

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 2017

1. New Initiatives:

FSSAI organised “National Summit: Transforming Food Safety & Nutrition Landscape in India” on 16th May, 2017 at New Delhi. Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI AYOJ was the Chief Guest and released the FSSAI Report on its activities and achievements in the year 2016-2017. Three flagship initiatives were launched in this summit:

- **Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme for food businesses:**
To raise standards of food safety and hygiene in food businesses, FoSTaC aims to train food safety supervisors, who will then train food handlers along the food chain on food safety issues. It is a unique participatory programme, which is also meant to enhance public awareness. It has basic, advanced and specialized courses, which will be delivered through training partners such as academia, industry, FBOs and government departments

- **Food Smart Consumer Portal for consumers:**
This is an interactive portal dedicated to educating consumers to make smart, informed choices, whether they are buying raw food, processed food or eating out. This portal also provides consumers a forum to express their views, ask questions and register their complaints. Consumer Guidance Notes on issues they confront on a daily basis are also available on the portal.

- **Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) portal for citizens:**
The SNF initiative of FSSAI takes a citizen centric approach to transformative social and behavioural change for all 130 crore Indians. SNF reaches out to people everywhere: in their homes, workplaces, schools and when they eat out. The SNF portal that was launched serves as an online resource centre containing information pertaining to this initiative with access to resource materials developed by FSSAI, interactive guides on understanding food safety and nutrition and a gateway for everyone to participate in these initiatives through partnerships.

The early adopters of SNF Initiatives and Fortification were felicitated during the summit.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Notification on Revision of Standards of chocolate

- b) Draft notification on Omission of labeling requirements for beverages non-alcoholic carbonated

- c) Under SNF@ School initiative, Mascot activations were conducted in NCR to spread awareness about safe & nutritious food in schools (14 schools covered in Gurgaon).
- d) The 23rd Meeting of the Food Authority was held on 25th May, 2017 at FSSAI HQ, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI wherein the Food Authority approved the following:
- Final regulations with respect to alcoholic beverages; approval of non-specified food and food ingredients; and 12 food products standards.
 - Draft regulations with respect to packaging; labeling; advertisements and claims; Third Party Auditing; recovery and distribution of surplus food; finance and 34 food products standards.
 - Draft policy for Policy for Recognition/ Accreditation of Food Testing Laboratories/ Mutual Recognition of the Competent Authority in South East Asian Countries/ India's Neighbouring Countries.
 - Minimum sanitary and hygienic requirements for establishing a small slaughter house.
 - Proposal on signing the Memorandum of Agreement between FSSAI and Tata Trust of promoting food fortification.
 - Setting up of International Food Safety Training Centre (IFSTC) at Mumbai in partnership with Export Promotion Council and GFSP.
 - Recasting of Recruitment Rules.
- e) 19th meeting of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on 16th May, 2017.

3. Strengthening Infrastructure and support systems:

- a) Notification of NABL Accredited Food Testing Laboratories: 6 more NABL Accredited private food testing labs have been notified by FSSAI in the Gazette vide notification No. 1595(E) thus raising the total number of notified labs to 131.
- b) Scheme for Strengthening of Food Testing Systems in the country(SoFTeL):
- A Training of trainers (ToT) program on "Analysis of Pesticide residues" was conducted by FSSAI in collaboration with National Research Centre for Grape (NRCCG) from 01-05 May 2017 at National Referral Laboratory, NRCCG, Pune. Total 16 trainers from government and FSSAI notified laboratories participated in the training program.
 - A five days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices(GFLP) was organized from 15th to 19th May 2017 in collaboration with Appellate Laboratory, Director General of Civil Supplies and Transport, Timarpur in Delhi for food

analysts and other specific/technical personnel of State Food Testing Laboratories and FSSAI notified laboratories. A total of 31 participants got trained in this training program.

4. International initiatives:

a) 38th Session of Codex Committee on Method of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), 8th to 12th May 2017, Budapest, Hungary

The 38th Session of Codex Committee on Method of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) was held at Budapest, Hungary from 8th – 12th May 2017. In this meeting, following decisions were taken w.r.t to agenda on “Methods of Analysis and Sampling plan for Cumin, Thyme and BWG pepper”:

- CCMAS agreed to send the method of analysis, as endorsed, to CAC40 for adoption.
- CCMAS did not endorse the sampling plans and stated that CCMAS would provide a template for developing sampling plans.

b) A High-level Dialogue on Building Trust and Capacity for Safe Food in Asia was jointly organized by the GFSP and FSSAI in New Delhi on 17th May, 2017. The dialogue focused to review emerging challenges and opportunities for improving food safety management in the South Asia region and on improving food safety in Asia through collaborations. In this regard, the Delhi Declaration of Intent is being released which will focus on improving food safety in Asia through collaborations.