



Vienna Food 20 Safety Forum 25

The Potential of Digitalization Tentative Programme 10-12 June 2025 Vienna International Center

Day 1 – 10 June 2025

Time (CET)	Agenda point
9:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 11:00	Opening ceremony
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Keynote presentation: <i>How can digitalization accelerate the development of food safety systems?</i></p> <p>This keynote presentation will set the scene for the Vienna Food Safety Forum, focusing on the potential of digitalization. In the past years, food safety, as a scientific field, started to be regarded differently from other global public goods, considering how data can transform the industry's practices, regulators, and consumers. The food safety development gap between low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and industrialized nations is increasing. Many LMICs struggle to integrate international standards into their food safety systems, whereas the most robust systems are already testing and/or using innovative and sophisticated technological solutions. What are the most recent lessons learned in digitalization for improved food safety outcomes? How can LMICs apply these for transformative results?</p>
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Session 1: Food safety regulatory reforms: Leveraging digitalization and artificial intelligence</p> <p>Food safety regulatory practices in many countries are integrating novel data analytics solutions for better-informed decision-making. With the</p>

	<p>emergence of new technological solutions based on data, regulators started experimenting with them, aiming towards higher efficiency and improved control in food safety. This session will explore the most recent developments in major national and regional jurisdictions, including the current use cases of new data-based approaches for regulatory decision-making. It will also underline the potential benefits and conditions for implementing novel data analytics solutions.</p>
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	Solution talks: Technical presentation on digital solutions
15:00 – 16:10	<p>Session 2: Data-powered risk prioritization: Enhancing food safety management</p> <p>This session will explore how digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) can support the prioritization of food safety risks and optimize resource allocation for food safety stakeholders. Utilizing AI to identify and evaluate potential risks in the food supply chain can improve safety and prevent outbreaks. Speakers will discuss real-world problem cases and possible solutions involving AI and digital applications, including predictive modeling for foodborne illness outbreaks and identification of food safety risk occurrence. The discussions will also touch upon challenges for digital solutions, such as standardization, data sharing, AI and data literacy.</p>
16:10 – 16:40	Coffee break
16:40 – 18:00	<p>Session 3: Putting theory into practice: Transforming food regulatory practices through digitalization</p> <p>There is an increasing interest in using digital solutions, such as machine learning and artificial intelligence. The session will explore the practical application of digital tools to enhance food safety oversight. Experts will discuss case studies, demonstrating how digitalization improves efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in food regulatory systems. The session will address challenges and opportunities in implementing digital solutions, including data management and stakeholder collaboration in a rapidly evolving food landscape.</p>
From 18:00	Light reception

Day 2 - 11 June 2025

Time (CET)	Agenda point
9:00 – 10:10	<p>Session 4: Digital traceability solutions: The role of data standards to address interoperability challenges</p> <p>Digital traceability solutions have greatly interested the industry and food authorities in ensuring product safety and quality. The session will take stock of existing traceability solutions to improve food safety. It will also delve into the critical role of data standards in addressing interoperability challenges, ensuring seamless data exchange across various systems and actors. The panelists will also discuss potential challenges that low- and middle-income countries face when implementing digital traceability solutions.</p>
10:10 – 10:40	Coffee break
10:40 – 12:00	<p>Session 5: Bridging the data gap: Sharing information for enhanced food safety outcomes and trade</p> <p>Increased digitalization of food control systems is critical for regulators and the food industry to benefit from data sharing in an environment characterized by more global and regional supply chains and increased data. While diverse technological solutions offer opportunities, there is also a real risk of variability and fragmentation across different approaches and systems. International digital and data standards can help to resolve this challenge. Failure to decide, not only on digital pathways and requirements but also communications requirements, will become potential barriers to developing these new systems.</p>
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 14:00	Solution talks: Presentations on technical solutions
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 6: Government to business session: Facilitating data-sharing between industry and government</p> <p>Building on the discussions of the previous session, this session will identify potential approaches from success stories of public-private collaboration on data sharing. Collaborative approaches require building trust, legal agreements between regulators and industry, and structured data to improve food safety outcomes. The session will profile experiences with collaboration in different types of countries to set the stage for further discussion about partnerships between government and industry representatives.</p>
15:20– 15:50	Coffee break

15:50 – 17:00	<p>Session 7: Remote audit and inspection practices for enhanced regulatory collaboration and oversight: Putting a standard into practice</p> <p>Remote audit and inspection practices became widespread during the COVID-19 outbreak. These practices can still benefit competent authorities who might have difficulties reaching all food establishments. This session will provide an update on remote audit and inspection practices, with special attention to use of Codex standard (CXG 102-2023) within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).</p>
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Day 3 - 12 June 2025

Time (CET)	Agenda point
9:00 – 10:20	<p>Session 8: Electronic exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary certificates: A tool to facilitate safe food trade</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificates. This session will share experiences and recent developments on the use of paperless exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificates, with attention to the role of international standards.</p>
10:20 – 10:50	Coffee break
10:50 – 11:50	<p>Session 9: Machine Learning for Improved Food Safety Practices: Enhancing Surveillance and Regulatory Oversight</p> <p>This session will explore how machine learning can improve food safety surveillance and regulatory oversight efficiency. Case studies will illustrate how machine learning enhances regulatory oversight, reduces the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks, and facilitates safe trade. The session will also address the challenges of data quality, model validation, and integration of machine learning into existing regulatory workflows, as well as the importance of human expertise and judgment in interpreting and acting upon machine learning insights.</p>
11:50 – 12:00	Closing ceremony