

Minutes of the 39th meeting of the Food Authority held on July 13, 2022 at 15:00 hrs

The thirty ninth meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 3.00 pm on 13th July, 2022 at the 5th Floor Conference Hall, FDA Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Chairperson, FSSAI. The list of participants is at **Annexure - 1**.

Head (GA) welcomed the members of the Authority and special invitees to the meeting and highlighted that since the last physical meeting of the Food Authority, five meetings have been conducted virtually. He brought to the notice of the Authority that ^{three} ~~two~~ members at the level of Joint Secretary from the Ministries have joined the meeting through virtual platform.

Chairperson expressed his willingness to conduct the Authority meetings more frequently so that the agenda can be less voluminous and can be deliberated in more detail.

Item No.	Description
I	Confirmation of minutes of 38th meeting held on 02/03/2022
	Since there were no comments, the minutes of the 38 th meeting held on 2 nd March, 2022 were confirmed and adopted, as placed.
II	Action Taken Report of 38th meeting
	The Action Taken Report was noted by the Authority, as placed.
III	CEO's Report (to be presented during the meeting)
	Sh. Arun Singhal, CEO, FSSAI in his report, simultaneously tabled during the meeting, highlighted the action taken and developments since the last meeting of the Authority. He apprised the members about the changes brought about in the format of the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC), stating that CAC meetings are now being planned in the States with the consultation/association with the State Governments. Since the change of format, the first meeting was held in Shillong and the next meeting is planned in Kochi in

	<p>the month of August. He also apprised about the recent notification of the regulations related to Vegan Foods and Ayurveda Aahara.</p> <p>Authority took note of the CEO's report. The detailed report is placed at Annexure-2.</p>
39.1	FOOD STANDARDS
1	ITEMS PROPOSED FOR FINAL (DRAFT) NOTIFICATION
1.1	Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 relating to fowl eggs, lowering of fat content for double toned milk, limits of naturally occurring formaldehyde in finfish and shellfish, standards for basmati rice, etc.
	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>1. Advisor, Science and Standards (S&S) briefed the agenda item and proposed the following modifications as per the comments received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to delete the word 'curd' wherever it appears in the standards. ii. to revise the limits of other varieties of non-basmati rice in alignment with EIC specification from 5% to 15% in the basmati standards. iii. to remove the average length of the kernel given in the brackets for broken Basmati Rice below the table, as it is very difficult to comply. iv. to increase the limit of blending of other extra-long grain non-basmati from 20 to 30% on account of increase in the limit (5 to 15%) of other varieties of non-basmati rice. <p>2. With regard to point 1 (iv) above, representative from Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and some special invitees proposed to increase the limit of blending upto 40% as there are various grades in the market having 40% or more in the blended basmati rice and the percentage of the blend is declared on the label. Several members, while not agreeing with the proposal of increasing the limit of the blending, raised concerns on the need for having the category 'blended basmati rice' on account of dilution in the quality of the basmati rice and subsequent misrepresentation to the consumer.</p> <p>3. CEO, sought views from the Authority whether to omit the category of blended basmati rice or allow blending upto 30% or 40%.</p> <p>4. In this regard, one member opined that any basmati rice having non-basmati rice more than 15% will be considered as "blended rice" only and not as "blended</p>




	<p>basmati rice". With this stipulation, there will be no need to have any upper limit of blending. The Authority agreed to this proposal and decided to delete the word 'Basmati' from Blended Basmati Rice and suitably amend the labelling requirement in this regard, along with removing the upper limit of blending.</p> <p>5. Some special invitees proposed to remove the parameters chalky grain from the requirements as it is impractical to follow. To this it was informed that this parameter is based on the EIC specification and omission of the same may be considered only after EIC modify/omit this parameter in their specification.</p> <p>6. Special invitees proposed to change the maximum values of combination of added water and fat from 40% to 68% in meat products based on the availability of products in the market. As this comment was not given on draft notification, the Authority suggested to provide data along with the justification for considering it in future.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>7. The Authority approved the final notification, with following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to delete the word 'curd' ii. to align the limits of other varieties of basmati rice as per the EIC specification (i.e., 5 to 15%) iii. to delete the word 'Basmati' from Blended Basmati Rice and deletion of the respective column. This category may be inserted suitably in the regulation along with the labelling requirement. Upper limit of blending may be removed. iv. to delete the average length of the kernel given in the brackets for broken Basmati Rice below the table of Basmati Rice standards. <p>Action Point:</p> <p>8. Science and Standards (S&S) division to proceed with the final notification with the above changes.</p>
<p>1.2</p>	<p>Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 related to standards for sheep milk, oils, desiccated coconut, wheat flour or resultant wheat flour, millets, mithun (<i>bosfrontalis</i>), limit on reducing sugar in sugarcane jaggery and palmyrah jaggery, refined iodized salt, low sodium salt, dried sweet marjoram, coconut neera, liquid nitrogen dosing in 'natural mineral water' and 'packaged drinking water', substances added to food, microbiological standards, etc.</p>

Discussion:

1. Advisor, Science and Standards (S&S) briefed the agenda item and proposed the following modifications as per the comments received:

- i. to increase Acid value as 40.0 for Rice bran oil as the industries are following these values in accordance with the erstwhile Solvent Extracted Oil, De oiled Meal, and Edible flour (control) order 1967.
- ii. to withdraw the proposed standards of Wheat flour (Atta) and Resultant Wheat Flour (Atta) and retain the existing standards of "Atta or Resultant Atta" as per regulation 2.4.1:1 with the modifications viz. inclusion of definition of Wheat flour (Atta) and Resultant Wheat Flour (Atta) along with additional parameters 'Crude fibre %' and 'granularity' as per the proposed agenda.
- iii. to revise the moisture content as 13.0% for both Whole grains and de-hulled grains in case of the standards for millets.
- iv. to delete the sentence "It shall not contain any added colour" and to include/revise the labelling proviso as "the name of the product may include the vernacular name (common name/traditional name/major ingredient name) prefixed before the name 'papad' on the label.

2. With regard to the standards of Wheat flour (Atta) and Resultant Wheat Flour (Atta), the special invitees asked to mention the proviso "*The parameter 'Granularity will not be applicable for intermediate products which are not meant for direct consumption'*" in alignment with the existing standards for Maida (Refined Wheat flour) and the same was agreed by the Authority. They also suggested that the granularity requirements should not apply to institutional sales and this also was agreed.

3. With regard to standards for 'Refined Iodized salt', special invitees proposed to revise the limit of pH as 5.5-6.5 as it is not technically feasible to achieve the proposed value of 6.0-7.5. As this comment was not submitted earlier, the Authority recommended that the standards under the item 1.2 (H) be referred back to the concerned Scientific Panel for further deliberation.

4. In case of standards of papad, special invitees, proposed to include the cereals and cereal products in the definition as few products are made from sago, semolina etc. To this, Authority agreed and recommended to substitute the words 'cereal flour' with the word 'cereal'. Regarding the concern raised on the value of 'alcoholic acidity', the Authority suggested to submit the data for further deliberation by the concerned Scientific Panel.

	<p>5. On Page No. 43, under the Note, special invitees proposed to include TDS also as while increasing the value of calcium and magnesium the TDS would also increase and the water used in beverages should not have minimum value for TDS. To this Authority suggested them to submit data for consideration at a later stage.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>6. The Authority approved the final notification, with following modifications-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to revise Acid value from 30.0 to 40.0 for Rice bran oil in the standards for 'solvent extracted Crude Vegetable Oils'. ii. to withdraw the proposed standards for Wheat flour (Atta) and Resultant Wheat Flour (Atta) and to include the following in the existing standards; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. definition of Wheat flour (Atta) and Resultant Wheat Flour (Atta) b. parameters 'Crude fibre %' and 'granularity' c. proviso "<i>*The parameter Granularity will not be applicable for intermediate products which are not meant for direct consumption*</i>" below the table. iii. to revise the moisture content as 13.0% for both Whole grains and de-hulled grains in case of the standards for millets. iv. to delete the sentence "It shall not contain any added colour" and to include/revise the labelling proviso as "the name of the product may include the vernacular name (common name/traditional name/major ingredient name) in addition to the name 'papad' on the label. v. to refer back the standards under the item 1.2 (H) to the concerned panel and hearing the stakeholders. <p>Action Point:</p> <p>7. S&S division to proceed with the final notification with the above changes.</p>
<p>1.3</p>	<p>Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 relating to inclusion of enzymes derived from genetically modified sources under processing aids [as approved in 32nd and 35th Food Authority meetings]</p>
	<p>The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to proceed with the final notification.</p>
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Amendment to FSS (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>1. Special invitees had raised following concerns;</p>

- i. To retain the proposed deletion at page 83 as this was mentioned in the draft standards.
- ii. To shift the words 'Lite' and 'Light' in the column 'Low' to 'Reduced' under the Schedule-II in alignment with codex.
- iii. To include the criteria *"The claim statements provided below may be used on labels and/or advertisements."*

Provided further that Food Business Operators may choose to use same or similar terms in the claim statements as provide in the schedule under this regulation while ensuring that the intent and meaning of the claim is not changed." under the Schedule-III so as to give flexibility while displaying the claim on the label. This flexibility is also given in the codex document "Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CXG 23-1997)"

2. The secretariat mentioned that the deletion of sentence was based on the comments given by one of the association, however, the same may be agreed based on the consensus as expressed by the concerned association to retain the deleted sentence.

3. The Authority noted that the usage of the words, as per the sub-section 6.5 read with 6.3.1 of Codex Guidelines (CXG 23-1997), 'light or synonyms are contextualised with respect to the claim as 'Low'. The Authority did not agree with this proposal in line with recommendation of the Scientific Panel as 'light' and 'lite' are not comparative words.

4. The Authority agreed to include the criteria as mentioned at point 1(iii) above, under the Schedule-II before the table.

5. One of the member requested to allow placing the disclaimer suitably on Front of Pack (FoP) rather than mentioning below the trade mark or brand name or fancy name as proposed in the notification. the Authority agreed with the suggestion and recommended to substitute the words "shall be mentioned below such names" with "shall be mentioned prominently on the FOP"

Decision:

6. The Authority approved the final notification, with the modifications mentioned at point 1(i) & (iii) and para '5' above.

Action Point:

7. S&S division to proceed with the final notification with the above modification.

1.5	FSS (Genetically Modified or Genetically Engineered Foods) Regulations, 2022
	<p>The authority noted the recommendations of the Scientific committee to re-notify these regulations as draft considering that substantial changes have been made in these regulations based on the comments received from the stakeholders and agreed for re-notification.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to proceed with the draft notification again as decided.</p>
2	ITEMS PROPOSED FOR DRAFT NOTIFICATION
2.1	Amendment to FSS (Food products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 related to standards for refractive index range for Palm superolein, meat sausage, dehydrated tarragon, packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water), Appendix A & Appendix C.
2.2	Amendment to FSS(Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011 related to crop contaminants & naturally occurring toxic substances, MRLs of pesticides residues, tolerance limits of antibiotics and veterinary drugs.
2.3	Amendment to FSS (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020
2.4	Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 related to proprietary foods.
	<p>One of the special invitees emphasized the need to strengthen FSSAI's connect with consumers through organizations such as Consumer Coordination Councils at both, central and state levels. He expressed the view that consumers need to be empowered in order to enable them to effectively contest the views of Industry members. He mentioned that FoPNL should clearly bring out negative and positive aspects of a food product.</p> <p>The Authority approved the aforesaid draft notifications, as proposed. it was mentioned that the comments/ suggestions, if any, may be submitted at the stage of draft notification.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to proceed with the draft notification.</p>
3	OTHER ISSUES
3.1	FSSAI Manual of Methods of analysis of foods
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point:</p>

	S&S/QA division to take necessary action.
3.2	Liquor/alcohol in Chocolate
	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>1. The secretariat apprised that cakes and pastry are proprietary food products while chocolate and alcohol are standardized products as per FSSR. As per the regulation governing Proprietary food, liquor/ alcohol in chocolates may be qualified under the proprietary foods.</p> <p>2. The Authority agreed that the liquor/ alcohol in chocolates are covered under the proprietary foods subject to the compliance of FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) regulation, 2018 and all other extant regulations that are governing liquor/ alcohol.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>The Authority approved the agenda as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point:</p> <p>S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
3.3	Extending the use of certain colors in Food category:14.2.7-Aromatized Alcoholic Beverages
	<p>The Authority approved the agenda as proposed.</p> <p>Action Point:</p> <p>S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
3.4	Development of Standards for category18.1-IndianMithais and category 18.2-IndianNamkeens
	<p>Discussion/ Decision: The Authority approved the aforesaid draft notification, as proposed. It was mentioned that the comments/ suggestions, if any, may be submitted at the stage of draft notification.</p> <p>Some special invitees expressed reservations about the proposed operationalization of the same before further discussions. After discussion, it was decided to authorize the Chairperson to operationalize the standards, if required.</p> <p>Action Point:</p> <p>S&S division to take necessary action.</p>
39.2	FOOD TESTING SURVEILLANCE
1	Ratification of Notification/Recognition/Discontinuation of Food Testing Laboratories
2	Information on Strengthening of Referral Food Testing Laboratories

3	Information on Food Safety on Wheels
4	Information on PAN India Surveillance of Food Products
5	Information on Capacity Building Programs
6	Ratification of Rapid Analytical Food Testing(RAFT)Kit/ Equipment/ Method
	The Authority ratified the agenda item (1) and (6) above and took note of other agenda items as circulated for information. Further, as per suggestions of the Chairperson in the last meeting, a portal of real time information relating to the Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) was shown during this meeting. Chairperson suggested to widely disseminate this portal to the consumers, industries etc. so as to ensure that actual testing, training and awareness generation is happening through these FSWs.
39.3	FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE
1	Status of implementation of the Scheme of MoU between FSSAI and States/UTs for Strengthening of Food Safety Eco-system in the Country
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
2	Recognition of agencies under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
3	Encouraging Women and Transgender Entrepreneurs in Food Business: Faster processing of License/ Registration Applications of women/transgender entrepreneurs
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. However, one of the member suggested to include the category "Person with disability" in the proposal and the same was agreed to. Action Point: Regulatory Compliance Division to take necessary action.
4	Changes in FoSCoS
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. Action Point: Regulatory Compliance division to take necessary action.
5	Capping of penalties due to delay in submission of Annual Returns
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. Action Point: Regulatory Compliance division to take necessary action.
6	Revision of Inspection Checklists

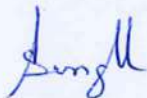
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. Action Point: Regulatory Compliance division to take necessary action.
7	Mapping of product standards under FoSCoS
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
39.4	IMPORT
A	Agenda Items for ratification by Food Authority
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
B	Agenda Item for information of Food Authority
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
39.5	GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
1	Amendment to Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
2A	Estimated Revenue and Expenditure of the Authority for FY2022-23
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. Action Point: General Administration division to take necessary action.
2B	Release of funds under MOU to States/UTs
	The Authority took note of the agenda item as circulated for information.
	SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS
39.IV.1	Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (Recruitment & Appointment) Regulations, 2018-Ratification proposed amendments in Recruitment Regulations
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.
39.IV.2	Appointment of Central Advisory Committee Members- for approval of the Food Authority
	The Authority approved the agenda as proposed. Action Point: Regulatory Compliance division to take necessary action.
39.IV.3	Operationalization of standards/ regulations and directions issued by FSSAI.
	The Authority ratified the agenda item, as placed.

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	ADDITIONAL AGENDA:2.4 Cereal & cereal products - Revision of parameters for Bajra etc.
	<p>Discussion. Advisor (S&S) briefed that the Stakeholders requested to revise the limits of Alcoholic acidity, total dietary fiber & moisture content for bajra, jowar, mixed millet flours & multigrain atta.</p> <p>Decision: It was decided that the compliance to Alcoholic acidity may be withheld from implementation for 6 months (i.e., 31 Dec 2022), giving the Industry associations further time to submit scientific data in support of their proposal before 31.12.2022 so that necessary amendment can be made in the regulations, if required. In case no such data or grossly inadequate data is submitted, compliance will be enforced from 1st January, 2023.</p> <p>With regard to revision of moisture limit in mixed millet flour to 13.0%, the Authority agreed to revise the moisture limit considering that the moisture limit in whole millet is 13.0%.</p> <p>Action Point: S&S division to take necessary action.</p>

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



Chief Executive Officer



Chairperson



Annexure-1**List of Participants****A. Members of the Food Authority**

1. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare;
2. Shri Diwakar Nath Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry [virtually attended];
3. Shri K. R. Saji Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department [virtually attended];
4. Shri Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs [virtually attended]; and Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (for Shri Kuntal Sensarma, Economic Advisor); Shri Manoj Kumar Naik, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs; Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry also attended the meeting.

B. Special invitees:

1. Shri Pramod Kumar Choudhary, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh;
2. Shri G.R. Srikanth, Retailers Association of India;
3. Dr. PVSM Gouri, Association of Indian Organic Industry;
4. Shri. A.K. Singh, Designated Officer, Dept. of Food Safety, Govt. of NCT of Delhi;
5. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors' Association (AIFPA);
6. Ms. Parna Dasgupta, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI);
7. Ms. Jane Karkada, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);
8. Shri Amrit Lal Saha, Consumer Protection Association;
9. Shri Manoj Khosla, Joint Commissioner (Food Safety), O/o Commissioner Food & Drug Administration, Punjab;
10. Dr. G. Bhanuprakash Reddy, Scientist-G (for Director, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad); and
11. Shri Shirish Deshpande, Mumbai Grahak Panchayat.

C. Officers of the FSSAI

1. Ms. Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director (SBCD/Regulatory Compliance);
2. Dr. N. Bhaskar, Advisor (Science & Standards);
3. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Advisor (QA);
4. Shri Raj Singh, Head (GA);
5. Shri R K Mittal, Head (Regulatory Compliance);
6. Shri Sunil Bakshi, Head (Regulations);
7. Ms. Sweety Behera, Director (Quality Assurance);
8. Dr. Sanu Jacob, Director, SRO, Chennai;
9. Dr. Amit Sharma, Director (Trade and IC);
10. Sh. Rakesh Kumar, Director (QA);
11. Shri Anil Mehta, Director (Regulatory Compliance);
12. Cdr. Sharad Aggarwal, Director (Finance and Accounts);
13. Shri Sh. V. K. Pancham, Director (Regulation);
14. Ms. Sweety Behera, Director (Quality Assurance);
15. Dr. Anil Ranga, Director (HR and Vigilance)

39th Meeting of Food Authority on 13.07.2022 CEO's Detailed Report- (as tabled)

1. FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS

1.1 Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and the Work on Standard Setting after the 38th Food Authority meeting held on 02.03.2022.

Certain Scientific Panels met during the period and made significant contributions in arriving at draft and final standards and suggestions on issues of food safety. Various recommendations made by these panels were deliberated in the Scientific Committee of the FSSAI which comprises the Chairpersons of all Scientific Panels as well as independent eminent scientists and the same are part of the Agenda for the approval of the Food Authority.

1.2 Scientific Committee meetings (1): The 42nd meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 06.05.2022.

1.3 Scientific Panel meetings (22): Following Panels met during the period:

Name of Scientific Panel	No. of meetings	Date
Food additives, Flavourings, Processing aids & Materials in contact with food (SP-01)	02	17.03.2022 & 19.04.2022
Pesticides Residues (SP-02)	01	05.04.2022
Antibiotic Residues (SP-03)	01	12.04.2022
Genetically Modified Organisms and Foods (SP-04)	02	21-23 March 2022 & 19-21 April 2022
Biological Hazards (SP-06)	01	08.03.2022
Contaminants in the Food Chain (SP-07)	01	25.03.2022
Labelling and Claims/Advertisements (SP-08)	02	14.03.2022 & 08.04.2022
Method of Sampling and Analysis (SP-09)	01	18.05.2022
Fish and Fisheries Products (SP-10)	01	18.04.2022
Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their products (including Bakery) [SP-11]	01	04.04.2022
Fruits & Vegetables and their products (including dried fruits and nuts) [SP-12]	01	08.04.2022
Meat & Meat Products, including poultry (SP-13)	01	23.03.2022
Milk & Milk Products (SP-14)	01	13.05.2022
Oils & Fats (SP-15)	01	07.04.2022
Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners Sugar & Honey (SP-16)	01	15.03.2022
Water (including flavoured water) & Beverages (non-alcoholic) [SP-17]	01	30.03.2022
Nutrition and Fortification (SP-18)	01	20.04.2022
Spices and Culinary Herbs (SP-19)	02	25.03.2022 & 26.04.2022

1.4 Two new principal regulations and one amendment regulation, namely, i) Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022; ii) Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022; and iii) Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2018, have been notified for enforcement.

1.5 Additionally, six draft regulations, including 2 principal regulations, namely, i) Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022; and ii) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Financial) Regulations, 2022; and 4 amendment regulations pertaining to food product standards, food packaging (recycled plastics) and alcoholic beverages have been published in the Gazette of India for inviting comments and suggestions from stakeholders.

2. FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE

2.1 FSSAI has been providing financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under MoUs to address the gaps in the food safety ecosystem. For the current year, proposals were received from 34 States & UTs, out of which 32 proposals have been finalized having a total outlay of Rs 496 Crore with FSSAI's share of about Rs 422 Crore. So far, first tranche for 2022-23 has been released to 22 States/UTs amounting to about Rs 153 Crore. For the remaining States also the first tranche will be released after receipt of signed Work Plan of 2022-23 and UCs for the funds released during 2020-21. 10 States/UTs have opted for utilization of 75% of their revenue for licensing and registration fee to meet the cost of various activities of the Work Plan and remaining have opted for Centre State funding pattern.

2.2 After a gap of more than 2 years, a physical meeting of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) was held at Shillong on 20th May, 2022 followed by a *Chintan Shivir*. Representatives from 28 States & UTs were present in the meeting, 15 of which were the Commissioners of Food Safety. Next meeting of CAC is planned at Kochi in August, 2022.

3. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had allocated 2nd and 3rd floor of MMU Building to FSSAI. Earlier, 2nd floor and some portion of 3rd floor was renovated. Due to space constraint, it was decided to construct light weighted structure in the vacant space available at 3rd floor of MMU Building. Accordingly, 32 workstations along with 4 Officers' cabins have been constructed at 3rd floor, which are ready for use.

3.2 As I mentioned in the 37th Authority meeting that the recruitment under phase 2 for 38 senior level posts is underway. I am happy to share that the recruitment process has been completed. Against 38 posts, 12 officers at the level of Joint Director/Deputy Director have already joined the Authority. The joining of rest of the candidates is in process.

Also, the result for the 1st Stage of CBT of phase-3 has been announced. Based on 1st stage recruitment test, 44 candidates are expected to join the Authority by the end of the next month.

At the end of phase-2 recruitment, a total of 263 candidates have joined the Food Authority on Direct Recruitment basis till date.

3. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

3.1 It is a matter of great pleasure that Training of Food Safety Supervisor under ambitious FoSTaC Training Programme is about to cross an important milestone of 1 million shortly.

Since last authority meeting about 1,40,000 food handlers were trained through 4200 training events.

4. IMPORT

4.1 To facilitate import trade, the Mangalore port was also brought under ambit of FSSAI and Mangalore Port Trust has also offered office space for establishing import office. With this, total number of food import entry points under direct control of FSSAI has now increased to 58.

4.2 Further, it is also decided that for the imported consignments of alcoholic beverages bottled in origin & in bulk, containing more than 10 percent alcohol, which does not have an expiry date, the NOC issued as per the FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 shall have a validity of 300 days. For consignments lying at ports/Customs area beyond 300 days, on payment of visual inspection fee, visual inspection may be carried out for re-validation of NOC.

4.3 Lactoferrin being an expensive ingredient requiring aseptic packaging, AOs were directed to ensure that miniature/representative sample of 50gms i.e. two representative samples of 25 gms to be drawn based on certification from exporting country that the representative sample and the imported consignment pertains to same batch. Where representative sample is not available the sample to be drawn in aseptic conditions only. Also for case of import of high priced liquor it was re-iterated to all labs to carry out the analysis with 100ml quantity, if miniature/representative sample of 100 in duplicate is available then that shall only be sent for laboratory analysis.

5. SOCIAL BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

5.1 Eat Right Challenge (ERC) for Cities and Districts:

A total of 188 Cities/ Districts were enrolled in ERC. Grant of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only) to each district/city was provided to each city/ district for undertaking various Eat Right India initiatives. During the Challenge, participating cities and districts had made various efforts to improve the food environment in their respective areas. Upon evaluation, top 75 winners were announced on 07th June 2022.

5.2 Eat Right Research Awards and Eat Right Institutional Awards:

FSSAI had launched the Eat Right Research Awards and Institutional awards on 2nd October, 2021 to have a wider collaboration with various academic and research institutions to encourage and recognize high-quality research in the area of food safety and nutrition. Entries in the following three themes were invited: 1) Eat Safe 2) Eat Healthy 3) Eat Sustainable and a total of 287

entries were received. A total of 9 winners were felicitated in Eat Right Research Awards and Institutional Awards at World Food Safety Day function held on 7th June, 2022. Three winners in Individual category; 5 winners in team category and one winner in Institutional category were declared.

5.3 Felicitation of 11 winning cities of EatSmart Cities Challenge: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in association with the Smart Cities Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge in April, 2021. Out of total of 108 cities registered in the challenge, 11 cities have already been selected as winners for the next phase of scale up and will be awarded Rs. 50 Lacs each by MoHUA.

11 winning cities include Chandigarh, Indore, Jabalpur, Jammu, Panaji, Rajkot, Rourkela, Surat, Sagar, Tumkuru and Ujjain. These cities have now entered into the scale up stage of the Challenge wherein the projects undertaken at the pilot stage will now be scaled up in a sustainable manner. All these 11 winners were felicitated on 07th June 2022.

5.4 Books released by FSSAI on 7th June-2022:

1. **Tadke Bina Zayka:** This book is a compilation of winning traditional Indian recipes without the use of visible fat. A total of 140 entries have been received during the competition launched by FSSAI in February, 2022 to encourage people to prepare and share innovative recipes without use of visible fat via FSSAI Social Media handles.
2. **Sugarless Desserts: Nature's Sweetness in Every Bite:** A healthy dessert recipe contest was launched on the occasion of World Food Day, 2021 to encourage people to share their innovative and healthy dessert recipes that are prepared without the use of sugar or artificial sweeteners. The challenge was held from 28th October, 2021 to 30th November, 2021 and 304 entries were received from students, professionals or cooking enthusiasts. 125 entries shortlisted are compiled in the form of an eBook for wider circulation.

6. FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE

6.1 Strengthening of Referral Food Testing Laboratories

An amount of ~ Rs 3 Crore was released to ICAR-IIHR towards payment for procurement of high-end equipment. With this, the total grant released towards strengthening of referral laboratory has risen from Rs. 30.18 Crore to Rs. 33.18 Crore INR covering 13 Referral Food Laboratories.

6.2 Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs)

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- **FSWs provided under Central Sector Scheme (CSS)**

97 FSWs have been provided to 32 States/UTs for food Testing, Awareness Generation and Training (TAT).

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- **FSWs provided other than under CSS**

63 fully fabricated Modified FSWs have been provided. In 2021-22, an advance fund (100% cost of one FSW i.e. Rs.42 lakh) has also been released to four states (Uttar Pradesh -3, Jammu & Kashmir -6, West Bengal -1 & Karnataka -3) for procuring 13 FSWs from GeM. Further, funds have also been released by RCD under MoU for additional 95 FSWs.

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- Thus, the total number of FSWs provided/sanctioned by FSSAI so far is 268.
- **Operational Cost**

FSSAI is also providing a recurring grant of Rs.10lakh/FSW/year for 2 years towards operational expenses against running of FSWs. Recurring grant of Rs 10 Lakhs/ FSW/ year has also been approved for 173 FSWs for the FY 2023-24 under the PIP scheme of NHM, MoH&FW.

6.3 PAN India Jaggery, Spice and Tea Surveillance

FSSAI carried out PAN-India surveillance on Jaggery in February, 2022, Spices in March, 2022 and Tea in April, 2022 through National Commodities Management Service Ltd. (NCML) to find out adulteration and hotspots of adulteration, if any. The surveillance was carried out in selected 250 Cities/Districts from 36 States/UTs. The Food Safety Officers from the concerned districts were involved in the sample collection along with the sampler from the NCML.

Jaggery Survey Report is under process of finalisation. Draft reports on surveillance of Spices and Tea are under examination.

6.4 Desktop Survey on Heavy Metal Residues

FSSAI collated the testing data of last 3 years (January 2019 to December 2021) for the heavy metals in the various food commodities obtained from FSSAI notified FTLs across country.

Heavy metal testing data of total 1,69,319 samples (consisting of approx.9,21,631 data points) were received from 57 FSSAI notified labs (private, referrals, state labs etc.). Out of this 1389 samples (consisting of approx. 1853 data points) were found to have heavy metal content above the maximum permissible limit. Overall major non-compliance was observed for lead (37.6%) followed by arsenic (17.7%), and cadmium (10.0%).

Maximum non-compliance was found in the food products such as Packaged drinking water followed by Turmeric, Milk powder, Pulses & legumes, Mustard oil, Sugar and Fish.

Among the overall non-compliance in various samples, non-compliance was observed in the testing data received from the Laboratories situated in Southern region (38.21%) followed by Eastern region (27.79%), Northern region (23.69%) and Western region (10.31%).

6.5 Training and Capacity Building

1. Physical Training Programs organized by QA Division

Eight physical training programs were organized by QA Division in coordination with various Government and Non-Government Organizations from 23rd February, 2022 to 13th May, 2022 for the Laboratory personnel of States/UTs. In all, 77 participants attended these training programs.

2. Other Training Programs

In all, 67 training programs (5 physical and 62 online) were organized by FSSAI in co-ordination with (i) National Food Laboratory Kolkata and (ii) International Training Centre on Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (ITC-FSAN), Mumbai and (iii) NDDB, Gujarat from 20th January, 2022 to 18th May, 2022 for the laboratory personnel of States/UTs, FSSAI Notified laboratories, Food Safety officers, FBOs and Consumers. Total 5,660 participants attended these online training programs.

A tentative training calendar for physical training programmes from January 2022 to June 2022 was created and uploaded on FSSAI website under the Head Food Testing>Training; while that from July-December 2022 is under preparation.

6.6 Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method

During the FY 2021-22, 19 RAFT applications were scrutinized out of which 10 were finally approved, 05 were not recommended and 04 were withdrawn. Since, the inception of RAFT Scheme in 2019, a total of 136 applications have been scrutinized of which 75 were approved, 53 were rejected and 07 were withdrawn.

6.7 Inauguration of National Food Laboratory, Raxaul Extension Centre.

FSSAI has upgraded Raxaul Laboratory (Extension center of National Food Laboratory Kolkata) by means of strengthening infrastructure, providing equipment and manpower for analysis of different food products being imported into India from Nepal.

This upgraded Food Laboratory, Raxaul was inaugurated by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers on 5th June 2022 in the presence of Shri Mangal Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Government of Bihar, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (West Champaran) and Shri Pramod Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble MLA (Raxaul).

Further NFL Raxaul has applied for ISO:17025 accreditation to NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) on 30th April 2022 for following product Categories;

1. Cereal & Cereal products
2. Fats & Oils
3. Spices & Condiments
4. Fruits and Vegetable Products

The laboratory is likely to get NABL accreditation by August 2022 and will be ready to carry out the analysis of the import samples. This would enable the laboratory to cater to the food testing needs of different stakeholders for their testing requirements for smooth trade between India and Nepal.