

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF September, 2019

1. New efforts in focus areas:

- a) The Food Authority started a consumer awareness campaign, **“Eat Right India for Sustainable Living”** as a call to action for plastic waste management and reduction of plastic footprint in the F&B industry. These events comes after, the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched ‘Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2019’, which has a special focus on ‘plastic waste awareness and management’. Under this, FSSAI has organized the following events:
- One event was held at MGF Mall, Gurgaon on 12th September, wherein thousands of people joined the hands of Indian Cricket Captain, Shri Virat Kohli plastic waste awareness and management. Shri Kohli himself segregated F&B plastic packaging waste and motivated people to follow his foot-steps. Earlier he had reached out to millions of fans through his social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) regarding this campaign. FSSAI has further asked the state/UT Food Safety departments to conduct similar awareness and collection drives at public places and malls at their State capitals and major cities in accordance with the timelines of SHS 2019.
 - The second event was held as a part of ‘Swachhata Hi Seva 2019’ at Prayas Children’s Home in Jahangirpuri, New Delhi on 24th September 2019 and was graced by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan. Under this, FSSAI pushed for Plastic Waste Free Food Sector. Twenty-two of the top food companies including multinational companies signed a voluntary pledge to effectively manage plastic waste in their operations and reduce their plastic footprint in the coming years.
 - Another event was held on 24th September, 2019 at Infiniti Mall, Mumbai wherein famous Bollywood play back singer Shaan encouraged the people to avoid the use of single use plastic from their daily for healthy and sustainable living.
- b) The World Bank in association with FSSAI organized a ‘Lighthouse India’ on 26th September, 2019 at Vivanta, Goa to share the knowledge from FSSAI led ‘Eat Right India’ movement. The representatives from 24 Asian countries which were part of Twenty-first Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA21) and various partners/Corporates participated in the event. FSSAI highlighted three new initiatives - Clean & Safe Sweet Shop, Eat Right Catering, and Food Safety Mitra at this event. FSSAI launched the Food Safety Mitra portal that will certify qualified persons as ‘Food Safety Mitra’ (Friends of Food Safety). Further, the The Eat Right India Book and Docket of flyers on each initiative of

FSSAI was also launched. The Eat Right Smart Jacket was also introduced for giving an identity to FSSAI trained staff & to ensure transparent inspections.

- c) Inauguration of International Training Centre for Food Safety Analysis and Applied Nutrition (ITC-FSAN): FSSAI in collaboration with Export Inspection Council (EIC) and GFSP has established an International Training Centre for Food Safety Analysis and Applied Nutrition (ITC-FSAN) at Export Inspection Agency's (EIA) Pilot Test House, Mumbai. This will become the hub for providing training programs to build capacity for the food testing laboratories in our country as well as in the neighboring countries. The centre has been inaugurated on 22.09.2019.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

- a) Under the Eat Right School initiative a SNF Fellows Orientation Program was held on 4th September, 2019 at NIFTEM, Kundli Campus, Haryana in which B Tech Food Technology were oriented towards Eat Right School program, their role as an SNF Fellow and activities which can be conducted by them at school.
- b) FSSAI participated in SIAL India 2019 organized by Indian Food Importers (FIFI) at Pragati Maidan New Delhi during 19th to 21st September, 2019 for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders. CEO, FSSAI Shri Pawan Agarwal addressed the conclave on *Food Safety- Shared Responsibility, Eat Right India, and Responsible Places to Drink*.
- c) Under Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) initiative, total of **(772)** training programmes have been conducted in collaboration with training partners.
- d) Vide order no. 1-1605/FSSAI/Imports/2016 (pt-2) dated 11.09.2019, all Authorised Officers were directed that the labs may be instructed to test samples of imported consignments of Black Pepper for three additional pesticides, i.e. Acetamiprid, Dithiocarbamates and Prochloraz as per FSS(Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) third Amendment Regulations, 2018. This order shall be effective from 01.01.2020.

3. Strengthening of testing infrastructure, support systems and Capacity Building:

- a. Status of Grant to State Food Testing Laboratories:

A grant of Rs. 18.40 Crore (Rupees eighteen crores forty lakh only) has been released for State Food Testing Labs of Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Rajasthan (Udaipur), Gujarat (Rajkot), Puducherry and Tripura.

b. Capacity Building:

A training program on Basic Techniques in Microbiological Analysis Training was held at CMAT, National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad from 18-20 September, 2019. Two Training Programs on Good Food Laboratory Practice were conducted at National Collateral Management Services Pvt. Ltd, Navi Mumbai from 17-19 September, 2019 and CSIR- Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow from 25-27 September, 2019 for the food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in State Food Testing Laboratories and Notified Laboratories.

c. Food Safety on Wheels:

Two additional Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) has been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh and one each additional FSW has been sanctioned to Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand. This has raised the total number of sanctioned FSWs from 47 to 51.

d. Notification of Food Testing Laboratories:

1 new food testing laboratory has been notified by FSSAI vide SO 3428 (E) dated 18.09.2019. This has raised the total number of FSSAI notified laboratories from 182 to 183.

3. International initiatives:

- India successfully organized the Twenty-first Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA21) during 23-27 September 2019 at Goa, India. In the meeting, the following main decisions were taken:

The Committee identified several possible approaches that included - whole food chain approach; investing in training, education of smallholder farmers and improving accessibility and applicability to food safety standards and good practices; one-health approach; investing in data generation for identification, assessment and management of hazards; use of Codex standards and their adaptation to local contexts etc.

Discussions in the plenary also focused on several other areas that included identification of critical and emerging issues and their prioritization for initiating further work; need to raise awareness on food safety in order to gain high-level political support and investment in food safety; assessment of the use of Codex standards in the region and need for harmonization with Codex standards to

improve national food control systems; a mechanism (standard operating procedure) to strengthen regional cooperation (as prepared by India); identification of Codex work that is of high priority for the region; developing a 2-year activity plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in the Region;

The Committee also noted the proposal from India for development of a regional standard for traditional milk based sweets, and agreed that India could present a revised discussion paper in the next session of the Committee