



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

**CODEX  
ALIMENTARIUS**  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS

**18-22  
September  
2023**

King Faisal Room (D263)  
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy  
All times CEST

Languages:  
Arabic, English French

# FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNE)

## Side events

### Timetable

Thursday  
**21 September**

10.00-10.30 CEST	Welcome coffee
10.30-12.00 CEST	<b>Monitoring of chemicals in foods National case study and application of GEMS food</b>
12:00-13.00 CEST	Lunch break
13:00-13:30 CEST	Welcome coffee to Cell based foods side event
13.30-15.00 CEST	<b>Cell-based food: its safety and regulatory aspects within the regional contexts</b>
15:00-15.30 CEST	Health Break
15.30-17.00 CEST	<b>Codex Trust Fund (CTF) - Opportunities for the region</b>

It is also possible to participate in all these side events as a virtual participant:  
For virtual participation Register [here](#)



CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

### Side Event **Monitoring of chemicals in foods**

10.30 – 12.00 CET

#### **Introduction**

This event will provide both a national and regional example on how monitoring and data collection on chemicals in food can be undertaken. As an example of activities at the national level, the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (represented by The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)) to develop and manage the execution of a food monitoring program on a national basis with the collaboration of cross-functional government entities that have a fundamental role in ensuring food safety throughout the food chain will be presented. From the international perspective WHO will introduce the Global Environment Monitoring System and its role in providing data for use in risk assessment and informing Codex on contaminants levels and trends in food. A step by step example to demonstrate how to use publicly available databases in estimating regional exposure of chemicals through food will be provided.

#### **Programme**

Moderator: Nimah M. Baqadir, SFDA

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#### **10.30-10.35 Opening remarks**

Moderator: Nimah M. Baqadir, SFDA

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#### **14:30-18:00 Development and implementation of a national monitoring programs**

- Planning national monitoring programs
- Advantages of conducting a monitoring program on a national basis
- Success story
- Use of codex standards and national regulation
- FAO food classification to build up national food code
- Challenges and solutions

Discussion

Moderator: Bandar S. Al-owais, SFDA

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#### **14:30-18:00 The use of the Global Environment Monitoring System database for assessing chemical contaminant exposure**

Discussion

Moderator: Luc Ingenbleek, WHO - Eva Inam Al Zein, WHO

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### Side Event

## **Cell-based food: its safety and regulatory aspects within the regional contexts**

13.30 – 15.00 CET

### Introduction

This side event features the recently issued FAO/WHO publication entitled “Food safety aspects of cell-based food” as well as the relevant factsheet “[Nine things to know about food safety aspects of cell-based food](#)” for the Members to discuss key issues that are relevant to Codex activities in the specific regional contexts. The session first provides the overview of the FAO/WHO work on the topic as well as the results of the pre-event survey, then each Member will be provided the opportunity to discuss the national regulatory situations. The discussion session will focus on some of the common issues in the region, identifying possible collaborative actions for the Members to consider undertaking.

### Programme

Moderator: Masami Takeuchi, FAO

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13.00-13.30 Welcome coffee/tea reception

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13.30-15.00 **Opening remarks**  
Masami Takeuchi, FAO (on behalf of Markus Lipp, FAO)

#### Introduction

Masami Takeuchi, FAO

#### Results of the survey

Juliana De Oliveira Mota, WHO

#### National regulatory situations

CCNE Members

#### Discussion

All

#### Closing remarks

Moez Sanaa, WHO

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#### Resources

FAO Food Safety and Quality – Cell-based food. <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/crosscutting-and-emerging-issues/cell-based-food/>

WHO Food Safety. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/food-safety>

#### Publications

FAO & WHO. 2023. Food safety aspects of cell-based food. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4855en>

FAO & WHO. 2023. Nine things to know about food safety aspects of cell-based food. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6419en> and <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-HEP-NFS-SSA-23.06.11>

#### Videos

FAO. 2022. Ensuring the safety of cell-based food. Rome. [https://youtu.be/Vn7OCVV\\_o4Y](https://youtu.be/Vn7OCVV_o4Y) (Educational video, 20 min)

FAO. 2023. Cell-based food production and food safety [[Ar](#)] [[En](#)] [[Fr](#)] (Animation, 1 min and 43 sec)



### Side Event

## **Codex Trust Fund (CTF) – Opportunities for the region**

15:30 – 17:00 CEST

### Introduction

The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) is a development partnership located at the heart of the global Codex system and is based on a mandate given directly by all Codex Member Countries, comprising developing and transition economy countries, developed countries as well as FAO and WHO. The CTF supports eligible developing and transition economy countries to participate more effectively in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its related committees. In its current second phase, the CTF focuses on the strengthening of national institutional capacity, which is supported by the CTF through multi-annual projects and other forms of capacity strengthening.

This event will provide a status update of the CTF in 2023 and outline opportunities for Members from the region to benefit, presenting established channels of support as well as new approaches currently under development, including those that are related to fragile or conflict-affected countries. The session will also provide an opportunity for discussion on priority areas of support for countries in the region.

### Programme

Moderator: Dr Eva Inam Alzein

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**15:30-15:40** **Opening remarks**  
Dr Eva Inam Alzein

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**15:40-16:00** **The Codex Trust Fund: Introduction and current status**  
Mr Michael Hinsch

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**16:00-16:30** **The Codex Trust Fund: Opportunities for the region**

- Scope and types of support
- Partnerships
- Application channels

Moderator: Mr Michael Hinsch

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**16:30-16:55** **Discussion: priorities and opportunities**  
Dr Eva Inem Alzein

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**16:55-17:00** **Closing remarks**  
Dr Eva Inem Alzein

### Resources

[FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund](#)