



Third Africa Food Safety Technical Meeting (African Food Safety Workshop 2024)

**Co-organized with the
Government of the Kingdom of Morocco**

**through the
Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des produits Alimentaires (ONSSA)**

**7-11 October 2024
Marrakech, Morocco**

Ref. No.: EVT2304361

Information Sheet

Introduction

There is a need for food safety experts and stakeholders in Africa to meet and discuss recent and ongoing developments relevant to food safety and control given the global burden of food borne diseases and challenges in trade, that the continent faces. The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture plans to facilitate this discussion during the Third Africa Food Safety Technical Meeting (African Food Safety Workshop 2024) from 7-11 October 2024 in Marrakech, Morocco.

The meeting will address, among others (a) the Atoms4Food initiative (Food Safety and Control Service) launched by the FAO and IAEA in October 2023; (b) implementation of the African Food Safety Strategy 2022-2036; (c) food safety standards and laboratory support for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA); (d) government and industry support for food safety control systems, scaling-up and sustainability; (e) sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and equivalency; and (f) metrological systems on the continent and how they are contributing to the above initiatives. The meeting will provide opportunities for enhancing networking among food safety stakeholders, learning and sharing of experiences, as well as scoping for new and strengthening current partnerships and collaboration in the area of food safety and control under the African Food Safety Network (AFoSaN).

The third African Food Safety technical meeting (also referred to as workshop) will provide an opportunity for deliberations on the above-mentioned focus areas, identification of relevant activities, partnership and implementation strategies, as well as sharing of information and knowledge gathered since the last (second)

meeting held in South Africa (27 June-1 July 2022). This last meeting attended by over 250 stakeholders, including the African Union (AU), recommended among others, that there is also a need to enhance the role of metrology and promoting its active involvement in food safety and quality on the continent. The third meeting will therefore build on this and other recommendations, review relevant work that has been conducted, and discuss strategies for improvement. Closer interaction among safety stakeholders involving laboratories, research and development (R&D) institutions, inspectors, regulators, industry and others along the entire food chain will be promoted.

The meeting will also discuss additional areas, such as continued need for education/training on food safety measures using nuclear sciences and applications; strengthening R&D on food safety, especially leading to generation of reliable data needed for standards-setting using the comparative advantage of nuclear science and improving risk analysis; addressing equipment/instrument challenges laboratories face; coordinating and enhancing AFoSaN through regular meetings, especially for its various committees; resource mobilisation for routine food safety monitoring; the use of existing and new capabilities needed to address food-trade rejections and generating information on the burden of diseases. Furthermore, the meeting will explore emerging food safety concerns and risk analysis; and will address the outcomes of COP28 particularly related to enhancing the visibility of food safety and nuclear science activities in the context of food security and climate change.

The meeting will involve regional stakeholders, including AU, Regional Economic Cooperations and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, among others.

Objective

The purpose of the event is to bring together scientists working in the area of food safety and nuclear sciences and applications, as well as current and potential regional partners, and other stakeholders, to discuss and evaluate mechanisms driven by innovation in nuclear science and technologies to better support regional efforts in enhancing Africa's food safety system.

Expected Outcomes

The event is envisioned to lead to enhanced regional expertise and knowledge needed to better support continental efforts to improve Africa's food safety systems. This includes raising standards for consumer protection and trade; strengthened food safety networking among stakeholders and public-private partnerships in Africa; increased knowledge on emerging or potentially emerging challenges; increased knowledge on the role of nuclear sciences and applications in addressing food safety and quality issues, as well as the burden of foodborne illnesses and food security needs.

Regional strategies for the implementation and enhancement of Atoms4Food Initiative - Food Safety and Control Service will also be discussed, identifying common activities and scoping for new partnerships.

Target Audience

Representatives from:

- Food safety and quality testing laboratories (analysts and managers);
- Quality infrastructure institutions, including accreditation, standards, scientific and legal metrology institutes;
- Risk analysis (assessment, management and communication) institutions;

- Epidemiologists
- Regulatory authorities and decision-makers;
- Research/academia;
- Industry (food manufacturers and distributors; instrument manufacturers and suppliers);
- International governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- Financial institutions;
- Interested general public and civil society.

Working Language

English.

Expected Outputs

The meeting is envisioned to generate the following:

- Expanded and strengthened AFoSaN;
- Information and packages provided to enhance knowledge and understanding of metrology and measurement standards in food safety and control;
- At least 100 food safety stakeholders will have improved understanding of food safety concerns, relevant analytical techniques, approaches and intervention strategies;
- At least 50 papers and presentations on nuclear sciences and applications in food safety work, metrology, and measurement standards in Africa (and beyond) presented and enhanced the knowledge base on food safety in the region;
- Reliable science data presented and the knowledge to better understand the linkages between such data, risk-based principles on food safety needed to facilitate regulatory decisions shared;
- Presentations delivered to increase awareness on the need for improved analytical capabilities for surveillance of hazards, including mycotoxins, veterinary drug and pesticide residues, toxic metals, radionuclides, and other contaminants as well as food pathogens, zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance;
- Knowledge imparted and opinions gathered on food safety and the One Health approach; Proposed mechanisms for effective trans-sectoral food safety collaboration;
- Technical guidance on effective implementation African Food Safety Index and promoting fair trade of foods in the AfCTA provided;
- Regionally tailored strategies for implementation of the Atoms4Food Initiative - Food Safety and Control Service proposed;
- Information shared to increase understanding of food-borne illness, including food safety outbreaks and the identification of a continental approach in addressing food-related outbreaks;
- Documented scientific opinions/guidance on a range of food safety matters in Africa; associated climate change-impact also addressed;
- New and/or strengthened partnerships among stakeholders involved in food safety, quality, consumer protection and trade.

Structure

Oral and poster presentations; exhibitions; panel discussions

Topics

- Metrology and measurement standards in Africa;
- Accreditation (ISO17025 and ISO17043); proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons
- Advances in screening and confirmatory analysis applied to food safety testing for:
 - mycotoxins, veterinary drug and pesticide residues, heavy metals, marine biotoxins, phycotoxins, persistent organic pollutants, microplastics and radionuclides
- Foodborne microbial hazards, including zoonoses, the One Health approach and antimicrobial resistance;
- Food fraud and food authenticity;
- Scientific capacity building and recognition of capabilities:
 - Measurement standards; proficiency testing and accreditation; sustainable skilling
- Risk analysis: assessment, management and communication;
- SPS requirements within the AfCFTA;
- Food monitoring and surveillance programmes; maximum residue limits or maximum limits
- Food borne illnesses/outbreaks: notification, responses and epidemiology;
- Education and awareness on food safety particularly involving the private sector and citizens;
- Technological advances for application in the source-to-consumption chain;
- Regional approaches for transboundary hazard testing and monitoring;
- Addressing bottlenecks to food trade associated with standards and non-tariff barriers;
- Food safety and import substitution;
- New partnership development and resource mobilization to support development and sustainability of food safety and control systems in Africa;
- Food business operation in Africa – the economics, job creation and public health;
- Toxicology and food safety – a regional perspective;
- Generation, packaging and reporting of scientific data for standards-setting: Africa’s journey;
- Africa’s potential in production of radiopharmaceuticals and potential use in synthesis of veterinary drugs and related pesticides for scientific data for standards setting.

Participation and Registration

All persons interested to participate in the event have to be designated by a member country of the Sponsoring Organizations’ member country or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend. They may also receive special invitation as speakers, presenters or observers.

In order to be designated by a member country of the sponsoring organizations, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **5 July 2024**. Participants, who are members of an organization invited to attend, are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by the above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters in due course.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency’s Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required.

Papers and Presentations

The FAO and IAEA encourage participants to deliver presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

The participants interested in delivering presentations are requested to submit an abstract that will be reviewed as part of the selection process. The abstract should be in A4 page format and should not extend two pages (including figures and tables) and 300 words. It should be sent electronically to James Sasanya, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below) or a designated person, not later than **5 July 2024**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **5 August 2024**.

In addition, participants should submit the abstract together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** and the attached **Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or their organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than **5 July 2024**.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The Sponsoring Organizations are generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The Sponsoring Organizations have, however, limited funds at their disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to selected participant(s) per country, provided that, in the Sponsoring Organizations' view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)**, which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **5 July 2024**.

Venue

The event will be held in Marrakech, Morocco (tentatively **Zalagh Hotel Marrakech**). Participants must make their own travel arrangements and liaise directly with the host for accommodation arrangements in coordination with the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre. Additional information on the logistics will be provided in due course.

Visas

Participants, who require a visa to enter The Kingdom of Morocco, should submit the necessary application as soon as possible to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of the host country. The host ONSSA will be available to provide relevant assistance to facilitate this process.

Additional Requirements

Please see the below on requirements for the abstract to be submitted:

Indicate with “x”:

Presentation type: Oral ____ Poster ____
Category: Student ____ Delegate ____

Title of Paper in Title Case

Speaker / Author: A. Principal-author

Co-author(s): A.N. Additional-authors

Company

PO Box 999, Suburb, City, Zip / Postal Code, Country

e-mail: email@email.org.za

Phone: 012 555 1111 Fax: 012 999 2222

A. Abstract

Insert your abstract here. Please limit it to 300 words and maximum two pages. The abstract should contain the reason for publishing the paper, citing the most important aspects.

1. Introduction

In the introduction, introduce your topic. Paper length is limited to 12 pages. Should you require more space, please contact the conference committee.

This document can be used as a “template” for your paper.

2. Paper size, margins, layout, fonts

Please use A4 paper. All margins should be set to 2.54 cm.

All text should be written using the Roman font, such as Times New Roman (used in this document) or equivalent.

Single line spacing should be used in the document.

The title of the paper is centred on the first page, written in Title Case in 14 point size. The title must be made **BOLD**.

The title is followed by an open line.

The presenter of the paper is indicated on the next line, and if the presenter and principal author is the same person, it is indicated as shown above. Any other authors should be indicated as Co-authors, as shown above.

If not it should be indicated as such:

Speaker: A.N. Author

Authors: C. Author, D. Author, and E. Author

The speaker and authors are followed by their contact details, as shown above. If the contact details differ for some of the authors, the complete information for each is given in the same format. Use the notation *, **, *** to indicate affiliations for the different authors.

For the rest of the document a 12 point size font must be used. For the body of the paper, full justification of the text should be used.

All paragraph headings are numbered as shown in this example, and made **BOLD** in a 12-point Roman font.

Sub-paragraphs are numbered using 2.1, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and so on. Sub-headings are also made **BOLD** in a 12-point Roman font.

Do not add any page numbering to the document. Do not alter the footer.

3. Diagrams, pictures and tables

Diagrams, pictures, photos and drawings must be captioned below the figure as shown here:

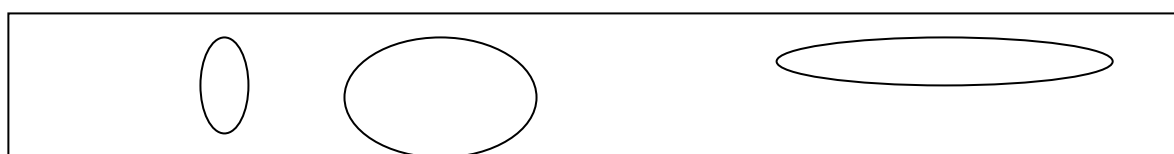


Figure 1. A number of ellipses in a rectangle.

Figures may be framed, but it is not required. Tables are captioned above as shown here:

Table 1. Author tea-time preferences

No	Surname	Title	Initial	Preference
1	Author	Mr	A	Coffee
2	Co-author	Mrs	B	Tea

Add an extra line above and below all figures and tables. Centre all captions on the page.

Figures and tables should appear as close to their mention in the text as possible.

Refer to figures in tables in this way: In figure 1, the author shows a ... In table 1, a list of preferences

4. Conclusion

Add a conclusion to your paper, where you summarise the topic, and re-emphasise your findings. Base conclusions on the data presented in the paper.

5. References

Please reference your sources as shown below. For more than four authors, cite the first author, and then add “et al”, as shown in reference 5. Indicate references in the text using square brackets and a number, for example: ‘The values used in table 4 were obtained from [2]. In [3] it is shown that the ground beetles eat more leaves than was previously thought.’

References

1. Web site name – <http://web.site.address/>
2. A.N. Author, A. Co-author, and L.A.S.T. Author, “Title of paper”, Journal title, volume number, Month and Year, pages xx to yy.
3. A. Author, Title of book, Year, Publisher, ISBN number
4. A.N. Author, A. Co-author, and L.A.S.T. Author, “Title of conference paper”, Proceedings of Conference, Location, Country, Month and Year, pages xx to yy.
5. A.N. Author, et al, “Title of conference paper”, Proceedings of Conference, Location, Country, Month and Year, pages xx to yy.

IAEA Contacts

Scientific Secretary:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Event Web Page

Please visit the relevant IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event

Enclosure: Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)