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## Workshop on Food Analytical Methods Applied to Regulatory Decisions 25-26 April 2018, Nestlé R&D Centre, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

**Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), April 25 2018** – Aiming for improved reliance on food analytical methods for regulatory decision-making

A workshop on the use of food analytical methods for the purposes of regulatory decision-making was organised at Nestlé's R&D Centre in the Côte d'Ivoire capital Abidjan, on 25-26 April 2018. The workshop gathered technical, scientific and regulatory experts from competent authorities and partner institutions involved in food laboratory testing for regulatory purposes in West Africa, including Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. It was implemented by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform (FRAREP) of Université Laval, Quebec, QC, Canada, in collaboration with the Sub-Saharan Africa Section of the Association of Official Analytical Communities (AOAC INTERNATIONAL) and with Nestlé R&D Abidjan, hosting the event.

This workshop was part of a broader program of targeted interventions aiming to build capacity in food safety regulatory policy in West Africa, supported by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA/FAS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The intent is to promote best practices in food regulatory decision-making in accordance with guidance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its parent organizations the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

"It is very common that food trade disputes are caused by differences in test results produced as part of food control practices. Relying on robust food laboratory methods that are based on a "fit for purpose" analysis and validated according to internationally standardized approaches are key to lead to trusted results and more convergent regulatory decisions", declared Dr. Samuel Godefroy, Professor of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Québec, Canada, one of the main organizers of this workshop.

"The workshop program was set in a manner to enable participants to discuss the West African region's priorities for food testing harmonization. It will focus on issues faced by the region such as mycotoxin testing, a major food safety concern in the region and internationally" added Dr. Owen Fraser, President of the Sub-Saharan Africa Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL and co-chair of the Workshop.

The workshop will enable participants to share their experiences and review practices and processes of the AOAC INTERNATIONAL as a key standard setting body for food analytical methods internationally, with an emphasis on alignment in method selection and application. One of objectives is to foster the development of a food analytical community amongst participants from competent authorities and regulators in West Africa. It is expected that this investment will be further leveraged to strengthen food regulatory capacity in its reliance on analytical results supporting decision-making.

For information:

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