

**IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS
DURING THE MONTH OF May, 2020**

ONGOING EFFORTS IN FOCUS AREAS:

Imports:

- FSSAI vide order dated 20/05/2020 issued directions on import of Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup to prevent the misuse of imported Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup in the production of Honey.

Quality Assurance:

- **Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country:**

Capacity Building: Due to nation-wide lockdown, total 61 online training programs have been organized by FSSAI during the month of May, 2020 (till 27th May) in which all the laboratory personnel of State/UTs and FSSAI Notified laboratories, Food Business Operators, Consumers, etc., were allowed to participate. Total 10,607 participants attended these online training programs.

Social and Behavioural Change Activities:

All the significant steps being taken by FSSAI facilitating stakeholders and other public awareness material amid COVID-19 is being disseminated through various social media platforms on regular basis.

Regulatory Compliance:

- 1) **Steps to facilitate the Food Businesses in COVID-19 era:**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has taken several steps to facilitate the food businesses to function in trying times of COVID-19 Pandemic while ensuring enforcement of food safety and availability of safe food to the consumer during lockdown periods. By identifying the challenges which would emerge on account of easing out of restrictions, FSSAI has issued letter dated 01/05/2020 addressed to Commissioner of Food Safety of States/UTs regarding steps to be taken to facilitate the Food Businesses in COVID-19 era. Details of this letter is available at link <https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/05/5eb13e07d8b40Letter Steps Business COVID 05 05 2020.pdf>

- 2) **Clarification on relation of food with spread of COVID-19 pandemic:**

It has been noticed that some food products especially frozen foods were not allowed to be transported, stored or sold ostensibly on the notion that these foods could promote spread of COVID-19. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has taken note of it and issued clarification vide letter dated 05/05/2020 clarifying therein that there is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread through foods.

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