

Now 'biodiesel solution' to stop reuse of edible oil used in farsan, sweets

By Lakshmi Ajay, Ahmedabad Mirror | Sep 15, 2018



Top snack makers have committed 1 crore litre of oil annually

Even as a new amendment in the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) mandates that the Total Polarized Compound (TPC) value in edible oil must be less than 25% since July 1, several leading farsaan and sweet makers have found a sustainable way to dispose of used edible oil that can pose a threat to food safety standards and ultimately to people's health. Close to 10 leading sweet and snack makers who are members of the Gujarat Sweets Merchants Association (GSMA) have committed to give up 1 crore litre of used cooking oil annually to the Biodiesel Association of India (BDAI). This will be converted into biofuel so that the used oil does not find its way back to food supply chain through black market.

Earlier this month, even as BDAI launched its integrated software RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) in the state, where GSMA members set the ball rolling on going the sustainable way for disposal of edible oil by enabling BDAI to collect their edible oil in state.

Himachal Mehta, member of GSMA which has 2600 members in state told Mirror, "We were part of discussions with BDAI and find that this is a win-win situation for snack makers as we face difficulty in disposing oil used several times to fry food. While as a body we have not signed any formal MoU but it is in the pipeline. Earlier we would know that the oil is stale or bad from its texture, colour and aroma but since FSSAI's amendment, this move towards contributing to making biofuels is the way to go. Bigger companies use a high quantity of oil

every day. The move will get customers get quality food items and also solve energy needs of the nation in long run."

Ahead of FSSAI amendment, FDCA had taken up a drive to check TPC levels of oil in establishments in Ahmedabad where 40% were found reusing oil which they have used before for frying, cooking etc and FDCA Gujarat had also procured a special device to test TPC value in oil and penalise eateries that reuse edible oil. AMC sources also contend that 80% of street side vendors reuse oil multiple times while making food.

Sandeep Chaturvedi, President of Biodiesel Association of India (BDAI) told Mirror, "Gujarat has taken the lead in this initiative from among other state with top players signing up for giving their edible oil to creating biodiesel. If we don't take this oil then it can be diverted back into the market which can pose huge health risks. The new Ruco software will facilitate this, whereby sweetmakers can get real time data on oil collection. Ten of Gujarat's top snack makers have committed that they will give us 1 crore litres of oil annually under this initiative. We are already collecting such used oil from various McDonald's chains in state for past one year."

Ahmedabad leading brands like Jaihind sweets, Rasmadhur, Kandoi Bhogilal Mulchand among others are part of the discussions with BDAI for collection of used edible oil, sources said. State FDCA (Food & Drug Administration) Commissioner Dr Hemant G Koshia told Mirror, "This move has come after the FSSAI has amended the law to stop reuse of edible oil since July1, 2018. GSMA members which included leading farsaan and sweets makers had gathered on September 4 at the launch of BDAI's integrated software Ruco and made commitments to BDAI for oil collections. The Biodiesel association will buy the used cooking oil from these snacks players at half the price or at a price they fix amongst themselves."