

Street Food Mela held in Dimapur



Samuel Zehol talks about the fish available in the Dimapur market during the mela on February 13 in Dimapur. (NP)

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A food safety street food mela, organized by the Urban Development department (UDD) in collaboration with Food and Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Nagaland branch, and the Health and Family Welfare department, was held on Wednesday, at Supermarket, Dimapur, under the theme “Eat Safe, Eat Healthy and Eat Fortified”. The Shehri Samridhi Utsav (Street Food festival and job mela), under the name ‘Urban Prosperity Festival’, was launched in Nagaland on February 1, along with the rest of the country under the aegis of the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) Urban Development department Nagaland in collaboration with Food Safety, Nagaland under Health & Family Welfare and Kohima Municipal Council (KMC). Under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and City Affairs, the festival will target city livelihoods and extend the reach of National City Livelihoods Mission (Day-NULM) More than 22 stalls were set up by several Self Help Groups (SHGs) displaying varieties of local food and cultural items. During the mela, spot quick test of food items were conducted by Food Safety on Wheels, and generated instant reports. A State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) set up also demonstrated and outlined how to detect adulterated food items using certain chemicals. Representing teams from the Chief Medical Office (CMO) conducted quick tests on various types of fishes from local rivers and Assam. FSO, Samuel Zehol, who was operating the spot quick test, explained to Nagaland Post how fish enter the Dimapur market. The fish from Assam tend to be smaller and contain a lot of live ones and these are put into the market through auctions at five different places in Zakiesatou colony. These fish are distributed, mostly by house to house fish-sellers on bicycles, to the whole of Dimapur. The primary

auction area for fishes imported from Andhra Pradesh however is located in Sematilla, Dimapur where fish is distributed, he added. Also speaking to this reporter, Urban Development officer and secretary, Akok said that the department had set up two stalls. One supplied information about activities and facilities available in the department and the other was a State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) demonstrating the process to test food products for adulteration. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Dimapur Albert Ezung and CMO Dimapur Dr. K Vikato Kinimi also attended the Mela and inspected the stalls.

Registration for food dealers

The Health & Family Welfare Department also issued registration forms for vendors, manufacturers, and packagers of food items to obtain licenses under the Food Safety Act 2006. No person will be allowed to sell any article of food unless they register themselves with the department. All food businesses in and around Dimapur have been directed register themselves and obtain the license because it is illegal to deal in food items without being registered under the Act.