

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

1. New Initiatives:

a) Food Safety on Wheels (Mobile Food labs):

- The Scheme for Strengthening of Food Testing Systems in the country (SoFTeL) inter alia envisaged establishment of a network of Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL), referred to as “Food Safety on Wheels (FSW)”. FSW is a multipurpose mobile vehicle for on the spot qualitative testing of food products. It is equipped with a mobile laboratory to collect and analyze food samples and perform simple qualitative tests which can ascertain the presence or absence of specific adulterants in food sample. Consumers in the remote and interior areas can have easy access to the facilities for checking the common adulterants in the food items. This also helps in creating awareness and act as a platform for getting food safety training.
- First batch of Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) were flagged off during the 20th CAC meeting held on 22nd August 2017 by Chairperson, FSSAI. A total of 9 Food Safety on Wheels have been sanctioned in first phase, for 8 States, one each for Goa, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and Manipur and two for J&K (one for Jammu and one for Kashmir).

b) FSSAI in collaboration with YES Global Institute organized a National Conclave on *“Indian Food Culture featuring the theme - Let’s bring the goodness back”* on 21st August, 2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This initiative is an effort to create a systematic framework for preservation and promotion of India’s culinary heritage and food culture. More specifically it will focus on food safety, hygiene and wholesome food.

A systematic framework is being co-created in association with a cross section of stakeholders for a robust ecosystem of promoting local foods in India with immediate focus on five important pillars including National Recipe Archive; Food Hubs; Food Streets; Food Festivals; Food Trails.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- ### a) Notification on FSS (Food product Standard and Food Additives) Seventh Amendment Regulation, 2017 with respect to Standards of Table Olives, Seedless Tamarind, Vanilla, Coconut Milk, Coconut Cream, Dried Apricot, Cocoa beans, Arecanut/Betelnuts/Supari, Seasoning for Noodles and Pasta and Inclusion of parameters in the existing standards of Cinnamon and Cassia to differentiate them.

- b) 20th meeting of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on 22nd August, 2017.
- c) Under SNF@ School initiative, a Training of trainers (ToT) was conducted for first batch of 51 teachers, MDM incharge, from NDMC Schools on 18th August, 2017 at Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi to create Master Trainers to disseminate training across schools, PAN India.
- d) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, total 28 ToT and training programmes have been conducted in collaboration with training partners, PAN India.
- e) FSSAI has engaged a Publishing Partner for FSSAI for mass distribution and wider outreach of awareness material created by FSSAI for all stakeholders.
- f) Revised version of DART (Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test) booklet comprising of common quick tests for detection of food adulterants at household by citizens has been released by FSSAI on 22.08.2017.

3. Strengthening of Infrastructure and support systems:

- a) Strengthening of State Food Testing labs: A grant of Rs. 50.0 lakhs each to Jammu Laboratory and Srinagar Laboratory in the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been released towards the Setting up of Microbiological Laboratory.
- b) A five days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was organized from 28th August to 1st September, 2017 at M/s ITC Life Sciences & Technology Centre, Bangalore for food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel of State Food Testing Laboratories and FSSAI notified laboratories.

4. International initiative:

The First Shadow Committee meeting on Codex Committee on Food labelling (44th session) to be held in Paraguay during 16-20 October 2017 was convened on 24th August 2017 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Ashish Bahuguna in FDA Bahwan, FSSAI. Members from Ministries, Government organizations, research institutes and Industry attended the meeting. India's agenda on proposed Draft Guidance on the Labelling of Non-retail containers of foods was discussed in detail along with other agenda items. It was decided that the Indian delegation who will be attending the said meeting will ensure that India's proposal moves to next step (Step 3).