

REGIONAL TRAINING ON SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF CODEX WITH FOCUS OF DATA GENERATION AND SUBMISSION FOR STANDARDS SETTING – 23-25 July 2025 ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

1- Background

The EU-EAC MARKUP II/ITC is a capacity building program implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and aiming to enhance international market access of the priority value chains through improving the EAC regional approach for harmonization of standards, technical regulations, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The 2025/26 EU-EAC MARKUP II and Codex Trust Fund (CTF) Group Project work plan supports the East African Community (EAC) Codex Forum in developing regional positions and enhancing participation in Codex committee meetings. To overcome regional challenges and meet the objectives of both MARKUP II (focused on standards compliance) and the CTF project (focused on Codex capacity development), **a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) is planned on the scientific basis of Codex, particularly on data generation and submission, which are critical for the effective domestication and implementation of Codex standards in Africa.**

This training is **scheduled for 23–25 July 2025 in Zanzibar**, Tanzania and is organized by the EAC Secretariat with financial support from ITC/MARKUP II and the Codex Trust Fund. It is implemented by experts of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS).

Training Objectives: The ToT aims to build the capacity of food production and trade actors in East Africa to contribute scientifically sound data—especially to the GEMS/Food Database—which is essential for global Codex standards setting.

It aims to strengthen participants' understanding of the scientific foundations of Codex, with a particular focus on data generation and provision for standards-setting. The training aims to build participants' capacity to gather, analyze, and apply scientific data to support the development of sound Codex standards.

Specific objectives include:

- Enhancing knowledge of the Codex risk analysis framework
- Sharing best practices in data generation, collection, and utilization for Codex standard setting
- Strengthening negotiation skills related to the use of scientific data in Codex discussions
- Improving competencies in using the GEMS/Food Database for data submission and analysis.

Targeted Audience / Recipients:

The regional Training of Trainers (ToT) will host around **15 participants**, with each participating country nominating two representatives—one from the Codex Contact Point and one from the Testing Laboratories of the National Standards Bodies (NSBs). The EAC Secretariat will also be represented by one trainee.

Trainees will originate from Burundi (2), DRC (1), Kenya (2), Somalia (1), South Sudan (2), Tanzania (2), Uganda (2), Rwanda and the EAC

2- Resources Mobilized by GFORSS

- 2 experienced trainers and their support staff for material development and deployment:
 - o Prof. Samuel Godefroy,
 - o Dr. Amine Kassouf,

Both bilingual in French and English

- Use and coordination of the GFORSS e-learning platform to assist the delivery of the training program

2- About GFORSS

GFORSS is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada and hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)), a joint endeavor of the Department of Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) of the Université Laval, Quebec, QC. Canada.

GFORSS aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, the sciences underpinning food regulatory decisions as a multi-disciplinary field of food science, including, but not limited to, the application of food risk analysis and associated disciplines, the development of food laws and the assessment of economic impacts of food regulatory measures.

Mission:

GFORSS aims to promote the development of competencies, of know-how and knowledge including scientific and policy analysis, underpinning food regulatory decisions and in support of the development and implementation of food control systems.

Proposed Training Program

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 1 – 23 July 2025		
9:00 – 10:30	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Prayer • Introduction of Trainees and Trainer • Remarks by Host Country • Remarks from Lead Country for the Project – Uganda • Remarks by EU-EAC MARKUPII/ ITC Representative • Remarks by EAC Secretariat • Opening remarks FAO Country Representative 	CTF Project Secretariat
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Photo 	
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break	Hotel
11:00 – 11:15	Objectives of the regional training on scientific basis of Codex	Prof. Samuel Godefroy
11:15 – 12:30	Role of Data in Supporting Evidence-Based Food Regulatory Decision-making	Prof. Samuel Godefroy
12:30 – 13:00	Dietary exposure assessment: General principles	Prof. Samuel Godefroy
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	Hotel
14:00 – 15:00	Group Discussion: Introduction of International Risk Assessment by Advisory Bodies to Codex and Current Level of contribution with data and input by Participating Countries – discussions of current capacity and challenges	Moderated Group Discussions
15:00 – 15:45	Outline of Sources of Data Supporting Exposure Assessment – Models of Data generation and availability through countries' experience	Dr. Amine Kassouf
15:45 – 16:00	Health Break	Hotel
16:00 – 17:00	Introduction to GEMS/Food Database	Dr. Amine Kassouf
17:00	Close of Day 1	Hotel

DAY 2: 24 July 2025		
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Day 1	Prof. Samuel Godefroy and Dr. Amine Kassouf
9:15 – 10:30	Food consumption data for dietary exposure assessment	Prof. Samuel Godefroy
10:30 – 11:00	Health break	Hotel
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Reviewing agendas of Key Technical Committees and their data needs with a focus on:</p> <p>CCCF,</p> <p>CCFA,</p> <p>CCPR and CCRVDF</p> <p>Discussions of the Specificities of CCFH</p>	Dr. Amine Kassouf
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Reviewing Food Monitoring Programs and Distinguishing Sources of Data and their Use :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk-Based Residue Monitoring - Total Diet Studies 	Prof. Samuel Godefroy Dr. Amine Kassouf and Group Discussions
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	Hotel
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Case Study: Lead in Spice Mixtures</p> <p>Part 1: Review of the principles of data acceptability and inclusion</p> <p>Group Work focussing on Data availability and Use</p>	Group Work supported by trainers
16:00 – 16:30	Health Break	Hotel
16:30 – 17:15	<p>Case Study: Lead in Spice Mixtures</p> <p>Part 2: Retrieval of Data and Estimation of Exposure Assessment</p> <p>Group Work focussing on Data Retrieval and Estimation of Exposure</p> <p>*Option for a second example could be envisaged based on time available – Aflatoxins in Cereals</p>	Group Work supported by trainers

17:15	Health break Close of Day 2	
DAY 3: 24 July 2025		
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Day 2	Trainers
9:15 – 10:30	Presentation of Group Work and collective discussions	Group leads and Collective / moderated discussions
10:30 – 11:00	Health break	Hotel
11:00 – 12:00	Reviewing Use of Data to Support Risk Assessment and Formulation of Proposed Risk Management Decisions for Contaminants in Food	Joint Presentation: Prof. Samuel Godefroy and Dr. Amine Kassouf
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Moderated / Facilitated Group Work on Sources of Data in Support of current Codex Calls for Data :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Options to develop, analyse and prepare data for submission - Identification of mitigation solutions for lack of data - Identification of milestones to build capacity to address data calls by Codex 	Group work
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:30	Review of Group Work Results	Group Leads
14:30 – 15:00	Formulation of recommendations for a Roadmap for Action	Moderated Discussions
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Wrap Up Session:</p> <p>Evaluation and Closing of the Session</p>	Host Country
15:30	Health break and Close of the Regional Training	