



International Association for Food Protection®

Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2024 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 5, 2024** (late reports will not be considered for awards):

REQUIRED:

This completed form (*in English*).

Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.

IAFP now accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*

Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

African Continental Association for Food Protection

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Delegate Name	Joseph Odumeru
Address 1	MECP
Address 2	125 Resources Road
City, State ZIP Country	Toronto ON M9P 3V6 Canada
Phone Number	416-235-5747
E-mail address	jodumeru@uoguelph.ca
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate “same” if person also serves as Delegate)

Contact Name	Peter Kennedy
Address 1	Quality Flow, Inc.
Address 2	3691 Commercial Ave
City, State ZIP Country	Northbrook, Illinois 60062 USA
Phone Number	1-847-291-7674 x204
E-mail address	pkennedy@qualityflow.com or moustapha_o@hotmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes.

2. Membership List

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 400
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2023? 160

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.

December 12-14, 2023 – 2nd Food Safety Conference for Africa in person attended by over 120 people.

- b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

ACAFA AGM July 14-17, 2024, in Long-Beach California

- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2023 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

Title	Date	Attendance
STEC Challenges in Africa	Monday 24th April 2023	97
Utility of microbiological indicator testing in modern food safety management	February 20 th , 2023	103
Salmonella and low moisture foods	Tuesday 31st January 2023 - 110	110
ACAFA Board Meetings	Monthly (Jan – Dec 2023)	10
ACAFA and Local Organizing Committee (LOC)	Monthly (Jan – Dec 2023)	25

4. Awards and Scholarships

a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2023. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Peter Kennedy	ACAFA Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Kennedy is an African American who had shown keen interest in the participation of Africans in IAFP annual meetings as well as ensuring IAFP's presence in Africa. He is a founding member of ACAFA and significantly contributed to its survival and now growing and expanding to the African continent as he planned it. This conference being the first in-person conference in the African soil, the Board voted to recognize Mr. Kennedy for all his contributions.
Dr. Victor Ohileobo Dania, U of Ibadan, Nigeria	Excellent presentation completed in timely manner: on or below the allotted time
Ms. Selasie Tsegah, U of Science and Technol Kwame Nkrumah Ghana	Excellent presentation completed in timely manner: on or below the allotted time
Edmund Benefo – UMD, USA	Free one year membership – Random draw prize for participating in the ACAFA business meeting during the IAFP conference in the summer of 2023 in Toronto

b. List scholarships awarded during 2023; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

NA	NA
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5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email, and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate's Web site address AND date last updated:

[Promoting Food Safety on the African Continent \(acafoodprotection.org\)](http://acafoodprotection.org). last updated in December, 2023.

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2023? Y N

Attachment A (completion required)

Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (reminder: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2023–2024) for your current Executive Board:
 enter term dates

IAFP Member ? Y or N	Yes
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Officer Title	President
Name	Dr. Joseph Odumeru, Ph.D.
Address 1	31 Pacific Place
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Guelph, Ontario Canada, N1G4R5
Phone Number	1-416-235-5747
E-mail address	jodumeru@uoguelph.ca
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Vice President.
Name	Peter Kennedy
Address 1	3691 Commercial Ave
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Northbrook, IL 60062 USA
Phone Number	1-847-291-7674 x204
E-mail address	pkennedy@qualityflow.com

Officer Title	Secretary
Name	Dr. Moustapha, Oke Ph.D.
Address 1	165 Terraview Crescent Unit: 89
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Guelph, Ontario Canada, N1G 5G9
Phone Number	519-803-4979
E-mail address	Moustapha_o@hotmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Treasurer
Name	Dr. Charles Muyangja
Address 1	Lweza B. Plot 2005 Kajansi, Entebbe Road, Kyadondo, Wakiso District
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City, State ZIP Country	Kampala, Kampala Uganda
Phone Number	+256-756-911-357
E-mail address	ckmuyangja@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Communication Director
Name	AyoJesutomi Abiodun-Solanke
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IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Finance & Sponsorship Director
Name	Prof. Lucia Anelich
Address 1	P.O. box: 36536 Menlo Park 0102 South Africa
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City, State ZIP Country	
Phone Number	Cell: +27 (0) 82 9083166; Phone: +27 (0) 12 3625960
E-mail address	la@anelichconsulting.co.za
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Education a& Training Director
Name	Adewale Obadina
Address 1	Department of Food Science and Technology, P.M.B. 2240, Federal University of Agriculture
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City, State ZIP Country	Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria

Phone Number	+234-805-887-9249
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IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Membership Director
Name	Rose Omari
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IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Chief Social Media Chair
Name	Ifeoluwa Olotu
Address 1	31 Country Village Manor, NE
Address 2	

City, State ZIP Country	Calgary Canada T3K0T3
Phone Number	1-780-236-3276
E-mail address	olotu.ifeoluwa@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Officer Title	Social Media Chair Back up
Name	Ajibola Oyedeji
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Canada
Phone Number	+27 74 411 3712
E-mail address	Jibanky2@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Yes

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

CHECK HERE and return electronically by 3/5/24 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2024 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)

CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2024 AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2024, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.) Submit your Annual Report and any attachments in **ONE** email to avoid errors and omissions.

C.B. Shogren Memorial Award

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (“To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply”)? “Overall achievement” should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate during 2023:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- donations to the IAFP Foundation; and
- Representation at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (held July 16, 2023); and
- Other pertinent information.

While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.

Why ACAFP applies for C.B.Shogren Memorial Award?

The African Continental Association for Food Protection (ACAFP) would like to apply for the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award for the following reasons:

1. ACAFP is an affiliate of the IAFP and have collaborated on many projects including the 2 Food Safety conferences organized for Africa in 2021 and 2023.
2. We have experienced a significant increase in our membership because of the arduous work of the Executives and members alike. Our membership had increased from 193 in 2023 to 300 in 2024, a 55% increase.

3. ACAFP communicates with its members through its website, via emails and through seminars organized for them.
4. For the first time ACAFP organized an in-person conference in Africa for Africa. This milestone is particularly important to us and for IAFP since it was ACAFP's primary goal. Despite the financial challenges that ACAFP had organizing we managed to successfully hold it with 120 participants. The conference demonstrated a solid collaboration with the top Food Safety and Food Protection players in the continent such as: The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to name a few. Through the conference ACAFP had demonstrated exceptional overall achievements during 2023 in promoting the mission of IAFP, which is (**"To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply"**).
5. As such, the IAFP had organized food safety conferences in all the continents except Africa prior to the 2021, when the first Food Safety conference for Africa was held. ACAFP is immensely proud to help the IAFP achieve its mission above.
6. ACAFP's Executives and most of Board members are also members of the IAFP. Many Board and regular members of ACAFP donate to the Food Protection Foundation every year, when paying their dues.
7. ACAFP was always represented at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meetings for the last 10 years at least including the latest one held in Toronto Canada on July 16, 2023.
8. Some useful links follow:
 - [Promoting Food Safety on the African Continent \(acafoodprotection.org\)](https://acafoodprotection.org),
 - [Programme – ACAFP 2023](https://acafoodprotection.org/programme-acaftp-2023)
 - <https://acaftp.org/presentations/>
 - [2nd Food Safety Conference for Africa takes off tomorrow in Accra - MyJoyOnline](https://www.myjoyonline.com/2nd-food-safety-conference-for-africa-takes-off-tomorrow-in-accra)

With the enumerated achievements and contributions to promote the IAFP mission statement, we implore the selecting committee to consider our application for this prestigious award.



THE 2ND ACAFP FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

THEME: TOWARDS A SAFER FOOD SUPPLY FOR AFRICA

12th – 14th December 2023

Erata Hotel, Accra, Ghana



Introduction

The 2nd African Continental Association for Food Protection (ACAFFP) took place from the 12th – 14th December, 2023 at the Erata Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The conference provided a forum for presentations and discussions of food safety issues pertinent to Africa from academic, research, industry, regional policy makers, consumers and developing partners perspectives. It was attended by approximately 102 delegates from 5 countries in Africa. Although the conference was mainly an in-person one, opportunity was given for online participation by a few participants. The conference was organized by the African Continental Association for Food Protection in collaboration with its major partners – The African Union Commission, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). Other partners were drawn from academia, research, industry and policy and regulatory institutions in Ghana to form the Local Organizing Committee and supported by GeniusEvent and Services. Sponsors of the conference were the Africa Union (Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources), GB Foods Africa, Cargill (Ghana), Cargill (FSQR, USA), Voltic Ghana and Joy Business. The format of the conference involved a mixture of keynote speeches, presentations on topical issues related to the subthemes and a panel discussion plus plenty of time for formal and informal networking.

The African Continental Association for Food Protection (ACAFFP), an affiliate of International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), is geared towards advancing food safety on the African continent. The goal of ACAFFP is to connect food safety professionals, policy makers, food value chain actors and students on the continent of Africa and around the world. The association represents members from industry, government, international organizations, research and academia from several countries in Africa, USA, Canada, Britain and other parts of the world with keen interest to promote food safety and protect food supplies in Africa. ACAFFP provides a platform for connecting for various categories of stakeholders such as farmers, researchers, students, food industry practitioners, educators, government officials, quality control and health professionals involved in food production, storing, transporting, processing, preparation and regulation as well as foodborne disease control. ACAFFP also provides its members and the general African population with food safety educational information, career opportunities and other food safety related resources.

In this context, the ACAFFP's activities align with the sustainable and safe food production and supply initiatives on the African Continent. Accordingly, the 2nd ACAFFP Food Safety Conference for Africa was held under the theme 'Towards a safer food supply for Africa'. The three days conference comprised three keynote presentations, four plenary presentations, one learning event, one panel discussion, and 60 technical presentations (See the [Conference Programme and Abstracts of Presentations](#)). The technical presentations were structured under five sub-themes namely, (1) Innovative capacity-building approaches to food safety in Africa; (2) Integration of food safety with food and nutrition security in Africa; (3) Implementing one health approach for food safety in Africa; (4) Food safety policies and regulations in Africa; and (5) Technological advances in food safety. The conference was attended in-person by 102 participants mainly from

Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. An online (hybrid) platform was provided for 20 speakers who could not join the event in-person. A summary of the conference activities is presented in the next sections.

DAY 1

OPENING SESSION

The first day of the conference featured the opening session which was moderated by Mr. Ibrahim Kwame Asante from the CSIR - Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR-STEPRI). Prof. Joseph Odumeru – the ACAFP President welcome the participants and highlighted the goals of ACAFP as an Association and underscored that, among others, the Association aims to connect food value chain actors with government, academia, and students. He added that the Association provides an avenue for people in various food safety programmes to share ideas on improving food safety in Africa and globally. He indicated that the food safety conference supports the AU’s Malabo Declaration of Ending Hunger by 2025 and Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger by 2030. He concluded by thanking all the conference sponsors including GBFoods Africa, African Union, Cargill, Voltic Natural Mineral Water, and Joy Business.

In the same session, good will messages were presented by the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), African Regional Office of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), GBFoods and the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources-AU-IBAR). The president of IAFP, Dr. Tim Jackson encouraged participants to take advantage of the conference to connect and network. He informed participants of the Students Travel Award to the 2024 IAFP Annual Meeting and encouraged students to apply by January 23rd, 2024, through the IAFP website. Dr. David Phiri, Special Adviser to the ADG/Regional Representative of the FAO highlighted that non-compliance with food safety requirements results in huge economic and health costs. He thus underscored the call to action to everyone to do their part to ensure that the food served to our families meet good quality and safety standards. He also reminded everyone that there are demands for technological innovations; hence, more innovative technologies should be developed to increase trading and quality to ensure food safety.

Prof. James Wabacha, speaking on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR expressed gratitude to ACAFP and the LOC for organizing such an important conference. He added that Africa stands at a critical junction where ensuring the health of its people is paramount; hence, he recommended the use of digital technology including the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure the effectiveness of food safety interventions. He stressed the need for Africa not to relent in its efforts towards ensuring food safety. He commended the leadership of ACAFP for fostering partnerships in administering safe foods for Africa to safeguard the health of the population. The Marketing Director of GBFoods, Mr. Samuel Derry highlighted how safety and quality are

embedded in the food safety policy of their organisation and encouraged all participants to take an active role in the conference as it provides a good platform for learning.

The conference was officially opened by Professor Charles Tortoe, the Director of CSIR-Food Research Institute (CSIR-FRI) in Ghana. In his opening remarks, he highlighted that food systems are essential for protecting consumers from unsafe food. He indicated that the innovations developed to ensure food safety, call for a forum as the 2nd ACAFP conference to discuss and share insights among experts, key industry players, and stakeholders. He stressed the need for all stakeholders to align with national, continental and global food safety programmes to mitigate various food safety threats. He spoke about the need for African products to comply with food safety standards and reiterated that the Food Research Institute keeps pushing to ensure that food is safe for consumers. He commended ACAFP for bringing key stakeholders together and congratulated the LOC for the excellent work done. He also charged the participants to participate in all the sessions and encouraged all those who had not yet joined ACAFP to do so. He concluded by thanking all the sponsors and encouraging the foreign participants to visit the markets and buy made-in-Ghana products as well as tourist sites such as the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum.

Prof. Paa Nii Johnson, the Chairman of the LOC made a brief presentation on the conference programme and its objectives for the three days. He indicated that the programme has been structured in a way that allows more time for interactive discussions. He urged participants to not only attend sessions within their areas of specializations but also other sessions to learn about those topics as well. He again urged the participants to focus their questions and discussions on the topic of the presentations so as not to drag the time for the programme. He concluded by encouraging the participants to form new networks.



Dignitaries at the opening ceremony. From Left: Prof Paa Nii Johnson (LOC Chair), Prof James Wabacha (AU-IBAR), Prof Charles Tortoe (Director, CSIR-FRI), Mr. Samuel Dery (GB-Foods), Ibrahim Asante (MC, CSIR-STEPRI)

Keynote Presentation 1: The first keynote speech was presented by Prof. Paul Amuna, an Associate Professor of Public Health Nutrition at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, Ghana. The title of his presentation was ‘Food Safety, Nutrition Security and Long-Term Health Outcomes in Africa: Implications for Research, Training and Practice.’ He stated the pressing challenges faced by the continent in meeting international food safety standards. Prof. Amuna who is a Physician with a background in public health nutrition, emphasized the critical need for Africa to overcome barriers hindering its entry into the global market - citing a poignant example of attempts to export groundnuts to the UK only to discover unsafe aflatoxin levels. Reflecting on his 30-year journey transitioning from a health background to nutrition, he expressed concern about the need for more clarity on progress in addressing food safety gaps. Notably, he highlighted the alarming statistic that 40% of foodborne diseases burden especially in children under five. These diseases, including those caused by lead and mercury from illegal gold mining affect aquatic life, and contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of international organizations such as FAO and WHO, Prof Amuna commended Ghana's Ministry of Health for developing a National Food Safety policy in 2022 and urged other African countries to follow suit. He underscored diarrhoeal diseases affecting young children as a major concern, prompting him to anticipate in-depth discussions during breakout sessions focusing on various agents influencing diseases. Prof Amuna emphasized Africa's unfortunate situation of having the highest rates of foodborne illnesses and DALY incidence, as revealed by recent studies. A specific example highlighted the economic cost of contaminated dairy products in Rwanda, amounting to 1.3 million US Dollars. He stressed the importance of a holistic food systems perspective, emphasizing that the quality of stored products directly impacts the safety and nutritional value of the consumed food. While acknowledging progress in infectious diseases control, particularly with vaccines, Prof. Amuna engaged the audience in discussing the effectiveness of the cholera vaccine and expressed personal interest in the hepatocellular vaccine for controlling the effects of aflatoxins derived from grains and nuts.

In conclusion, Prof Paul Amuna highlighted critical challenges in ensuring a safe food supply in Africa, emphasizing the need for unified policies, international collaboration, and comprehensive strategies to address foodborne illnesses, particularly among vulnerable populations. The intricate interplay between food safety, nutrition, and overall health emerged as a central theme, setting the stage for further detailed discussions in breakout sessions.

After the opening ceremony, there were two plenary presentations and parallel sessions that run throughout the day with technical presentations covering all the five subthemes as follows:

- Theme 1: Innovative capacity-building approaches to food safety in Africa.
- Theme 2: Integration of food safety with food and nutrition security in Africa.
- Theme 3: Implementing one health approach for food safety in Africa.
- Theme 4: Food safety policies and regulations in Africa.

- Theme 5: Technological advances in food safety.

A total of twenty-four technical presentations were made during the four parallel sessions.

The presentations can be found here <https://acaftp.org/presentations/>.



Technical presentation being made at the parallel session.



Moderator of the parallel session

The plenary presentations were made by Ms. Nana Akua Yeboah and Dr. Blaise Ouattara of the Food and Drugs Authority in Ghana and the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Regional Office in Africa.

Plenary presentation 1: Ms. Nana Akua Serwaa Yeboah, Head of Food Safety Coordination & Biosafety Unit, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana presentation was titled ‘Innovative programmes for advancing food safety in the formal and informal sectors in Ghana’. She lamented that Ghanaian consumers are confronted with a myriad of food safety problems with the common ones being Sudan dye contamination in palm oil, pesticide residue in food, aflatoxin contamination in cereals, pulses and nuts and food-borne infections from restaurants and street food vendors. She presented some innovative initiatives to address the numerous food safety challenges as follows:

- Improving food safety at the artisanal level: This programme entails the Street Food Vending Permit initiative that was launched in November 2021 in partnership with FAO and the Municipal Assemblies. The launch has been followed by sensitization of street food vendors across the country. She added that a total of 553 street food vendors have been issued with permits to date and thousands have been sensitized on food safety including hygienic food handling.
- Food Safety Monitoring in the palm oil value chain: This programme was started when in 2015, 98% of palm oil sampled tested positive for Sudan dyes. The programme entails

several interventions including awareness creation among actors, training of oil palm millers, and establishment of an annual national monitoring programme for palm oil.

- Food Safety Monitoring in tomato value chain: This initiative was started following a collaboration between FDA and HortiFresh Ghana in 2019 where an assessment of level of pesticide residues in commonly consumed vegetables sold in Greater Accra Region showed high residue levels. Following the recommendation by stakeholders, a traceability guidance document has been developed, reviewed, validated by key stakeholders and currently being piloted with aggregators at Agboghloshie and Graphic Road markets in Accra.

Ms. Yeboah concluded her presentation by highlighting one main challenge as the unavailability of affordable rapid detection kits, particularly for Sudan dye in palm oil and aflatoxins in cereals. She indicated that the FDA avails itself to partnering with researchers, not-for-profit organizations, NGOs and development partners to develop quick analytical tools in the execution of its mandate.

Plenary presentation 2: The second plenary presentation was delivered by Dr. Blaise Ouattara, Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa. He spoke on the topic 'FAO's Food safety program in Africa and its implementation in the context of AfCFTA'. Dr. Ouattara presented the FAO Strategic Framework that supports transformation to more inclusive, efficient, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. The framework emphasises technology, innovation and data as well as the integration of gender and youth. He added that under the better nutrition programme, the focus is the mainstreaming food safety with nutrition and food security in close connection between food safety and trade and linking food safety and food loss and waste. Dr. Ouattara also presented the FAO strategic priorities for food safety, (1) Intergovernmental and inter-sectoral coordination of food safety governance, (2) Sound scientific advice and evidence for food safety decision-making, (3) Strengthened and continuously improved national food control systems, (4) Public and private stakeholder collaboration.

The presentation also highlighted the FAO/WHO Food Control Assessment Tool and its relevance in helping countries identify gaps for improvement. He added that that the assessment conducted in some African countries has revealed that in terms of Policy and Regulatory Framework, there are outdated and insufficient food safety legislations, lack of enforcement and absence of coordination. There is also low scientific capacity for food safety risk analysis and the application of risk-based approaches. In terms of interaction with stakeholders, the importance of informal markets and street food as well as capacity to participate in activities of international standard setting bodies (e.g. Codex) are critical. Regarding food safety control function, the findings showed insufficient capacity to maintain routine control activities as well as insufficient laboratory capacity. He lamented the low participation of African countries in Codex activities and informed the participants of the Codex Trust Fund that has been established to support countries to improve their participation.

Day 2

The second day of the conference started with a **plenary presentation** on Continental Food Safety Initiatives by Dr. John Oppong Otto, who is the Coordinator at the Economics, Trade and Marketing Unit of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources - AU-IBAR). His presentation focused on Continental Food Safety Initiatives being implemented by the African Union and partners. He indicated that food borne diseases are of similar magnitude in Africa as other diseases and their control can be achieved by building capacity at all levels in member states. He informed participants that the Food Safety Strategy Africa has been developed and approved by member states of the AU technically and politically. The strategy has six strategy objectives; 1) S1- Strengthen food safety policy, 2) S2- Strengthen capacity of humans and structures, 3) S3- Promote food safety culture, 4) S4- Facilitate trade and market access, 5) S5- Strengthen innovation, and 6) S6- Strengthen coordination along levels.

He added that AU's key areas of intervention are risk-based food interventions, training in food safety surveillance, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control, support member states to revise their food safety policies, support participation in the work done by Codex to use codex rules and encourage advocacy and raising awareness on food safety. Dr. Oppong Otoo identified the role of ACAFP in the implementation of the Food Safety Strategy as (1) Advocacy and awareness, (2) Knowledge exchange and capacity building and (3) Policy influence. He concluded by stating that partnership and collaboration need to be prioritized, there is need to increase partnership with relevant Civil Society Organization, leveraging on ongoing work by individuals and organization and the need for deliberate engagement with informal food sector in reducing risk.

During an interactive session, Dr Oppong Otoo indicated that from next year, the AU will intervene more with the creation of accredited laboratories. In terms of the question on whether there are monitoring systems to ensure implementation of strategies and whether AU has the power to compel the member states to comply, he explained that monitoring systems are in place and cited the CAADP Biannual Review where member states report progress in various areas of the food system. He further stated that investment is needed to incentivise members more in the implementation. He added that the AU is not an enforcement agency but rather provides advice and guidance to member states. He added that the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area may help with better stringent rules and enforcement. He reiterated that AU's aim is to work with the member states to achieve goals, so more efforts are in that direction. Regarding how researchers can access funds from the AU, Dr, Oppong Otoo indicated that the AU mostly facilitates relationships between researchers and donors but do not act as a donor/ Finally, regarding AU's limited involvement in chronic foodborne diseases, he said that AU has a two-pronged approach to chronic and acute long-term issues. Hence with regards to chronic diseases, they deal with more prevention-based approach. An example is with pesticides use in farms, where they go to farmers to help train them to ensure proper use. He admitted that more work could be

done by the AU in collaboration with the member states about chronic diseases. He added that there is also surveillance, collaboration and training of informal market to help promote food safety.

During the next set of activities, delegates participated in 4 parallel interactive technical sessions focussing on the 5 sub-thematic areas which were interspersed with keynote and plenary presentations, poster session as well as a Learning event. All the presentations can be found here <https://acaftp.org/presentations/>.

The second keynote presentation of the conference was made by Dr. Irene Akpeokhai, Global Packaging Director at GBFoods, Barcelona, Spain. The title of the presentation was ‘From Farm to Fork: Transforming African Food Safety Together. Dr. Akpeokhai focused her presentation on the importance of all actors working together to achieve food safety. She highlighted GBFoods’ food safety strategies and presented the various steps the company undertakes to ensure the provision of safe foods to its customers. She lamented the challenges the company faces in procuring safe raw materials because of poor food safety practices among raw material producers and suppliers. Furthermore, she expressed concern about bad food safety, handling and storage practices among food retailers which sometimes compromises product quality resulting in waste and economic losses. Dr. Akpeokhai underscored the importance of packaging in protecting food against contaminants and highlighted that GBFoods invests heavily to ensure high integrity of its packages to withstand the poor handling and storage practices among retailers and consumers.

Dr. Akpeokhai, encouraged small-scale produce to make the efforts to comply with food safety and quality standards so that they can supply to bigger companies such as the GBFoods. She indicated that to help improve the safety and quality of raw materials, the company is investing in farm production and cited the example of Ghana where the company has a tomato farm that supplies raw materials to its tomato-mix factory in Ghana. She added that the farm has provided employment opportunities to women and youth especially.

A plenary presentation was delivered by Ms. Lusubilo Witson Mwamakamba, the Technical Officer for Food Safety at the WHO Regional Office for Africa. She spoke on the topic ‘WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety: Towards Stronger Food Safety Systems and Global Cooperation’. The presentation focused on the Global Food Safety Strategy, WHO/FAO Assessment Tool and some food safety initiatives such as the Healthy Food Markets Programme. Ms. Mwamakamba noted that the Global Food safety strategy was updated to address current and emerging challenges, incorporate new technologies and include innovative approaches for strengthening national food safety systems. In addition to providing an overall vision and strategic priorities for concerted global action in food safety, the strategy underlines the critical role of this field in public health and the need for enhanced global cooperation across the whole food and feed chain to significantly reduce the burden of Foodborne diseases. The strategy also reflects and complements existing WHO health programmes and initiatives, such as nutrition, non-communicable diseases,

antimicrobial resistance (AMR), public health emergency and emerging diseases, climate change, environmental health, water and sanitation, and neglected tropical diseases.

She further indicated that the priorities of the strategy are (1) Strengthening national food control systems, (2) Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting from global changes and food systems transformation, (3) Improving the use of food chain information, scientific evidence and risk assessment in making risk management decisions, (4) Strengthening stakeholder engagement and risk communication, and (5) Promoting food safety as an essential component in domestic, regional and international food trade. She highlighted that the role of WHO in the implementation of the strategy are (1) Accelerate global action to improve equitable improvement in food safety and mainstream food safety in the health and development agenda, (2) Synthesize evidence and generate normative guidance, (3) Enhance technical cooperation and build stronger capacity, and (4) Build partnership and foster global collaboration. She presented some food safety programmes implemented by WHO and they included the 'healthy food market' programme being piloted in some countries e.g. Senegal. The programme consists of providing markets with facilities and equipment and encouraging compliance with basic food hygiene rules in order to prevent foodborne diseases.

A poster session was held where technical presentations were made to participants, and this followed by question. The posters also covered the five subthemes of the conference as follows:

- Theme 1: Innovative capacity-building approaches to food safety in Africa.
- Theme 2: Integration of food safety with food and nutrition security in Africa.
- Theme 3: Implementing one health approach for food safety in Africa.
- Theme 4: Food safety policies and regulations in Africa.
- Theme 5: Technological advances in food safety.

The titles and abstracts of the presentations can be found in the book of abstracts:
<https://acaftp.org/programme/>



Poster Presentation

The last session of Day 2 of the conference was a learning event. The aim of this session was to offer participants an opportunity to learn about how food safety issues can be prioritized for action in the face of limited resources. Mr. Isaac Gokah, Specialist, Regional Food Trade and Resilience at AGRA, Nairobi, Kenya was the resource person and he spoke on the topic ‘Evidence-based decision making in food safety using Multi Criteria Decision Analysis. He indicated that several different SPS investment needs, exist for resource constraints governments, donors, or private sectors. However, decision-making processes sometimes are ad hoc or not very transparent. Thus, evidence-based approaches are required to inform SPS decision-making. He cited the P-IMA (Prioritising SPS Investments for Market Access) framework as an example of a tool that helps to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes. The tool, which complements sector-specific capacity evaluation tools was developed by the STDF and Prof Spencer Henson. It has been tested in collaboration with USDA, USAID and COMESA Secretariat, TMEA/TMA among others. He added that the benefits of the PIMA framework are (1) Enhanced public-private dialogue, (2) Evidence to support project design and fundraising, (3) High-level awareness about value of investing in SPS capacity building, (4) Transparency and accountability, and (5) Greater resource efficiency.

Mr. Gokah mentioned that the PiMA tool has been used to prioritize SPS investments in the East Africa region, rank investments for agri-food exports in the COMESA region and prioritize National Aflatoxin Policy Implementation Plan in Ghana. One of the key issues he identified with the use of PIMA framework is data quality and availability.

Day 3

The last day of the conference commenced with a virtual session where presentations were made by various scientists who were not able to attend in-person. This was followed by a panel discussion, keynote presentation, ACAFP Business session and the closing ceremony.

The interactive panel discussion moderated by Dr. Gloria Essilfie on the topic ‘Ensuring Food Safety Through Increased Collaboration Among Food Safety Stakeholders-Sharing good practices and lessons.’ The panellists were Mrs. Joycelyn Agyarkwa-Amusah, Head of Food Safety from the (Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana), Dr. Joycelyn Quansah, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana, Dr. Rose Omari, a Principal Research Scientist at CSIR-STEPRI in Ghana, Ms. Lillian Owembabazi (CABI, Uganda) and Mr. Anthony Morrison, the CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Agribusiness.

Dr. Joycelyn Quansah commenced the discussion by highlighting the academic contribution to food safety. She emphasised the importance of making food safety a collective responsibility, highlighting how academics contribute by training students to share knowledge with their peers. She advocated for collaboration between Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and students through internships, citing an example of a graduate aiding a confectionery company in product testing. She also highlighted that research findings are channelled into policies to address hazards. Dr. Gloria Essilfie highlighted the diminishing connections between lecturers and industry, prompting a discussion on potential collaborations. Concerns were raised about SMEs fearing students stealing their recipes and formulations, emphasizing the need for dialogue and mutual understanding to overcome these challenges.

On the role of Research Institutes in food safety, Dr. Rose Omari, representing a multidisciplinary research institute (CSIR-STEPRI), emphasized the institute's role in problem-solving. She shared experiences in gaining cabinet approval for the national policy for aflatoxin control, emphasizing the importance of forming consortia, writing proposals, and collaborating to implement solutions. She also underscored the importance of integrating actions in the aflatoxin policy into national and research initiatives stressing that policy implementation is everybody's responsibility.

On the importance of One Health Approach in food safety, Ms. Lillian Owembabazi emphasized the importance of a collaborative "One Health" approach, citing a project in Uganda addressing anthrax outbreaks. She shared that the project involved bringing together crop and livestock extension staff, employing translation into local languages, and focusing on bio-prevention materials to reduce cross-contamination.

On the role of regulations and policy measures, Mrs. Joycelyn Agyarkwa-Amusah discussed the role of the FDA in collaborating with various stakeholders, including artisanal producers, international partners, and regulatory bodies. She highlighted the national food safety policy launched in 2022, involving intersectoral committees and technical working groups.

Mr. Anthony Morrison stressed the need for competence-based approaches in food safety, especially in the livestock sector. He highlighted concerns in de-feathering practices and called for open engagement and data sharing between the private sector and regulatory bodies.

As part of the general discussion, participants stressed the importance of involving students as marketing agents and key actors in policy implementation. Suggestions included utilizing academia for data generation, private enterprises collaborating to identify challenges, and creating opportunities for research funding. Participants addressed challenges such as inadequate data, gender disparities, and the need for a collaborative approach along the food value chain. Recommendations included academia reaching out to industry for collaboration, public engagement through websites and social media, and intensifying surveillance during festive seasons. The importance of integrating food safety into the curriculum, building trust among stakeholders, and utilizing a National Food Safety dashboard for research and benefitting the private sector were highlighted.

In conclusion, the panel discussion underscored the critical role of collaboration among stakeholders, emphasizing the need for education, awareness, and a united effort to address challenges and ensure food safety across various sectors.



Figure 1 Panelists - From Left: Joycelyn Agyarkwa-Amusah, Joycelyn Quansah, Rose Omari, Lilian Owembabazi, Anthony Morrison, Gloria Essilfie, the Moderator of the session.

The third keynote presentation of the conference was delivered on Day 3 by Prof. Olusegun Adewale Obadina, a Food Science professor at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. The title of his presentation was ‘Global burden of Antimicrobial Resistance: monitoring and evaluation of ready-to-eat Vegetables’. He indicated that the incidence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is rapidly spreading worldwide, and millions of people die annually due to AMR. He added that this alarming situation should cause both scientific and civil bodies to prioritize taking steps to curb AMR. Prof Obadina illustrated the importance of AMR to food safety by adding that many of the bacteria (such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Escherichia coli*) are

frequently antimicrobial-resistant and can contaminate food including fruits and vegetables from farm to fork. Hence, if these bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, it will become impossible to destroy them and more people than the estimated 400,000 people will die each year from foodborne diseases.

Prof. Obadina shared some findings from the 'Research Supporting African MSMEs to Provide Safe and Nutritious Food (RSM2SNF)' project and noted that manure or other organic material that contain human or animal wastes used as soil amendments have the potential to distribute both residues of antimicrobial agents and antimicrobial-resistant bacteria to the environment. Hence vegetables harvested from manured ground can carry an additional burden of Antimicrobial Resistance genes (ARGs) of enteric bacterial origin. In conclusion, Prof Obadina said that there is clear scientific evidence that foods of plant origin may serve as a vehicle of foodborne exposure to antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and recommended the adherence to best management practices to with respect to the use of material of human or animal origin in primary food production environments. Furthermore, he recommended the use of improved methods for infection prevention and control such as husbandry, biosecurity, diagnostics, vaccines and other alternatives to reduce antimicrobial use in aquaculture, and thereby reduce the antimicrobial contamination of the primary aquaculture production environment.

ACAFP BUSINESS SESSION

The ACAFP President, Prof Joseph Odumeru welcomed all participants again to the meeting and recounted some of the achievements of the Associations in the past years. The major achievements were (1) increase in the number of members, (2) Hosting a successful virtual food safety conference in 2021 attended by over 200 participants, (3) Organising four webinars in 2023, and (4) Successfully organising this 2nd ACAFP Food Safety Conference for Africa in-person. Prof Odumeru commended the ACAFP Board members and the LOC for their dedication and hard work in organising the conference.

Other ACAFP Board members who spoke were Dr. Moustapha Oke, the Secretary, Dr. Rose Omari (Board member in-charge of membership), Prof. Olusegun Adewale Obadina (Board member in-charge of training and webinars) and Dr. AyoJesutomi Abiodun-Solanke (Board Member in-charge of communications). Dr. Omari indicated that membership of ACAFP is by payment of membership dues of \$25 annually by professionals and \$10 by students. She noted that the major challenge ACAFP is facing is the means of payment of dues and while that is being resolved, any person in her ACAFP mailing list is considered a member of the Association. Thus, the current membership strength is over 500. Dr. Omari also encouraged the participants to join IAFP where membership due is \$55 annually for professionals and \$27.5 for students.

Dr. Abiodun-Solanke indicated that a WhatsApp platform has been created and interested participants would be added to the platform so that they can be receiving important updates and information. Prof Obadina indicated that there would be more webinars and other educational programmes in 2024 and urged participants to be on the lookout.

Presentation of ACAFP Lifetime Achievement Award: The ACAFP President presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Peter Kennedy, a founding member of ACAFP. He noted that Mr. Kennedy is an African American who had shown keen interest in the participation of Africans in IAFP annual meetings as well as ensuring IAFP's presence in Africa. A citation was read in his honour as an appreciation for his tremendous contributions to ACAFP.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Speaking on behalf of the LOC Chairman, Dr, Rose Omari (LOC Vice Chair) thanked all the participants for responding to the call for abstracts and the invitation to participate in the conference. She commended them for their enthusiasm and active participation in the three days conference. Dr. Omari expressed profound gratitude to the LOC for their dedication throughout the planning and the delivery of the conference. She particularly commended the Scientific committee for working tirelessly to review the over 180 abstracts that were received.

Presentation of awards to participants who made their presentations timeously:

Dr. Omari informed participants that time management was very critically to avoid delays and late completion of the daily activities. Therefore, a two hundred and fifty Ghana cedis (GHS 250) voucher was given to each of the two participants who completed their excellent presentations before or on the stipulated time. The voucher was to be used to purchase made-in-Ghana fabric and clothes that were being showcased by an exhibitor at the conference. The award winners were Dr. Victor Ohileobo Dania, Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Ms. Selasie Tsegah, Department of Food Science and Technology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. The Awards were donated by William Lannier, a conference participant and an exhibitor.



LOC Members and the two award winners

In his closing remarks, the ACAFP president, Prof Joseph Odumeru commended the LOC and the ACAFP Board members for their contributions to the successful conference. He was thankful to the Professional Conference Organiser, GeniusEvents for exhibiting excellent professionalism throughout the planning and delivery stages of the conference. Prof Odumeru expressed his appreciation to all participants who travelled from different parts of Ghana and Africa to attend the conference in-person. He also commended the online participants some of whom joined the conference daily. He told the participants to consider themselves as ACAFP members now and then they can regularise their membership when the due payment platform is created. Finally, Prof Odumeru thanked all the sponsors of the ACAFP conference.

Dr Tim Jackson from the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) gave a short presentation and thanked the participants in attendance (in person and online) and organizers. He reiterated the open-door policy of the IAFP and encouraged members and to contact for collaborations. He finally wished everyone a happy holiday.

Prof Wabacha from AU-IBAR expressed the joy of the Africa Union in being part of the successful three-day conference. He commended all the participants for their active participation in the conference and encouraged them to get involved in the numerous food safety initiatives the AU

and other organisations such as FAO and WHO are implementing in the Members States. He assured ACAFP of AU's continued support in providing a forum for exchanging scientific and other useful information on food safety.



The conference was officially closed by Prof. Charles Tortoe who in his closing remarks commended the organisers of the conference for putting together such a successful and well attended conference. He encouraged participants to ponder over the discussions that took place at the conference and find out what they can in their individual capacities to contribute to addressing food safety challenges in Africa. Prof Tortoe was full of praise for the sponsors namely, Africa Union, GB Foods, Cargill (USA and Ghana), Voltic Ghana and Joy Business. He was hopeful all the sponsors and many more will continue to support ACAFP in putting together scientific programmes are particularly useful for the research and academic communities.

Sylvia Baah-Tuahene gave a vote of thanks appreciating the LOC and volunteers for this programme. A special thank you to the sponsors AU, IAFP, GB Foods, Voltic, Cargill and Joy Business. She also thanked the IT team and moderators. She acknowledged the distinguished presenters, and attendees and wished everyone well.

All the presentations can be found here <https://acaftp.org/presentations/>

All photos can be found here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/199705590@N03/albums/>



Exhibition

On exhibition was the NeverIdle Storage Bin. It is engineered to be a bulk and sack (staple grain, pulse & oilseed) warehouse on wheels.

NeverIdle Self Storage features:

- Flex processing to bulk, loose, sack or bowl standards.
- Balanced for easier hitching and towing.
- Wheels designed to minimize towing width and height.

Self-Receipt system features:

- Pest, water, wildfire and theft resistant.
- Roof opens for bulk, sack and pest management.
- Engineered for efficient monitoring and fumigation.
- Bag and bowl dispensing for rural marketing
- Bulk discharge for free standing loader access

Standard Conditioning features:

- Fumigation: Tight fitting, silicone sealed zincalume panels.
- Aeration: Fan port and breathing vents standard.

Optional Conditioning features:

- Hermetic: Sack and/or plastic lining installed easily.
- Ambient Aeration: 220-240v, 50 hz Blower optional Mobile Grain Storage facility.

Media links

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/2nd-food-safety-conference-for-africa-takes-off-tomorrow-in-accra/>