience in Managing Food Innovation.

12:00-12:30 Moderated Group Discussion

- Taking stock of Asia's Experience and adapting it to Africa's needs: Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation to Support Food Innovation and Regulatory Convergence.
- Role of AFRAF to support science-based pathways for innovation, including regulatory cooperation in product evaluation, assessment of claims and market authorization.
- Creation of a Working Group to support the development of guidance on food regulatory provisions related to novel foods, ingredients and claims in African jurisdictions.

Conference Session (open session and broadcast)

12:30-13:30

❖ **Theme 3 • Updates on Recent Developments in the Food Regulatory Landscape in Africa and Levers to Operationalize a Single Food Safety Authority in Africa: Perspectives and Lessons Learnt**

- Institutional and legal design of food safety authorities.
- Transition from multi-agency to unified systems.
- Integration of laboratory networks and human resources.
- Leveraging partnerships and donor support for sustainability.

Updates by African Food Regulators:

- **Dr. Marwa Badr**, *Senior Food Regulatory Expert, National Food Safety Authority Egypt (NFSA)* – Turning Evaluation into Strength: Egypt's Journey with FAO/WHO Food Control System.
- **Dr. Nourredine Haridi**, *Algeria – Food Regulatory Updates: Algeria.*
- Taking Stock of Creation and Operationalization of Single Food Safety Authorities in Africa
 - **Liberia, The Gambia, Mauritania.**
- Role of AFRAF in Documenting and Mainstreaming Experience in Food Regulatory Modernization in Africa.

13:30-14:30 Lunch

Developing Partnerships Among African Food Regulators and With Other Regions (open session and broadcast)

14:30-16:00

Focus Areas:

- **14:30-15:00** Discussing Inter-Regional Cooperation (e.g., Asian Food Regulators)
 - Intervention from the China National Center of Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA) → **Dr. Fan Yongxiang**, *Deputy Director General, CFSA.*

- **15:00-15:30** → **Dr. Cormac Mc Elhinney**, *Food Safety Authority of Ireland* – Introducing Food Safety Networks Supporting the Identification and Management of Emerging Issues: FoodSafeR Network (funded by the European Union).
- **15:30-16:00** → **Prof. Samuel Godefroy**, *ULaval, GForSS, IUFoST* – Discussion of Gap Analysis in Support of Food Regulatory Modernization.

Closing Session – Restricted to AFRAF Members (in person and online by invitation)

16:00-17:00

❖ **Reviewing AFRAF Collaborative Priorities for 2026–2027**

Identification of new focus areas emerging from the 2025 themes:

- Review on New Opportunities of Collaborative Interventions (e.g., Food Risk Assessment Network; Data-sharing and monitoring frameworks).
- Discussion of the AFRAF Governance and Agreement on the Steering Committee Structure.

❖ **Summary of Meeting Conclusions and Next Steps**

❖ **Adoption of the Cairo 2025 Communiqué**

❖ **Closing Remarks**

4. Overall Expected Deliverables

1. Cairo 2025 Communiqué reaffirming AFRAF's commitment to:
 - Support the operationalization of AFRAF as a key forum of food regulatory cooperation in Africa.
 - Advance risk- and evidence-based food regulatory systems.
 - Promote innovation-friendly and resilience-oriented food regulation.
2. AFRAF Roadmap 2026–2027, defining strategic priorities and lead agencies.
3. Technical Notes on:
 - Food monitoring and MRL harmonization.
 - Innovation and modernization of regulatory frameworks.