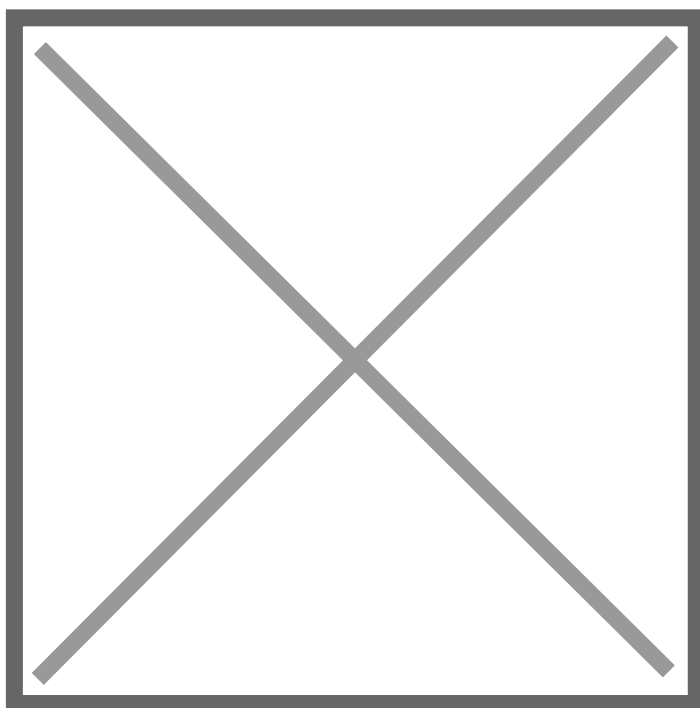


Saudi introduces digital tool to advance chemical risk assessment in food safety

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As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen food safety and enhance regulatory performance, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has developed the Digital Employee tool, an automated solution designed to support the rapid assessment of chemical hazards in food.

This advanced system utilises cloud-based platforms and data-driven technologies to replicate key functions typically carried out by human risk assessors. The tool enables the SFDA to collect, process, and analyse large volumes of data efficiently, significantly reducing the time required for risk assessments and supporting timely, evidence-based decision-making.

The Digital Employee integrates information from a wide range of sources, including internal databases, scientific literature, regulatory frameworks, toxicological reports, and real-time monitoring systems. This allows the Authority to identify emerging trends and address potential risks at an early stage.

In addition to monitoring, the tool applies predictive modelling to assess the likelihood and potential impact of chemical hazards, contributing to a more proactive and preventive food safety strategy. It also facilitates alignment with national and

international food safety standards, including those issued by Codex Alimentarius, the European Food Safety Authority, and the SFDA's regulatory framework.

The adoption of the Digital Employee reflects the SFDA's commitment to incorporating advanced technologies that support public health protection, improve operational efficiency, and ensure regulatory compliance. The tool represents a significant step forward in strengthening the Authority's readiness and responsiveness in a rapidly evolving global food safety landscape.