



Nutrition and Food Safety Newsletter

May-June 2025

Dear Subscribers

Welcome to our Nutrition and Food Safety Newsletter. In this issue, we present notable events and key campaigns in the field of nutrition and food safety that took place in May and June, and upcoming dates to watch for. For further details, please click on the related hyperlinks.

News

Trans fat elimination validation award at WHA78

On 19 May 2025, WHO recognized four countries—the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Norway, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Singapore—for their outstanding efforts in eliminating industrially produced trans fats from their food supplies. The validation certificates for 2025 were presented by the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA78).

These countries have successfully implemented WHO recommended best-practice policies alongside rigorous monitoring and enforcement systems. More information about the Validation Programme [here](#).



Extension of the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and child nutrition to 2030

WHA78 passed a [resolution on tackling malnutrition in mothers, infants and young children](#), reaffirming global commitments to maternal and child nutrition and health. Member States agreed to extend the Global Nutrition Targets from 2025 to 2030 and adopt [new process indicators](#) to monitor progress. In addition, more ambitious goals were set for targets that have nearly been achieved. Read more [here](#).



Country consultation on the 2025 edition of the global burden of foodborne diseases

On 16 June 2025, WHO launched the first formal Country Consultation on national-level estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases, sharing preliminary estimates with Member States for review. The WHO Foodborne Disease Estimates 2025 are aimed to be published later this year. For the first time, these estimates will provide data at the national level. More information [here](#).

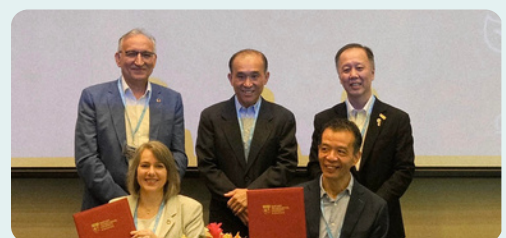
Resolution on the regulation of the digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes

Countries at WHA78 also adopted a [resolution on regulating the digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes](#) and agreed to extend the provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (the Code). It aims to protect infant and child health from aggressive digital marketing practices by the baby food industry.



Collaboration with Nanyang Technological University on New Approach Methodologies

NFS launched a new three-year collaboration with the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, aimed at modernizing food safety risk assessment. The collaboration will support countries in addressing novel food categories (cultured meat, functional foods, precision-fermented products and other) through integrating cutting-edge techniques such as artificial intelligence (AI) and digital modelling.



Publications

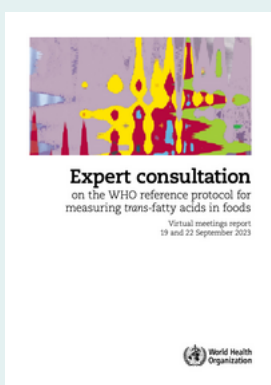
Ad hoc FAO/WHO expert meeting on water quality in agrifood systems and food safety implications – focus on chemical contaminants

This meeting report summarizes key conclusions of the expert meeting on 20-23 May 2025 in Rome, Italy, on prioritizing food safety issues related to chemical water quality in agrifood systems. The full report will be published later in 2025.



Expert consultation on the WHO reference protocol for measuring trans-fatty acids in foods: virtual meetings report

This meeting report of the WHO expert consultation, held on 19 and 22 September 2023, provides revisions of the WHO reference protocol for measuring trans fat in foods with up-to-date, comprehensive and validated options for conducting analysis.



Campaigns

Salt Awareness Week

On the occasion of the Salt Awareness Week (12-18 May 2025), WHO led an awareness-raising campaign about the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes (LSSS) as one tool in sodium reduction as a public health intervention, in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Global Health Advocacy Incubator. Social media materials are available here.



An Expert Hour webinar on 16 May 2025, “Lower-sodium salt substitutes 101. Ask the experts: evidence, use and implementation” focused on country experiences, while explaining the scope, benefits and caveats of this approach. Watch the recording here.



World Food Safety Day

World Food Safety Day was celebrated on 7 June 2025 under the theme Food safety: science in action. Visit the website for the highlights of the events which took place and contact world-food-safety-day@who.int to profile your activity.

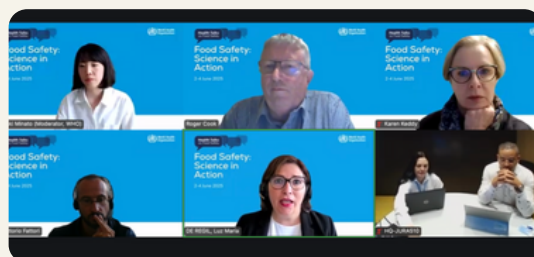
- On 3 June, WHO and FAO participated in the press briefing organized by the UN Information Service in Geneva, Switzerland (video at 0:52 and script [here](#));
- campaign materials are available in the digital media hub, including food safety mythbusters social media cards (in 6 UN languages);
- WHO authored an op-ed about science in action for safer food published in the Western Pacific Surveillance and Response journal.



Events

Health Talks on Food Safety

On 2-4 June 2025, WHO is hosted Health Talks on Food Safety to mark the occasion of World Food Safety Day. A series of three webinars highlighted how science drives progress in food safety, covering expert advice, foodborne disease burden estimation, surveillance, laboratory systems and global collaboration, and featured leading voices from WHO and partners. Watch the recordings [here](#).



100th JECFA meeting

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has been active since 1956 and this year celebrated its 100th meeting in Rome, Italy, on 10 - 19 June 2025. A paper to mark this occasion was published in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, Contributions of the joint FAO/WHO expert committee on food additives to international food safety: celebrating the 100th meeting of the committee.



Asia-Pacific Total Diet Study workshop

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea and WHO jointly hosted the first Asia-Pacific Total Diet Study (TDS) workshop on 18-19 June in Seoul. It brought together representatives from 24 countries across the region. Participants shared TDS methodologies, findings and insights of their own countries to promote regulatory alignment and strengthen food safety governance. Next steps include mapping capacities and needs across the region and mobilizing resources to support TDS implementation and harmonization.



New Approach Methodologies in future food safety risk assessment

A webinar held on 20 June presented key outcomes from an international workshop on NAMs organized by WHO and the Nanyang Technological University Singapore. It offered insights from experts as well as strategic recommendations for the integration of NAMs into contemporary food safety risk assessment frameworks. Watch the recording [here](#).



Nutrition and food safety events at WHA78

A number of side events at WHA78 (19–27 May 2025) focused on nutrition and food safety topics, including (clockwise from top-left): human rights in action on obesity and NCDs; implementation of large-scale food fortification (LSFF); future of school nutrition; action to achieve the Global Nutrition Targets by 2030; ultra-processed foods and the role of front-of-pack labelling in promoting healthier diets; and country progress as part of the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity. We are delighted to see such strong support from the countries and civil society for the work on nutrition and food safety.



Coming up

Webinar: From assessment to action: implementing WBTi to strengthen national breastfeeding policies

This webinar, organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and the Global Breastfeeding Collective on 3 July 2025 at 15:00 CEST, will explore how countries are using the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) to drive meaningful change. It will address the need to expand WBTi implementation globally and build capacity for translating assessment findings into effective action plans. Register [here](#).

From our partners

Rome Nutrition Week

The Rome Nutrition Week, hosted by FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP), took place on 26-30 May 2025, under the theme: "Coherent policy and action for better nutrition." It built on the momentum from the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the World Health Assembly and offered an opportunity for discussions on global nutrition policy and action.

To learn more about WHO participation in the Rome Nutrition Week, click [here](#).

Social media food safety talk show

On 7 July 2025 at 13:00 CEST, FAO and WHO will host a social media talk show on food safety to mark the conclusion of this year's World Food Safety Day campaign. The event will feature experts from both organizations who will discuss the importance of accessing the accuracy of food safety information on social media channels. The talk show will be streamed on the FAO LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook.



Open calls

Call for toxicological and epidemiological experts - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

The objective of this call is to renew the current expert roster by identifying qualified scientists willing to serve as WHO experts on JECFA and to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of working papers. Applications should be submitted by 1 October 2025. For [more information](#).

Call for data on nutrition integration into climate-health policies

Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) is [calling interested Member States and other stakeholders](#) to provide available information on the integration of good nutrition and healthy diets into climate-health policies and other related topics. Deadline for submission: 30 June 2025. Please submit data to: ican.atach@who.int

WHO Validation Programme for Trans Fat Elimination

Applications for the third cycle of the [validation programme](#) are now open. All interested Member States are encouraged to review the validation criteria and accompanying guidance and to submit their applications to the WHO Secretariat at tfa@who.int by 31 August 2025. [More information](#).

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