

FSSAI issues EOI to fill various posts in scientific panels & committee

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FSSAI has issued an expression of interest (EOI) for filling of various posts of its Scientific Panels (SPs) and the Scientific Committee (SC) and is looking for suitable individuals as members. The EOI, however, did not specify the numbers for each panel and the committee.

The scientific committee comprises senior food scientists and experts who would look into the proposals adopted by the scientific panels, which comprises food scientist and experts of the respective subject.

The country's apex food regulator is in the process of reconstituting its Scientific Committee and 21 Scientific Panels, including biological hazards, contaminants in food chain, fish and fishery products, food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food, functional foods, nutraceuticals, dietetic products and other similar products, nutrition and fortification, genetically-modified organisms and foods, labelling and claims/advertisements, packaging, method of sampling and analysis, pesticides residues, antibiotic residues, cereals, pulses and legumes and their products (including bakery), fruits and vegetables and their products (including dried fruits and nuts), spices and culinary herbs, meat and meat products including poultry, milk and milk products, oils and fats, sweets, confectionery, sweeteners, sugars and honey, water (including flavoured water) and beverages (non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages).

“The SC and SPs comprise the professionals/scientists/subject experts, who have acquired knowledge, experience and expertise in the specific domain. Such members may be on the faculty/staff/rolls of universities, academic and research institutions, retired individuals recognised for their outstanding knowledge/expertise in the subject area. However, it may not be feasible to nominate such candidates who are in employment of any industry, as it may be perceived as conflict of interest,” said the notice issued by FSSAI.

The EOI said that the process of development of standards at FSSAI is driven by the principle of food safety and involves risk assessment. It involves deliberations by the Scientific Panels (SPs) constituted for product categories and laying down the standard(s); which are

validated by the Scientific Committee (SC) and finally approved by the Food Authority before the process of issue of draft notification(s) of the Standards/Regulations is initiated for inviting public comments, followed by a final notification.

FSSAI emphasised that the authority follows a transparent, objective and rigorous selection procedure for shortlisting the most suitable and outstanding individuals who can contribute significantly to the SC and SPs of the regulator and provide independent scientific opinion in arriving to its decisions.

The tenure for a member of the SCs and SPs is fixed for a maximum period of three years. Existing members of the SC and SPs are also eligible to apply while the last date of submission of applications is July 15, 2019.