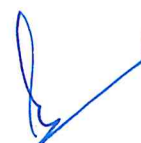


**Minutes of the 43rd meeting of the Food Authority held on February 02, 2024 at
11:30 hrs through physical cum virtual mode**

The forty third meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 11.30 am on 2nd February, 2024 through physical cum virtual platform at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, 5th Floor, Conference Hall, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Apurva Chandra, Chairperson, FSSAI. The list of participants is at **Annexure - 1**.

Ms. Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director (ED), FSSAI introduced and welcomed new Chairperson, Shri Apurva Chandra to the Food Authority. She also welcomed the members of the Authority to the meeting followed by their brief introduction. Thereafter, she requested Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), FSSAI to present his report during the meeting.

Item No.	Description
I	Confirmation of Minutes of 42nd meeting held on 30/05/2023 and 19/09/2023
	Since there were no comments, the minutes of the 42 nd meeting held on 30 th May, 2023 and 19 th September, 2023 were confirmed and adopted, as placed.
II	Action Taken Report of 41st meeting
	The Action Taken Report was noted by the Authority, as placed.
III	CEO's Report (to be presented during the meeting)
	Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO, FSSAI presented his report in brief through a power-point presentation highlighting the action taken and developments since the last meeting of the Authority. He apprised the members about the work on standards setting in terms of meetings of the Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee and number of Draft & Final Regulations notified; appreciation of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) on the India's proposal of Group standards for millets in the CAC 46; special enforcement and surveillance drives related to various food commodities like fortified rice kernel, cinnamon, tea etc. as a part of regulatory compliance; sampling and inspection details; State connect meetings; import activities including creation of a new portal 'ReFoM' (Registration of foreign food manufacturers); Eat Right initiatives and mela's; participation of FSSAI in World Food India, 2023 & India International Trade Fair, 2023; modernization of Food Streets wherein 1st healthy & hygienic food street 'PRASADAM' was inaugurated at Ujjain. Authority took note of the CEO's report. The detailed report is placed at Annexure-2 .
43.1	Central Advisory Committee (CAC)
1	Minutes of meeting of Central Advisory Committee
	The Authority took note of the minutes of the 38 th to 41 st CAC meetings for information.



2	Replacement of Member in Central Advisory Committee of FSSAI
	The Authority approved the new nomination of Dr. Deepak Saxena in place of Shri George Cheriyan in the Central advisory committee for the remaining tenure.
	Other Issues
3	Extension of last date for renewal application of expired license/registration and online submission of annual return for the FY 2022-23 without penalty for the state of Manipur
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
4	Strengthening the Quality Control Mechanism of Fortified Rice Kernels [FRK] and Premix for FRK
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
5	Proposal regarding introduction of new Kind of Business (KoB) for 'Direct Sellers' under FoSCoS
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.
	Action Point: Regulatory Compliance division to take necessary action.
43.2	Food testing surveillance
1	Notification/Recognition/Discontinuation of Food Testing Laboratories
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as proposed during the meeting, i.e. Notification of 10 new food testing laboratories, De-notification of three food testing laboratories, renaming of one food testing laboratory and suspension of two food testing laboratories as presented in the meeting.
2	Food Safety on Wheels
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
3	Capacity Building Programs
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
4	Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method Applications
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
5	Information on Surveillance Drive on Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) 2023 in selected States/UTs of India
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
6	Information on Pan-India Tea Surveillance 2022
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
	The representative from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare expressed to conduct similar surveillance drive for Coffee. In response, Executive Director, clarified that the surveillance drive for 'Coffee' will be initiated soon after the surveillance drive for 'Chicory' is done.
7	Information on Flash Tea Surveillance 2023
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.

8	Information on Milk and Milk Products Survey 2023
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
9	Handholding for setting up/Strengthening of Organic Food Testing Laboratory
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
10	Approval of Laboratories for Recognition as National Reference Laboratory
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
	FAE & JAE
11	9th Food Analyst Examination (9th FAE) and 6th Junior Analyst Examination (6th JAE) 2023
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
43.3	Employee Gratuity Trust Rules
1	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Employee Gratuity Trust Rule
	The agenda item was deferred.
43.4	Regulations
1	Items proposed for Final (draft) notification
1.1	FSS (Prohibition and Restriction of Sales) Amendment Regulations
	One member appreciated the proposal and the Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.
	Action Point: Regulation division to take necessary action.
2	Items proposed for Draft notification
2.1	Amendment to FSS (Food Product Standards & Food Additives) Reg. 2011 related to Deletion of mandatory 'AGMARK certification mark' in the clause (3) of sub-regulation 2.2.5 of regulation 2.2 relating to Fat Spread
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.
	Action Point: Regulation division to take necessary action.
3	Direction proposed for issuing under section 16(5) of the FSS Act
3.1	Direction related to preparation of an active list of processing aids inventory for use by Food Business Operators
	The Authority approved the direction, as proposed.
	Action Point: Regulation division to take necessary action.
4	Directions issued u/s 16(5) or 18(2)(d) read with 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006
4.1	Operationalization of directions issued relating to food safety and standards u/s 16(5) or 18(2)(d) read with 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006

	The Authority ratified the agenda item (12 directions issued since last meeting of the Food Authority), as placed.
43.5	Food Standards
1	Items Proposed for Final (Draft) Notification
1.1	FSS (Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations, 2023
	The agenda item was deferred
1.2	Amendment to FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 related to standards of Mead (Honey wine), Craft Beer, Indian liquors and definition of Low Alcoholic Beverages/ RTD, Wine based Beverages and, Country Liquors etc.
	<p>Discussion: One member suggested:</p> <p>(a) to replace the words "<i>less than 15.0% of alcohol ABV</i>" with the words "<i>upto 15.0% of alcohol ABV</i>" in clause 1.2.12a of the proposed notification in line with products available globally; and</p> <p>(b) to delete the word "only" from the statement "Mixture of CO₂ and NO₂ gas is applicable only for craft beer" in the proposed standards for craft beer.</p> <p>The Secretariat also suggested an editorial amendment to remove the reference to Annex-1 (Product name/ingredients/raw materials for country liquors/ Indian liquors) from sub-regulations 1.3.9 (RTD) and 3.1 (Wine) which were inadvertently made part of draft notification.</p> <p>The Authority agreed with these suggestions.</p> <p>Decision: With the above modifications, the Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
1.3	Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives), 2011
A.	Related to 2.5 Meat and Meat Products – Standards for meat sausages
	<p>Discussion: One member requested to increase the "Moisture" limit in the proposed standards for making the product palatable. The Authority did not agree to the comments and clarified that the same has already been examined by the concerned Scientific Panel and Scientific Committee. The scientific experts were of the view that increase in the level of Moisture may pose safety concern. Moreover, the standards prepared are in harmonization with international standards and as per the products available in the Indian market.</p> <p>Decision: The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>

B.	Related to 2.9 Salt, Spices, Condiments and Related Products – Standards for Dehydrated Tarragon
	<p>Discussion: One member highlighted to remove the last sentence “<i>It shall not contain any other plant species other than those specified</i>” under the definition quoting that no such statement is specified in any other spice standards. It was clarified that the same comment has already been examined and not accepted by the concerned Scientific Panel to avoid adulteration. Further, for more clarity definition for Extraneous matter and Foreign matter has been included.</p> <p>Decision: The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
1.4	FSS (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Reg., 2022
	<p>Discussion: CEO informed that a high level committee has been proposed to be constituted to examine the overlapping issues and regulatory challenges in the nutraceutical regulation vis-à-vis Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules. Therefore, pending the outcome of the said committee, it has been proposed to keep this draft of final notification at abeyance.</p> <p>Further, it is proposed to re-operationalize the draft FSS (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022 and to allow the use of additives and GMP table as per Codex in all categories across various formats, till the final notification of the said regulations.</p> <p>Decision: The Authority approved the proposal.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
2	Items Proposed for Draft Notification
2.1	Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Reg., 2011
A	Related to 2.1 Dairy products and analogues – Revision of standards of Milk Fat Products
	<p>Discussion: One member suggested to include the words “Excluding composite milk products” after the words “extracted from milk and milk products” and before the word “standardised” in clause 8 relating to Milk fat composition and the same was agreed by the authority.</p>

	<p>Decision: With the above suggestion, the Authority approved the agenda item.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
B	Regarding draft standards for Vitamin and Mineral Premixes for Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK)
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
C	Relating to 2.4 Cereals and Cereal Products – Insertion of the tolerance range of blending ratio of FRK in fortified rice
	The agenda item was withdrawn, as this tolerance range is proposed to be considered as guidance.
D	Related to 2.5 Meat and Meat Products – Standards for meat products – Haleem
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
E	Related to 2.9 Salt, Spices, Condiments and Related Products – Standards for Dried Peppermint
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
F	Related to 2.9 Salt, Spices, Condiments and Related Products – Standards of Mixed Masala Powder (Addition of Garam Masala)
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
G	Related to Caffeinated Beverage
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
H	Appendix A, under the heading “IV. Use of Food Additives in Food Products; Inclusion of “Indigotine (Indigo Carmine) INS 132” in Food Category 14.2.6
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.

	Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
I	Relating to Appendix C – Inclusion of Processing Aids under various tables of FSS Processing Aids regulation
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
2.2	FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 Related to Ethyl Acetate content in Fruit Wine
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
2.3	FSS (Fortification of Foods) Regulation, 2018 Related to Advisory on Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia
	The agenda item was deferred.
2.4	FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues), 2011 Related to Draft Comprehensive notification on MRLs
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
2.5	Revision of Annexure 2 and 3 of FSS (Nutra) Regulation, 2022
	In line with decision taken at agenda item no, 43.5 (1.4), the Authority agreed to consider this agenda once the outcome of the proposed committee is available. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
3	Other Issues
3.1(A)	Method for Determination of Ochratoxin A in Wine and Other Fermented alcoholic Beverages
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: QA division to take necessary action.
3.1(B)	Method for determination of Iodine and Iron in Double Fortified Salt (DFS) and Phosphorous in Fortified Salt
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point:

	QA division to take necessary action.
3.1(C)	Manual on Microbiological Examination of Food and Water
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: QA division to take necessary action.
3.1(D)	Method for detection of Vitamin A in Milk and Edible oils & fats
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: QA division to take necessary action.
3.1(E)	Methods for determination of Iron, Folic Acid (Vitamin B9) and Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B12) in Vitamin Mineral Premix for Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) and Iron in FRK by AAS
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
3.2	Constitution of Expert Committee to examine the applications received for vegan logo endorsement under Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
3.3	Use of Ethylene Oxide in Spices
	Discussion: One member expressed to fix a limit for use of "Ethylene Oxide". In response, Dr. Satyen Kumar Panda, Advisor (QA/S&S) clarified that if a limit/ "LOQ (Limit of Quantification)" is established, then the sample may be compliant analytically but the process might remain non-compliant. So, usage of Ethylene Oxide for treatment/fumigation of spices shall not be allowed and no traces of Ethylene Oxide shall be present in the spices. Decision: The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
3.4	Revised methodology of Fixation of MRLs of Pesticide Spice and Culinary Herbs
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.
3.5	Partial Modification of reconstituted Scientific Panel on SP-05 and constitution of Expert Committee (EC) on Food for Special Medical Purpose (FSMP)
	The Authority approved and ratified the agenda item, as proposed.

3.6	Justification on tolerance limits specified under draft FSS (Labelling and Display) amendment Regulation 2022
	<p>The Authority agreed that the issue relating to tolerance limit of $\pm 20\%$ will be examined and reviewed based on the data submitted by the industry. However, the Authority approved the final (draft) notification i.e. Amendment to FSS (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020 related to labeling requirements of Non-retail container, minimally processed products, legible/audible warning statement related to pan masala etc. except the provision relating to tolerance limit.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
3.7	Size specification for Vegan Logo
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
3.8	Constitution of Six Expert committees to examine the applications received under Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non-specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017 and details of approved products/ ingredients by the FSSAI
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
3.9	Guidelines regarding submission of applications for Vegan logo endorsement under FSS (Vegan Foods) Regulation, 2022
	<p>The Authority approved the recommendation of the Scientific Panel and Scientific committee. Further, the authority agreed with an editorial amendment to interchange the values in size specification (i.e. A & B) for the vegan logo as proposed by the secretariat during the meeting.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
43.6	Revision of Service Charges
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
	SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
1	Notification/Recognition/Discontinuation of Food Testing Laboratories
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: QA division to take necessary action.</p>

2	Proposal to include omission of item (xii) of sub-regulation 2.2.2 in the proposed draft notification on amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations
	The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Action Point: Regulation division to take necessary action.
3	Addressing Inconsistency in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations
	The Authority approved the proposal to substitute the reference of “Food safety and standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations” with “Food safety and standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations” and/or “Food safety and standards (Packaging) Regulations and notify these amendments as draft or final as may be suggested by the legislative department. Action Point: Regulation division to take necessary action.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairperson and all the participants.

This has approval of the Chairperson, FSSAI.



Chief Executive Officer

List of Participants

A. Members of the Food Authority (ex-officio)

1. Shri Anupam Mishra (JS, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution) **[Virtually attended]**
2. Shri Rajan, Deputy Director, Department of Commerce (for Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary)
3. Shri Rajiv Wadhawan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. Shri Ramisetty Sreenivas, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice (for Ms. Veena Kothavale) **[Virtually attended]**
5. Shri Neeraj Arora , Deputy Director Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (for Shri Vipul Goel, Joint Secretary)

B. Part time Members of the Food Authority

1. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors' Association, New Delhi
2. Ms. Swati Ravindra Paradkar, President, Shri Mahila Griha Udyog, Lijjat papad, Mumbai Maharashtra **[Virtually attended]**
3. Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru **[Virtually attended]**
4. Smt. Jyoti J. Sardesai, Director, FDA and Commissioner Food Safety, Goa **[Virtually attended]**
5. Dr. Vijaya, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Himachal Pradesh (Commissioner Food Safety, Himachal Pradesh **[Virtually attended]**
6. Shri Pramod Kumar Choudhary, Member, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
7. Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan, Farmer, Haryana
8. Shri Sukhwinder Singh, Designated Officer, Chandigarh (for Commissioner Food Safety, Chandigarh)