



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Third African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)

Advancing Africa's Integrated Food Regulatory Future

30 September – 2 October 2026 • Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Meeting Location: Skyline Ballroom – Le Méridien Cairo Airport, Egypt

HOSTED BY

The National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)



WITH THE PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION OF

Africa's Regional Economic Communities

African Food Competent Authorities

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



ORGANIZED BY

The Global Food Regulatory Science Society



Preliminary Agenda

The following agenda is indicative and continues to be updated based on input from partners:

- The National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)
- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as the implementation party of the Africa Trade and Competitiveness and Market Access (ATCMA) project
- AFRAF Working Groups
- The Steering Group of AFRAF

Hybrid participation is enabled for invited / confirmed participants through:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Aa_dFNCIQXGlu1hJtnhEsw#/registration

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DAY 0 • Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Technical Meetings and Orientation Day

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and orientation Welcome of participants and review of outputs of the Technical Day
09:00 – 09:15	JOINT TECHNICAL OPENING Shaping Priorities – AFRAF Serving Modernized Food Control Systems in Africa Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS), National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
09:15 – 11:15	SESSION A ATCMA SESSION From Risk Analysis to SPS Strategy: Strengthening Food Control and Enabling Predictable Trade in Africa <i>Hybrid session • Introductory presentations and discussion</i> This session is supported by the EU-funded Africa Trade and Competitiveness and Market Access (ATCMA) Project, implemented by UNIDO. THE SESSION WILL • Revisit the principles of Food Risk Analysis as the foundation for science- and risk-based SPS decision-making and effective food control systems. • Review the essential foundations for developing robust, coordinated and actionable SPS strategies at national and Regional Economic Community (REC) levels. • Explore how African RECs can leverage SPS cooperation, regulatory reliance and regional coordination to strengthen food control systems and advance regulatory convergence. • Examine how greater SPS alignment and cooperation can contribute to safer, freer and more predictable intra- and inter-regional trade, while facilitating access to global markets. • Consider the scientific, institutional and capacity-building foundations required to support the effective implementation of SPS strategies. The session will examine how risk analysis and strengthened SPS coordination can underpin effective regulatory decision-making, regulatory reliance and enhanced market access. It will also seek to identify recommendations for a coordinated African programme on food risk assessment capacity building, including scientific collaboration, sustainable capacity development, mentoring, networks of expertise and regional cooperation.

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	Moderator: Dr. Gabor Molnar , Industrial Development Officer, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, UNIDO
11:15 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 13:30	SESSION B REC SPS STRATEGY AND SPS COORDINATION MEETINGS From SPS Frameworks to Implementation: Strengthening REC Coordination and Defining Concrete Actions <i>Hybrid session</i> This session will provide a focused dialogue among Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the current status of SPS policies, strategies and coordination frameworks, with particular attention to moving from established structures and commitments toward effective implementation. THE DISCUSSION WILL EXAMINE • The current status of SPS policies, strategies and coordination mechanisms within each participating REC. • What is preventing existing SPS structures and mechanisms from becoming fully operational and effective, and the key lessons learned from implementation to date. • The concrete actions and institutional improvements required to strengthen SPS coordination and implementation. • Approaches to operationalizing food standard-setting, including linkages between SPS coordination structures, standardization bodies and food regulatory authorities. • Opportunities to strengthen coordination, regulatory convergence and exchange of experience across RECs. CORE DIALOGUE REC-specific discussions will be organized for COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS and other participating RECs, focusing on the status of SPS coordination and strategic frameworks, lessons from implementation, operationalization of existing structures, and the next concrete actions required. The dialogue will seek to identify strategic priorities, responsible coordination mechanisms, capacity and technical-support needs, and immediate milestones toward SPS strategy development and implementation. Particular attention will be given to opportunities for inter-REC cooperation and alignment, including mechanisms to support Member States belonging to more than one REC and to reduce duplication or conflicting requirements. The session is intended to result in a practical action-oriented agenda for each participating REC, identifying priority actions, responsible structures, required support and the next milestones for implementation. Moderator: Dr. Gabor Molnar, Industrial Development Officer, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, Division of Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development, UNIDO
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	SESSION C AFRAF ACADEMY SESSION - Mycotoxins and Available Analytical Solutions <i>Hybrid session – broadcast live • Supported by R-Biopharm</i> This AFRAF Academy technical session will examine current and emerging challenges associated with mycotoxin contamination in food and feed, together with the analytical solutions available to support effective monitoring, regulatory control and risk management.

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	The session will review the analytical continuum from rapid screening and field-based testing to quantitative and confirmatory laboratory methods, with attention to method selection, performance, reliability and fitness for regulatory purposes. The discussion will also consider how analytical capacity can be strengthened to support surveillance programmes, regulatory compliance and more consistent food control decisions. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION • Dr. Ryan Malone, Trilogy Analytical Laboratory, USA – R-Biopharm Group — <i>Mycotoxins and Available Analytical Solutions</i> TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION • Annette Sauer, R-Biopharm Group (<i>remote participation</i>) • Sigrid Haas-Lauterbach, R-Biopharm Group (<i>remote participation</i>) The discussion will provide an opportunity to exchange on current mycotoxin priorities, analytical challenges faced by regulatory and testing laboratories, available rapid and confirmatory technologies, and opportunities for strengthening laboratory capacity and access to fit-for-purpose analytical solutions in Africa. Expected direction: Identify practical approaches to strengthen mycotoxin monitoring and analytical capacity, including appropriate use of screening and confirmatory methods, laboratory quality assurance, and opportunities for capacity building and technical cooperation. Moderator: Dr. Amine Kassouf, Scientific Director, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)
15:30 – 17:00	SESSION D AFRAF ACADEMY SESSION Advanced Analytical Methods for Food Contaminants <i>Hybrid session – broadcast live • Supported by Agilent Technologies</i> This AFRAF Academy technical session will review advances in analytical technologies and internationally recognized reference methods for the detection, identification and quantification of priority food contaminants and for food authenticity testing. The session will address analytical approaches for pesticide residues, mycotoxins, heavy metals and other priority contaminants, as well as emerging approaches for food authenticity and integrity determination. Particular attention will be given to the practical application of advanced analytical technologies within regulatory and official control laboratories. THE DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON • Advances in analytical technologies and reference methods for priority food contaminants; • Method validation, harmonization and comparability of analytical results across laboratories and jurisdictions; • Strengthening laboratory quality assurance, proficiency and confidence in regulatory testing results; • Opportunities for greater regional collaboration, including sharing of methods, expertise and laboratory capabilities; and • Capacity-building priorities to support the sustainable adoption of advanced analytical methods by African food control laboratories. Expected direction: Identify practical opportunities to strengthen the harmonization and convergence of analytical methods, laboratory quality assurance and regional analytical capacity, with the objective of improving the reliability and comparability of regulatory testing and strengthening confidence in food control decisions across Africa. Moderator: Prof. Chris Elliott, Professor of Food Safety and Founder, Institute for Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
17:00 – 17:30	HEALTH BREAK
17:30 – 18:00	WORKING GROUPS Debrief Session on AFRAF Working Groups Review of outputs of the technical discussions of the AFRAF Working Groups – preparation for plenary discussions. • Food Innovation as an Engine for Food and Agri-Food Sector Development – identification of priority regulatory reforms to facilitate safe food innovation and investment in the African agri-food sector, including opportunities for reliance, recognition and common guidance. • Risk-Based Oversight – planning for priority interventions to promote risk-based oversight in Africa, including priority regulatory functions and a practical pilot that could be implemented through participating RECs. • AFRAF Academy: Priority Capacity Building Activities – discussion of the AFRAF Academy capacity-building roadmap covering regulatory science, laboratory systems, risk analysis and regulatory innovation, including priority competencies and partnerships. Moderator: Prof. Samuel Godefroy , President, COO, GForSS
18:00	Close of technical day