Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS



CCLAC24 - Side event
From Science to Standards and their Practice: Latin American and Caribbean Perspectives

Languages:
Spanish and English

26 November 2026
09:30 to 11:00 (GMT-3)
Municipality of Montevideo
Montevideo, Uruguay

SIDE EVENT

Risk assessment and management of food allergens from primary production through to processing and consumption plays a crucial role in protecting consumers with food allergies. Food allergens cannot simply be removed from the global diet or international trade as many of the staple foods in diets around the world are on the list of global priority food allergens. Transparent risk assessment and food labelling practices are critical for promoting trust and confidence in the food system and protecting consumers with food allergies.

When moving from a hazard-based system to a risk-based system to assess and manage food allergen cross contact, shifts in thinking and available frameworks are required. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), has convened a series of the ad hoc Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Food Allergens since 2020 to work on the risk assessment of food allergens and provided the scientific advice to Codex Alimentarius.

Based on the FAO/WHO work, the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the updates the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CXS 1-1985)*, and its Annex on "Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling" in 2026.

The primary objective of this FAO/WHO side event are:

- **present and discuss key findings** from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultations on Risk Assessment of Food Allergens;
- **facilitate knowledge exchange** among participants from across the region;
- **stimulate participants to shift from hazard-based to risk-based approaches** for food allergen assessment and management;
- **promote effective** implementation of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL); and
- **ensure alignment** with the latest international standards.

Topics	Presenters
Moderator	**Giovanna Sartori,** Food Safety and Quality specialist, FAO
Opening	**Simone Moraes Raszl,** Unit Head, WHO
Food safety and food allergen issues in the area	**María Virginia Natero,** Programa de Nutrición, Uruguay
Joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens.	**Kang Zhou**, Food Safety and Quality specialist, FAO
Food allergen issues in Latin America and the Caribbean	**Gustavo Polenta,** Senior Researcher, Argentina
Questions and answers	