



African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)

Working Group on

Capacity Building Coordination and Enhancement (AFRAF Academy)

Terms of Reference

Background

- ❖ The African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF) was established as a regulator-driven platform to strengthen food regulatory governance and cooperation across Africa. African food regulatory authorities are facing increasing demands arising from evolving food systems, expanding intra- and inter-regional trade, emerging food safety risks, and the growing complexity of regulatory mandates.
- ❖ While numerous capacity-building initiatives exist across the continent, these efforts are often fragmented, unevenly accessed, or duplicated, limiting their overall effectiveness and sustainability. There is a clear need for improved coordination, structured peer learning, and more efficient use of existing expertise, training programs, and institutional resources.
- ❖ During the Second AFRAF Meeting held in Cairo in December 2025, African food regulators agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group to coordinate and enhance capacity-building efforts under AFRAF. This initiative is referred to as the AFRAF Academy, conceived as a coordination and facilitation mechanism rather than a new institutional structure.

Purpose

- ❖ The purpose of this Working Group is to support the coordinated strengthening of regulatory capacities among African food regulatory authorities through structured peer learning, exchange of expertise, and the optimization of existing capacity-building initiatives.

Scope of Work

The Working Group shall:

- Identify and map existing capacity-building programs, training initiatives, and centers of expertise relevant to food regulatory science in Africa;
- Promote peer-to-peer learning, mentoring, and south–south cooperation among African food regulators;
- Facilitate the exchange of trainers, experts, training materials, and technical resources across countries;

- Support alignment of capacity-building priorities with Codex Alimentarius work, the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA 2022–2036), and AfCFTA-related needs;
- Explore and propose practical modalities for operationalizing the AFRAF Academy as a coordination mechanism, without creating a new institution;
- Develop and oversee the implementation of an annual workplan of targeted capacity-building activities, based on priorities identified by African food regulators.

Governance and Coordination

- The Working Group operates under the umbrella of AFRAF, with strategic oversight provided by the AFRAF Steering Committee.
- A Lead Authority (Chair) and a Co-Lead Authority (Co-Chair) shall be designated on a voluntary basis and endorsed by the Steering Committee.
- Technical partners and resource institutions may support the Working Group’s activities in a facilitation or advisory role, without decision-making authority.

Membership

- Membership is open and voluntary to all AFRAF member authorities.
- Each participating authority may nominate one or more technical focal points, based on relevant expertise.
- Participation is expected to be active, contribution-oriented, and collaborative.
- Observers may be invited on an ad-hoc basis, subject to agreement within the Working Group.

Expected Outputs

Indicative outputs of the Working Group may include:

- An inventory and mapping of existing training and capacity-building resources;
- Identification of priority capacity-building themes and gaps;
- Proposals for joint training activities, peer-learning sessions, and mentoring arrangements;
- An agreed annual plan of training and capacity-building initiatives;
- Delivery of capacity-building sessions and programs in food regulatory science, policy, and governance.

All outputs are non-binding and intended to support national and regional regulatory strengthening efforts.

Duration and Review

The Working Group is established for an initial two-year period. Its mandate, outputs, and relevance shall be reviewed by the AFRAF Steering Committee, with adjustments made as necessary.