

2010-11

# Results- Framework Document (RFD) for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

RFD-FSSAI

Summary of the results FSSAI expects to achieve during the financial year and the action plan to meet them



## **Section-1**

### **Vision:**

A Food Safety System of India which ensures full participation of the government, private & public institutions and organizations, food business operators, consumers and other stakeholders in the process of building and maintaining the confidence that the food available to the consumers is safe, wholesome and adheres to the highest international standards.

### **Mission:**

The Authority will work with stakeholders to build and maintain at acceptable levels of reliability, an effective food regulatory and monitoring system using modern science & technology and provide science-based information to the stakeholders to make choices relating to food and to lead a healthy and productive lives.

### **Objectives:**

- Transition from PFA and other orders to FSS Act
- Strengthening food safety regulation in the States
- Strengthening of Food Testing Laboratories facilities
- Review of existing food standards and developing new standards
- Food Safety Surveillance
- Training and capacity building for regulatory staff/ stakeholders
- Establishing the structure of the Authority
- Communication campaign on food safety
- Research and Development

### **Functions laid down under the Act:**

- Framing of Regulations, Standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food
- Guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies / Laboratories
- Scientific advice and technical support to the Central Government and State Governments in matters of framing the policy and rules in areas related to food safety and nutrition
- Collect and collate data on food consumption, Incidence and Prevalence of biological risk, Contaminants in food, Residues of contaminants in food and introduction of rapid alert system
- Procedure and guidelines for Risk Analysis methodologies
- Creating Information Dissemination Network across the country about food safety
- Capacity Building for various stakeholders
- Contribute to development of International Technical Standards for food and harmonize national standards to the extent possible.
- Promote general awareness about Food Safety and Food Standards

**Section 2**  
**Inter-se Priorities among key objectives and Success Indicators**

Sr. No.	Objective	Weight	Actions	Success Indicators	Unit	Weight	Target/Criteria Value				
							Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
							100%	90%	80%	70%	60%
1.	Transition from PFA and other orders to FSS Act	16.00	a) Notification of FSS Rules and Regulations	Send draft Rules to Ministry for notification	Date	4.00	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
				Notification of Regulations	Date	4.00	Jan. 31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011
			b) Initiate transition to the new system of licensing	Finalize framework and guidelines	Date	5.00	Jan. 31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011
			c) Notification of the remaining sections of the Act to enable FSSAI to take up various functions	Notification of sections	Date	3.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
2.	Strengthening food safety regulation in the States	14.00	a) Developing framework of the scheme for strengthening food safety regulations in states	Finalize scheme after review of existing schemes and consultation with states	Date	4.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			b) Notifying the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) and compliance arrangements	Finalize draft/ Start Consultation on Drafts	Date	3.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
				Notify FSMS/Auditing Systems	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			c) Notify INDIA-HACCP/ finalize accreditation arrangements	Finalize draft / Start Consultation on Draft	Date	3.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
				Notify INDIA-HACCP	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
3.	Strengthening Food Testing Laboratories facilities	13.00	a) Identification of Public food Labs	Identification of public labs	Date	2.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			b) Notify food labs /finalise standard and initiate up-gradation of identified laboratories in the States over a period of two years.	Finalize MOU to be signed with States	Date	4.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			c) Notification of food testing laboratories under section 43 of the Act	Finalize draft notification	Date	3.00	Jan. 31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011	May 31 2011
			d) Notify procedure for referral laboratories and arrangements for audit/certification	Notify referral labs/ & Finalize Auditing/ Certification arrangements for notification	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			e) Notify food testing	Notify laboratories and	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011

			laboratories for testing food imports	jurisdiction							
4.	Review of existing food standards and developing new standards	12.00	a) Develop procedures for revision of standards	Finalize procedure for standards revision	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			b) Developing new regulations for functional foods, dietary supplements etc.	Draft Regulations	Date	1.00	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
				Start Consultation Process	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
				Send Regulations for notification to MOHFW	Date	1.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			c) Review of the current structure of food additives	Draft Regulations	Date	0.40	Nov. 30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011
				Start Consultation on draft	Date	0.40	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
				Finalise Regulations	Date	0.20	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			d) Building capacity for safety evaluation/regulation of GM food	Draft guidelines - Consultation - Final guidelines	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			e) Developing standards for potable water, revision of standards for bottled water	Draft standards	Date	0.40	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
				Consultation on draft	Date	0.40	Feb. 28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011
				Finalize recommendations	Date	0.20	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			f) Recommending standards for trans fatty acids to the Government	Final recommendations	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
g) Labelling and Claims regulations	Draft Regulations	Date	1.00	Nov. 30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011			
	Conclude consultation on draft & preparation of final draft	Date	1.00	Feb. 28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011			
h) Guidelines for safety of food served in schools	Draft-Consultation-Guidelines	Date	1.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011			
i) Participation in Codex Alimentarius Commission meetings	Identify committees and relevant issues - prepare country positions - on going process-	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011			
5.	Food Safety Surveillance	9.00	a) Creating a network of institutions/ Food Safety Centres to carry out food surveillance	Identify institutions - Surveillance framework	Date	4.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			b) Putting in place food safety groups at five major ports	Take up surveillance at five main ports of entry	Date	3.00.	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			c) Milk safety action plan in collaboration with the States/ Centre of Excellence in Milk	Draft guidelines & Action Plan	Date	1.00	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
MOU with identified Centres of Excellence	Date	1.00		Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011			
6.	Training and	8.00	a) Finalize training policy	Training Policy	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011

	capacity building for regulatory staff/ stakeholders		for FSSAI								
			b) Orientation programme for Food Safety Commissioners/Food Safety Officers	Develop training material & Complete training programme	Date	1.00	Sep. 30 2010	Oct. 30 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011
			c) Orientation Programme for Designated Officers & Adjudicating Officers	Develop training material & conduct training programme in association with States where DOs and Date AOs have been appointed.	Date	1.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			d) Collaboration with the IGNOU in finalizing distance training arrangements for regulatory staff and food handlers	Finalise project	Date	1.50	Nov. 30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011
			e) Work with the Indian Institute of Public Health to develop training material for regulatory staff and food handlers.	Conclude MoU with IIPH	Date	1.50	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
			f) Conduct exam for Food Analysts and review existing curriculum	Conduct Exam	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			Review and finalize curriculum for food analysts	Date	1.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011	
7.	Establishing the structure of the Authority	6.00	a) Creation of posts and start the process of recruitment	Post creation	Date	2.00	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
				Finalize recruitment rules	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			b) Establish the regional offices	Establish offices at identified locations	Date	2.00	Oct. 30, 2010	Nov.30 2010	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011
8.	Communication campaign on food safety	5.00	a) Draw up a communication strategy	Finalize Communication Strategy	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			b) Launch a communication campaign to disseminate food safety messages	Design campaign – Launch	Date	2.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			c) Evolve a scheme to associate NGOs and other citizen organisations in food safety	Finalize the scheme	Date	1.00	Dec. 31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011
			d) Develop industry interface for dissemination and	Finalise interface arrangements	Date	1.00	Dec.31 2010	Jan.31 2011	Feb.28 2011	Mar.312011	Apr.30 2011

			capacity building								
9.	Research and Development	4.00	a) Launch the first tranche of R&D projects to be awarded competitively.	Finalise programme – Identify projects	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011
			b) Identify Centres of Excellence to assist FSSAI in critical areas, carryout R&D and technical inputs in standard formulation	Identify centres – Finalize format for the agreement	Date	2.00	Mar. 31 2011	Apr.30 2011	May.31 2011	Jun. 30 2011	Jul.30 2011

*	Efficient functioning of RFD system	5.00	Timely submission of draft for approval	On time submission	Date	2.00	Aug. 2 2010	Aug.6 2010	Aug. 11 2010	Aug.16 2010	Aug.20 2010
			Time submission of results	On time submission	Date	1.00	May 2 2011	May 3 2011	May 4 2011	May 4 2011	May 4 2011
			Finalize a strategic plan	Finalize strategic plan for next 5 years	Date	2.00	Dec. 10 2010	Dec.15 2010	Dec. 20 2010	Dec.24 2010	Dec.31 2010
*	Improving internal efficiency/ Responsiveness/ Service Delivery of the organization	6.00	Develop RFDs for all subordinate Offices	Percentage of Offices covered	%	2.00	100	95	90	85	80
			Implementation of Sevottam	Create a Sevottam compliant system to implement, monitor and review citizen's charter	Date	1.00	Mar.1 2011	Mar.5 2011	Mar.11 2011	Mar.17 2011	Mar.23 2011
				Create a Sevottam compliant system to redress and monitor public grievances	Date	1.00	Mar.1 2011	Mar.5 2011	Mar.11 2011	Mar.17 2011	Mar.23 2011
				Independent Audit of Implementation of citizen's charter	%	1.00	100	95	90	85	80
				Independent Audit of implementation of public grievance redressal system	%	1.00	100	95	90	85	80
*	Ensuring compliance to the Financial Accountability Framework	2.00	Timely submission of ATNS on Audit Paras of C&AG	Percentage of ATNS submitted within due date (4 months) from date of presentation of Report to Parliament by CAG during the year.	%	0.50	100	90	80	70	60
			Timely submission of ATRs to the PAC Sectt. On PAC Reports	Percentage of ATRs submitted within due date (6 months) from date of presentation of Reports to Parliament by PAC during the year.	%	0.50	100	90	80	70	60
			Early disposal of pending	Percentage of outstanding	%	0.50	100	90	80	70	60

			ATNs on Audit Paras of C&AG Reports presented to Parliament before 31.03.2010	ATNs disposed off during the year.							
			Early disposal of pending ATRs on PAC Reports presented to Parliament before 31.03.2010	Percentage of outstanding ATRs disposed off during the year.	%	0.50	100	90	80	70	60

\* Mandatory Objective (s)

**Section 3**  
**Trend Values of the Success Indicators**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was established in 2008 and still is in the process of developing regulatory framework for food sector. From the section 2 above, it may be seen that most of the objectives and corresponding actions requires development of rules, regulations and guidelines. As such, indicating the trend values for the success indicators in terms of activities of FSSAI at this stage may not be practically possible. The FSSAI proposes to benchmark current levels of food safety and regulation at central, state and lower levels through a series of surveys, studies etc. This will enable us to determine the base level of food safety regulations and outline the separate targets in each area.

The communication of RFD framework was received from government on 25.06.2010. The finalisation of the RFD document was completed by 11.08.2010. Activities which spill over until next year have been indicated separately with the likely completion rate by March 2011.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Description and Definition of Success Indicators and Proposed Measurement Methodology**

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority was constituted in September 2008 and the first meeting of the Authority was held in December, 2008. 8 Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee were constituted in May 2009. Central Advisory Committee of 45 Members was set up in October 2009.
2. Staff belonging to various food related orders has been integrated and the current licensing procedures have been brought under the purview of FSSAI. The regional offices have also been transferred to the new Authority. The Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee have also started operations.
3. The Rules and Regulations for transition from PFA to FSSA have been finalised after extensive consultations and forwarded to the Ministry for notification. It is expected that these will be rolled out in the States from September 2010 onwards. Meetings have been held with States to take stock of the readiness of the implementation of Act and the supporting measures required.
4. It will be seen that in the first year Authority has been engaged in integrating the personnel from various ministries and setting up of various organs of the Authority. Systems and procedures have also been finalised for functioning of the Authority and these have received the approval of the Government. The additional scientific staff required for functioning of the Authority will be recruited as soon as the requisite number of posts are sanctioned by the Government. Proposals in this regard have already been finalised and are being considered by the Ministry of Finance.
5. At present Authority is accessing scientific skills from a large number of agencies outside the Authority and the stakeholders. One of the main difficulties in laying down specific performance parameters for the Authority is the severe lack of information relating to critical para-meters such as, food borne diseases, specific levels of contamination in various foods, awareness of food safety among the stakeholders and the absence of surveys and studies, bench marking impact of the current levels of food safety regulations. The Food Authority proposes to draw up a detailed set of surveys to profile and bench mark the current levels of food safety regulations and implementation of laws, contamination of various food items, food safety surveillance and impact of various regulatory measures. Till these data emerge in the next few years, it may not be possible to lay down any specific target in respect of success parameters.

The first 2-3 years of the Authority would be spent in establishing its regulatory presence by drawing up the various food safety regulations, revision of the current standards, initiating studies and surveys to access the current levels of effectiveness of various food laws and levels of contamination. These are expected to be initiated during the current year. As soon as reliable and adequately disaggregated data emerge related to food safety regulations, food contamination and regulatory impact, these will be incorporated in the performance management documents of the Authority.

**Glossary of Terms**

**Food Safety Plan-** refers to scheme, program or methods identifying action areas and responsibilities worked out for the accomplishment of objective of food safety in a particular locality viz. panchayat, taluka, municipality or district. This is expected to involve the village/town community, local bodies, panchayats and other stakeholders in the food safety programme.

**Food Safety Management System (FSMS) -** means the adoption of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Hygienic Practices (GHP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and such other practices as may be specified by regulation, for the food business. FSSAI will develop a reference Food Safety Management System which can prescribe levels of safety and provide guidance and which can at the same time, be evaluated. Such a standard should be widely available to the food business operators who can adopt them with whatever resources available and gradually achieve acceptable levels of safety. This will encourage self compliance and reduces the need for detailed inspections.

**INDIA-HACCP-** Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) - The Codex has defined HACCP guidelines which was the first published food safety management system. However, there are no freely available domestic HACCP standards. FSSAI proposes to develop its own FSSAI-India-HACCP standard which can be offered to units catering to the domestic market and a voluntary HACCP certification system against this standard. This can be used by food businesses to demonstrate compliance with safety regulations.

**Functional Foods-** are those foods that encompass potentially healthful products including any modified food or ingredient that may provide a health benefit beyond the traditional nutrients it contains. FSSAI is working on developing regulations for functional foods. Currently there are no regulations for functional foods.

**Food Additives-** mean any substance used as a typical ingredient of the food and intentionally added to food for a technological purpose in the manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport etc. FSSAI will review the existing standards for food additives under PFA Act to harmonise with codex standards and best practice.

**Capacity Building for safety assessment of GM foods-** Food Authority has to regulate all genetically modified foods in terms of FSS Act. As an interim arrangement till final regulatory framework is ready for GM foods, FSSAI proposes to create capabilities to undertake safety assessment of GM foods as and when the relevant sections are notified by government.

**Trans fatty acids-** Trans fatty acids (TFAs) are primarily associated with Vanaspati during the process of partial hydrogenation that affects is a significant component of Indian diet. TFAs links with diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) is well established. Keeping in view the risks involved, FSSAI proposes to come out with regulatory standards for TFAs.

**Centres of Excellence-** A centre of excellence is an existing institute where research and technological development is performed of a high standard, in terms of measurable scientific output (including training) and/or technological innovation. FSSAI proposes to have a framework agreement with Centres of Excellence in the country on various aspects related to food science to assist FSSAI in critical areas, carryout R&D and provide technical inputs in developing science based standards.

**Network of Institutions for Surveillance-** FSSAI proposes to have a framework for food safety surveillance, initially capturing the existing databases, coordination & networking among various institutions involved. This may include existing food science colleges, universities and other institutions. FSSAI is developing an appropriate structure of food safety surveillance so as to advise government on the appropriate responses required and provide inputs on communicating market conditions and safety levels.

**Food Safety Groups for Import-** FSSAI will be posting Authorized Officers at all the major ports of the country in a phased manner to ensure the safety of imported food coming into India and developing a risk analysis framework for food import clearance process.

**Codex Alimentarius Commission-** The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1963 by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice with the objective of protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade, and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) is now in FSSAI. The FSSAI is strengthening codex cell in terms of infrastructure, manpower, sufficient budgetary provision so as to ensure effective participation in codex issues.

**IGNOU-** Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is an Apex Body which co-ordinates and monitors distance education system throughout the country. It develops and produces courses for delivery through open learning and distance education mode and actively involved in research, training and extension education activities. FSSAI proposes to take help of IGNOU's expertise in launching distance training programmes to disseminate the concept of food safety upto grass root level.

**Indian Institute of Public Health- IIPH -** Hyderabad is the premier institute involved in building capacity in public health using the pool of highly qualified and diverse faculty of nationally and internationally trained public health professionals. FSSAI proposes to work with IIPH in its capacity building programme of food safety regulators and food handlers.

**Accreditation** – is the third party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. In India, Quality Council of India (QCI) is the main Accreditation Body for accrediting agencies for certification schemes for food safety and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for food laboratories.

**Communication Campaign-** The food safety message needs to be effectively conveyed to various stakeholders such as panchayats, school children, households and industry. This is essential to build the demand for safe food and encourage steps by all concerned to take the required steps. Food safety is a multi-stakeholder activity which requires effective and focussed communication.

**NGOs-** Consumer is the main stakeholder in food safety and the activities of FSSAI have to be evaluated with reference to the effectiveness in assuring safety of food available to the consumer, effective association of consumers in standard development, capacity building, surveillance and informed choice.

**Industry Interface-** the FSS Act specifies that the primary responsibility for safety is on the food business operators. Keeping in view this FSSAI proposes to develop Industry Interface framework for dissemination of concept of food safety and capacity building to achieve the food safety.

**R&D-** Research & Development: with the mandate of laying down science based standards for food, FSSAI proposes to support research projects and related innovative R&D proposals pertaining to food safety and quality control by extending financial assistance to various institutions/Universities and recognized R&D laboratories.

**Procedure for revision of standards:** Under the law FSSAI is expected to undertake risk assessment and public consultation before it forwards its recommendation to government. Draft proposals and the risk assessment reports have to be approved by the concerned Scientific Panel and Scientific Committee before they are approved by the Authority. Since in most cases trade is involved, notification under WTO is mandatory with a period of public consultation. The drafts once finalized, are sent to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for notification. The Ministry notifies the draft again for public comments and thereafter, sends it for notification in the gazette.

## **Section 5**

### **Specific Requirements from other Departments and Ministries**

#### **Notification of the remaining Articles of the Act**

1. The various sections of the Food Safety and Standards Act are required to be notified by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare before appropriate rules and regulations are drawn up. The rules and regulations with respect to transition from PFA and other food related orders to FSSA have been sent to the Ministry in May 2010. This includes regulations relating to licensing which integrate the existing licensing provisions under the various orders into a single format. These rules and regulations have been drafted after extensive consultations with the stakeholders and making available the draft on the portal. Enabling notifications are required before the relevant rules and regulations are taken up.

#### **Sanctioning of posts**

2. A total of 250 posts have been brought within the purview of Food Authority from staff administering the various food related orders in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Health & F.W., Department of Animal Husbandry and, Department of Food and Public Distribution. These are the staff which have been administering the various orders and come from technical background of various disciplines. Under the Food Safety and Standards Act, the Food Authority is required to perform a number of new functions, such as, food safety surveillance, risk assessment, regulation of genetically modified food, preparation of food safety plans, food testing in laboratories, harmonisation of food standards with the international norms etc. These additional functions require expertise in a range of disciplines which are not presently available with the Authority. On the basis of experience of other Food Authorities and a review of the scientific skills required, Food Authority has drawn up a minimum requirement of posts and submitted to the Ministry. These are now under consideration of the Ministry of Finance. Approval for the required number of 150 posts is essential to enable the Authority to take up the full range of its functions as expected in the Act.

#### **Adequate budget allocation**

3. The budget allocation for the year 2009-10 was in the range of Rs.10 crores. For the year 2010-11, Authority had projected Rs.60 crores. This is likely to go up substantially in the coming years. Provision of adequate budgetary support by the Ministry would be essential for the performance of the functions by the Authority.

#### **Working with the State Governments to ensure effective implementation of food safety laws**

4. Food related laws are implemented by the Central Government, State Governments and the local bodies. While standards are determined by the Food Authority, implementation essentially rests with the State Governments. Under the new licensing provisions, sub sectors with the high risk potential or those with interstate ramifications will continue to be licensed and regulated by the Food Authority. However, the major part of food regulation will be within the purview of municipalities, panchayats and the State Governments. State Governments are required to notify the staff required for the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act. They will have to fill up the existing vacancies and also enable the food testing laboratories to upgrade themselves to take up food testing more reliably. Activities such as, food surveillance, sampling, prosecution cases etc. are also required to be performed by the State Governments. The existing levels of implementation of food laws vary from State to State, depending on the priorities attached to them, the resources made available and the leadership provided. The contribution of the State Governments and the local bodies will be critical to the effective implementation of the food laws in the country.

