

## **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2019**

### **1. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:**

#### **a) Draft notifications issued:**

- Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2019 related to insertion of Appendix 'C' w.r.t. Processing Aids
- Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2019 related to standards for fortification of species identified milk, multigrain atta, processed food products and exclusion for fortified salt from having + F logo
- Food Safety and Standards (Recovery and Distribution of Surplus Foods) Regulations, 2019
- Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample analysis) Amendment Regulations, 2019

#### **b) Seminar and Hands-on Training on Non-Alcoholic Beverages:**

FSSAI in association with the Indian Beverage Association (IBA) and AOAC India Section conducted a Seminar on Beverage Sampling and Testing Methodology on February 25, 2019 at the Park Hotel, Sansad Marg, New Delhi followed by hands-on-training on February 26, 2019 on 'Advanced Analytical Techniques for Non-Alcoholic Beverages' at Agilent Technologies, Centre of Excellence, Manesar. 120 participants from FSSAI, Beverage industry, laboratory personnel and AOAC India Section attended the seminar whereas 57 State Food Analysts and laboratory personnel of private food laboratories attended the aforesaid Hands-on training.

#### **c) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 344 training programmes were conducted during January, 2019, in collaboration with various training partners. More than 1, 00,000 Food Safety Supervisors have been trained through FoSTaC till date.**

#### **d) IEC Activities:**

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

- "National Workshop on Promoting Healthy Diets through Local Food Systems" organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with National Centre of Excellence & Advanced Research on Diets, Lady Irwin College, and UNICEF India at Hotel Le-Meridien, New Delhi during 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019
- "NIFTEM Food Festival" at NIFTEM Campus, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana during 21-22 February, 2019

- “द्वितीय द्वादश ज्योतिर्लिंग समारोह -2019” at Somnath, Gujarat during 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 to promote and sensitize administrators of all the 12 Jyotirlingas of the country about BHOG (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God) and Hygiene Rating initiative

## 2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

### a) Notification of Referral Food Laboratories:

FSSAI has notified CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow as Referral Food Laboratory for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxin and microbiological analysis of food commodities vide S.O.696 (E) dated 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

### b) Food Safety on Wheels (FSW):

Two FSWs have been sanctioned to the state of Maharashtra and one FSW to the State of Tripura. This has raised the total number of sanctioned FSWs from 42 to 45.

### c) Capacity Building:

A training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was conducted at Oil Laboratory, Department of Technology University of Kolkata, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 for the food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in State and FSSAI notified Food Testing Laboratories. 40 participants attended the training program.

### d) MoU with USP:

A MoU has been signed between FSSAI and the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) on 25.02.2019 for adopting methods and/or standards related to Food Ingredients & Additives, Health Supplements, and Nutraceuticals & related products. This will benefit FSSAI in moving forward towards *One Parameter One Method* which will in turn facilitate robust and reliable food testing.

## 3. International initiatives:

a) 4th National Codex Committee meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at FSSAI, FDA Bhawan. Following major decisions were taken during the meeting:

- To revise the “Guidelines for preparation of national response or national view point on codex matters and participation in codex meetings and guidelines for Codex contact point, National codex committee and shadow committee” as proposed by Codex Contact Point of India at FSSAI.
- To reconstitute shadow committees for various codex committees and constitution of a group for codex task force on AMR

b) At the request of Govt. of Afganistan, a training program for food safety officials from Afganistan was conducted from 28.01.2019 to 08.02.2019. The visit was coordinated by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and funded by the European Union. The Afghan delegation had field visits to ports of import, fumigation houses, quarantine stations and laboratories to understand various aspects of food safety.