

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2018

1. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Notifications issued regarding:
 - Omission of pH requirement from iron fortified salt
 - Retention of the existing provision of infant milk substitute and bakery products.
 - Standards for Alcoholic beverages
 - Removal of banned pesticides from the FSSR, 2011
 - Microbiological Standards for Fruits and Vegetables and their Products

- b) MoU has been signed between FSSAI and ReCHaN (Resource Centre for Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals) on 25.03.2018 to support implementation of best practices in the health supplement and nutraceutical sector through capacity building and developing industry guides.

- c) FSSAI in association with Hotel & Restaurant Association of Northern India (HRANI) organised a Conclave on Synergizing Food Safety, Standards and Regulation in Hospitality Industry on 27.03.2018 at The Imperial, New Delhi. Hospitality Industry was sensitized about key amendments in FSS Regulations for ease of doing business. Also promoting Food sharing, prevention of food loss & food waste. Hygiene ratings and Responsible Place to Eat an initiative to ensure safe food handling and safe & nutritious food for consumers eating out in restaurants, was also introduced.

- d) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 43 training programmes were conducted during March, 2018, in collaboration with training partners.

- e) Health and Family Welfare Minister, Odisha, Sh. Pratap Jena flagged off “Food Safety on Wheels” on the premises of Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) in Bhubaneswar on 14.03.2018.

- f) Two interactive Radio Counseling Sessions were conducted in collaboration with IGNOU through Gyan Vani on the subject “Principle & Easy measures for Nutritious, Safe and hygienic food for good Health (11th March,2018) and “Food Safety at Home”(25th March,2018) with a view to spread awareness about food safety among masses.

- g) FSSAI conducted a consumer awareness campaign through LED screens on ticket booking counters of Indian Railways.

- h) IEC Activities through participation in exhibitions/events:

FSSAI participated in following exhibitions/events for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders:

- "Legal Services Camp" organized by Delhi State Legal Services Authority, on 9th March, 2018 at St. Michael Sr. Secondary School, Delhi.
- "33rd AAHAR- The International Food & Hospitality Fair" organized by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) during 13th -17th March, 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- "National level Krishi Unnati Mela" organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI during 16th -18th March, 2018 at Mela Ground, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.
- "105th Indian Science Congress" during 16th -20th March at Manipur University, Imphal.

2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

a) Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs:

- **Strengthening of State Food Laboratories:**

A grant of Rs. 2 crore each has been released to the States of Nagaland, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh as a part payment for procurement of high end equipment under Rate Contract for their respective State Food Testing Laboratories. A grant of Rs. 35 lakh has also been released to the State of Chhattisgarh for carrying out renovation work in the State Food & Drugs Testing Lab, Kalibadi, Raipur, as mobilization advance.

- **Mobile Food labs/ Food Safety on Wheels (FSW):**

1st Food Safety on Wheels (FSW), the mobile laboratory, has been sanctioned for the States of Rajasthan and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. 2nd FSW has also been sanctioned to the State of Gujarat, Punjab and Chhattisgarh. Besides, a grant of Rs. 5 lakh each has been released for POL and consumables to the States of Gujarat, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

- **Strengthening of Referral Food Laboratories:**

A grant of Rs. 1.5 crore has been leased to National Research Centre for Grapes (NRCG), Pune. A grant of Rs. 1.59 crore has also been released to National Institute of Plant and Health Management (NIPHM).

- **Capacity Building:**

A five days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was organized from 12th to 16th March, 2018 at Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysore for food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel of State Food Testing Laboratories and FSSAI notified laboratories. Total 29 laboratory personnel participated in the training program.

b) MoU with AOAC International:

FSSAI and AOAC International have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5.2.2018 for a period of 5 years. This MoU covers the cooperation between the Parties to identify, recognize and mutually collaborate in areas of common concern to the Parties that are vital for a robust analytical eco-system in the country. The general areas of co-operation would be – (a) Food Testing analysis, (b) Method Sharing, (c) Method Development, and (d) Method Validation.

3. International initiative:

The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) held its Twelfth Session in Utrecht, Netherlands during 12th -16th March 2018. Agenda items concerning India were discussed and deliberated as under:

• **MLs for Lead and Cadmium in Quinoa -**

India informed the Committee that since quinoa is a pseudo-cereal and the growing conditions are different, it might be appropriate to consider quinoa separately and an ML for lead and cadmium in this commodity could be based on data specific to quinoa.

The same was noted by the Committee and Committee agreed to discuss this matter at CCCF13 based on the paper from the Codex and JECFA Secretariats.

• **Proposed draft and Draft Maximum Levels for Lead in Fruits and Vegetables and Other Selected Commodities.-**

a) **Revision of ML of lead in Mango Chutney-** EWG proposed to lower the ML of lead in mango chutney from 1mg/kg to 0.3mg/kg. However, based on India's interventions, CCCF agreed to lower the ML for lead in mango chutney from 1 mg/kg to 0.4 mg/kg.

b) **Revision of ML of lead in Salt:** EWG proposed to lower the ML of lead in salt from 2mg/kg to 1mg/kg. However, CCCF agreed to lower the ML for lead in salt (excluding salt from marshes) from 2 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg which is in favour of India, since, most of the salt produced in India is from marshes.

• **Maximum Level for Methylmercury in Fish Including Associated Sampling Plans**

Committee agreed to forward an ML of 1.2mg/kg for methylmercury in Fish to CAC 41 for adoption.

Committee agreed to discontinue the work of fixation of any ML for Swordfish.