

File No.15-03/GA/2020-FSSAI  
**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**  
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006)  
(GA Division)  
**FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002**

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Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

**Subject:- Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of Food Authority held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.**

The Authority confirmed and adopted the minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of Food Authority held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 in its 32<sup>nd</sup> virtual meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 with correction to insert the word "amended" before the word "proposal" under the agenda item 31.5 (b).

2. Accordingly, the minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of Food Authority are being uploaded on the website of FSSAI.

  
(Pankaj Gera)  
Assistant Director (GA)

Enclosure:-

Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting of Food Authority held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

**Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Food Authority held on October 20, 2020 at  
11:00 hrs through virtual medium**

The thirty first meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 1100 hrs on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rita Teatota, Chairperson, FSSAI. The meeting was conducted through online virtual medium due to covid-19 pandemic. The list of participants is at **Annexure -1**.

Head (GA), FSSAI welcomed the Chairperson, CEO, Members of the Authority and special invitees from Industry. The Chairperson was requested thereafter to commence the meeting with her opening remarks.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson welcomed new CEO, Shri Arun Singhal to his first meeting of the Food Authority and appreciated his achievements over the last few months in terms of clearance of draft/ final notifications pending at the level of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. She thanked representatives from the Ministries and the special invitees from industry associations for their participation in the meeting. Further, she advised the secretariat to avoid as far as possible issuance of directions under Section 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006, unless required in matters of urgency and directed to review the existing directions issued under Section 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006.

**Item No. I: Confirmation of the minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29.05.2020**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 were confirmed and adopted. However, special invitee from FICCI mentioned that comments on the minutes were provided vide email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 regarding Agenda Item No. 30.1 (A)(I)(i) on Breakfast Cereal and Agenda Item No. 30.1(A)(II)(a) on limit of Total Polar Compounds in Fresh/Unused Vegetable Oil. It was informed that the agenda on breakfast cereal will be deliberated during 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Chairperson directed to take note of the comments provided by special invitee on other agenda items.

**Item No. II: Action Taken Report of 30<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Action Taken Report was noted by the Food Authority. However, special invitee from AIFPA mentioned that they would like to see the final notification on FSS

(Labeling & Display) Regulations, 2020 before its publication in Gazette. Chairperson directed Regulation Division to furnish analysis of the comments received from industry by FSSAI along with its decision and rationale within two days. The special invitee was also requested to furnish the concise table of comments once again to FSSAI.

Further, special invitees also raised their concern on delay in publication of three notifications viz exemption from conformance to minimum limit of calcium and magnesium for water used in foods and required to conform to the standards of the Packaged Drinking Water; processing aids; and permission of sweeteners in beverages packed in returnable glass bottles and requested to fast track the finalization of these notifications. The Authority while noting the suggestions, informed the members that part of processing aid notification related to standards of "Breakfast Cereal, Pearl Millet Flour and Sorghum flour" is again placed in this meeting for approval. After approval the whole notification related to processing aids would be finalized soon.

### **Item No. III: Chief Executive Officer's Report**

CEO, FSSAI in his report highlighted the action taken and developments since the last meeting of Food Authority.

a) With respect to the regulations, he informed that 16 final notifications relating to amendment in various Food Safety and Standards Regulations including one new principal regulation namely FSS (Safe Food and Balanced Diets for Children in School) Regulations, 2020 and 8 draft amendment notifications have been published in the Gazette of India. Further, 8 final amendment notifications including new principal regulations on labelling and display and foods for infant nutrition have been finalized and are under the process of vetting and approval of the Central Government.

b) He informed the Authority that a decision has been taken to consolidate multiple proposals for amendments to each principal regulation and limit the frequency of sending such consolidated proposals to the Ministry of Health to not more than 2 times in a year (preferably in January and July of each year). However,



in case of urgency, any such proposal may still be forwarded to the Ministry as and when required with the approval of CEO, FSSAI.

c) Also, he gave an overview of Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels meetings held since last Authority meeting, food testing and surveillance, food import, training and capacity building, food safety compliance, governance and administration and social and behavioural change.

Authority took note of the Chief Executive Officer's Report which was tabled during the meeting. The detailed report is placed at **Annexure-2**

## **AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

### **31.1 FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS**

#### **(A) NOTIFICATION PROPOSED FOR FINAL (DRAFT) NOTIFICATION-**

##### **(I) Amendment proposed in FSS (Food products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011;**

##### **(i) Final Notification on FSS (Food Product Standard and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations related to standards of Basmati Rice**

a) Special invitees raised their concern about the practical challenges related to trade in the implementation of proposed standards of basmati rice and that they have already requested Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to create a data collection centre at National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM).

b) Joint secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) informed that there is need for authentic data to support the claim of Industry. The data submitted by the industry are not comprehensive and not truly representative of pan India situation. Hence, in this context, there is a proposal to work with NIFTEM for establishing a national data collection centre.

c) Chairperson requested MoFPI to continue their work on data collection that may be presented before the Scientific Panel of FSSAI. Further,

as a practise, the industry may be invited as far as feasible to present scientific or technical data before the Scientific Panels. Chairperson also suggested that industries should make an effort to generate scientific data to back their comments.

d) The special invitees also raised concern on the nomenclature of “Tibar” in the regulations stating that it is a trade name and should not be included in technical regulations. It was informed that the matter was also examined by the Department of Commerce; Export Inspection Council (EIC) and All India Rice Exporters Association and they had no issues with respect to using the term “Tibar” in the nomenclature of basmati rice, which is a commonly accepted term.

e) Further, the special invitees desired to have the rationale of acceptance/ rejection against their comments on the notifications. Chairperson suggested to share the rationale of acceptance/rejection specific to the comments of concerned organization/ association with them. The special invitees brought to the notice of Authority that there is no definition of ‘extra-long grain’ in this regulation and further suggested to align the methodology for testing of elongation ratio with EIC.

With these deliberations, the Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

**(ii) Final (Draft) amendment notification of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations,2011 regarding Breakfast Cereal, Pearl Millet Flour and Sorghum flour**

a) Special invitees informed that the proposed standards for Pearl Millet flour and Sorghum flour are so stringent in terms of alcoholic acidity and moisture content that the products already on shelves in the market including the freshly produced products are not able to comply with these standards. It was clarified that the limit of both the parameters was fixed based on inputs from Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and the same are important in terms of food safety considering the rancidity and off-odour developed in products on accounts of higher alcoholic acidity and presence of aflatoxins



due to high moisture content. Authority expressed that the data submitted by associations is found technically inadequate by the Scientific Panel. The associations were therefore given a time frame of 3 months to generate data along with IIMR that could be presented before the Scientific Panels for consideration.

b) The special invitees requested to insert word “etc.” in Regulation No. 2.4.35(2) which refers to the processing methods so as not to restrict the processing techniques/methods to be followed by the Food Business Operators (FBOs). The Authority noted and agreed to modify the clause appropriately.

With these observations and the modification as per para ‘b’ above, the Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

**(II) Final (Draft) notification w.r.t the amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2019 relating to limits of Trans fat.**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed. However, the special invitees raised concern on the availability of testing protocols to separate natural Trans Fats in the final product. Advisor (S&S) informed that the intent of this regulation is to eliminate the industrially produced trans fat from the food value chain. He clarified that available test methods can measure industrial and naturally occurring trans fat separately. Manufacturers will have to improve/ innovate their processing methods so that industrial trans fats are within the prescribed limit of 2%.

**(B) NOTIFICATION PROPOSED FOR (DRAFT) NOTIFICATION**

**I. Amendment proposed in FSS (Food products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011**

- i. Revision of the standard for Sheep Milk
- ii. Parameters to differentiate Refined Olive Oil and Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- iii. Standard development of Moringa Oil

- iv. Revision of Existing Standard of Wheat Flour (Atta) or Resultant Wheat Flour (Resultant Atta)
- v. Draft (Common) standard for all types of millets
- vi. Additional labelling provision for 'Low Sodium Salt'
- vii. Liquid nitrogen dosing in 'Natural Mineral Water' and 'Packaged Drinking Water'
- viii. Revision of standard of Steviol Glycoside as per JECFA (2017) specification

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**II. Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) First Amendment Regulations**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**III. Amendment in FSS (Contaminants, Toxins & residues) Regulations, 2011: Fixation of MRLs of Pesticides residues**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**IV. Recommendations on various provisions in Form-I of FSS (Approval of Non-Specified Food and Food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**V. Recommendations on Food Safety & Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional food and Novel food) Regulations, 2016**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**VI. Draft notification for amendment in the existing Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**VII. Draft notification to amend Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sales) Regulations, 2011 related to incidental occurring of *Kesari dal* in grams/pulses**



The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**VIII. Limit on reducing sugar to curb addition of white sugar in sugarcane Jaggery and Palmyrah Jaggery**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**IX. Amendment in Honey Standards-Agenda for information only**

Special Invitees requested the Authority for time to submit their comments regarding the methodology for testing to Honey, to which they were suggested to submit their comments to Quality Assurance Division.

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

With reference to the items at serial numbers I to VI and VIII above, the special Invitees requested the Authority for time to examine the proposed draft regulations and provide comments on these. It was clarified that these being draft regulations, special Invitees may furnish comments after the meeting which will be considered together with other comments received from stakeholders after the draft notification stage.

**(C) OTHER ISSUES:**

**I. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Decision Tree proposed to be adopted for examination and consideration of antibiotics and Vet. Drugs**

Special Invitees requested the Authority for time to submit their comments, to which a time period of 7 days was given to submit their comments, and thereafter standards division would take up the comments on board within 3 days.

Further, Chairperson directed the secretariat to circulate the agenda at least 10 days prior to the meeting so as to give the sufficient time to members to go through it.

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**II. Expert Committee to no objection for conducting human intervention studies on novel or non-specified food ingredients/products**

Special Invitees asked about the methodology to be followed by this committee.



Chairperson suggested that Expert Committee would draft the methodology/ SoP including the approving authority and format for data generation. The industry may provide comments on the draft methodology. Advisor (S & S) suggested that the industry may be invited in the next meeting of Expert Committee for providing comments on the methodology before finalization.

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

### **III. Method for Determination of Total Count of Pollens and Plant Elements in Honey**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

### **IV. Revised FSSAI Manual of Methods of Analysis of Foods – Mycotoxins**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

### **V. Method for estimation of $\Delta\delta^{13}C$ Fru-Glu, $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{Max}$ , and Foreign Oligosaccharides in Honey**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed. However, special invitees had some comments on the method. It was suggested to submit the same to Head (QA) for consideration.

### **VI. Sampling Guidelines for Food Import Control of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)/ GM-Food**

Special invitees requested to clarify that the proposed guideline is limited to “primary crops” imported in to India to which it was apprised that Imports Division will clarify the matter while issuing the guidelines.

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(D) Ratification of final notification to amend Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 relating to revision in mandatory certification of AgMARK and Bureau of India Standards (BIS)- for information and ratification.**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(E) Draft Notification on Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2020 related to prohibit blending in Mustard Oil- for consideration and ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(F) Operationalization of standards/regulations and directions issued by FSSAI**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**(G) Ratification of Office Memorandum regarding frequency of sending proposals for amendment in the regulations to the Ministry of Health**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

### **31.2 FOOD IMPORT**

**(a) Requirement of Non-GM cum GM free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment-for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**(b) Import of Asafoetida from Afghanistan- for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**(c) Notification of Authorised Officers under Section 25 read with Section 47(5) of FSS Act, 2006 and Regulation 13(1) of FSS (Import) Regulation, 2017- for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**(d) Amendment to Chapter-IV of the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017:**

Special invitees sought clarification that against which parameters the products



meant for 100% export purpose will be tested. To which it was clarified that the standards as applicable for domestic commodities will be applicable to them also however, they were requested to provide the list of specific commodities of concern. It was also suggested to place the matter before concerned Scientific Panel to consider whether we need to develop separate standards for raw and processed products.

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

### **31.3 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **(a) Annual Report of activities of FSSAI during the Year 2019-20-for approval**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(b) FSSAI's related Accounts w.r.t. (I) Annual Accounts for F.Y. 2019-2020, (II) Budget for F.Y. 2020-2021, Revised Estimate for the F.Y. 2020-21 and Budget Estimate for the F.Y. 2021-22, (III) Financial Activities of FSSAI for F.Y. 2019-20 other than GIA from MoH&FW and Internal Revenue Receipts, (IV) Financial Regulations, (V) Delegation of Financial Powers as per DFPR and (VI)PFMS Implementation**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

### **31.4 FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE**

#### **(a) FSSAI notified/approved food laboratories after last Food Authority meeting-for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

#### **(b) Oil Survey-for information**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information.

#### **(c) Khoa Survey-for information**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information.

### **31.5 FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE**

#### **(a) Mandatory online submission of Annual Return by Food Businesses w.e.f. FY 2020-2021**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(b) Revising the policy for Auto-generation of License/Registration and Auto-rejection of applications in case of non-response**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed and authorized the Chairperson to decide the time and extent of implementation of proposal.

#### **(c) Food Safety Compliance System – Status**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information.

#### **(d) MoU between FSSAI and States/UTs for Strengthening of Food Safety Ecosystem in the Country**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(e) Simplifying and Reforming Jurisdictional Matters**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(f) Coordination of BIS and FSSAI for issuance of license for Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(g) Rationalizing the number of documents required for FSSAI License**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

#### **(h) Scheme for waiver of penalties due to non-submission or late submission of Annual or Half-Yearly Returns for previous financial years up to FY 2019-20**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.



**ANY OTHER AGENDA ITEM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR**

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 31.IV**

**1. Delegation of Administrative Powers to the Officers of FSSAI**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information.

**2. Structure of FSSAI HQ, Regional Offices, Branch offices & Laboratories**

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**3. Direct Recruitment Status in FSSAI**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information.

**4. Use of Allura Red in the Food category 14.2.6 Distilled Spirituous beverages**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

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



**Chief Executive Officer**



**Chairperson**

**List of Participants**

**A. Members of the Authority:**

1. Ms. Rita Teatota, Chairperson, FSSAI;
2. Shri Arun Singhal, Member Secretary;
3. Smt. Reema Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
4. Shri Mandeep Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
5. Shri Ashish Gawai, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
6. Dr. J. Michael Raja, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmer Welfare, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage

**B. Special invitees:**

1. Ms. Parna Dasgupta, FICCI;
2. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);
3. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors Association (AIFPA);

**C. Officers of the FSSAI**

1. Shri Rajeev Jain, ED (HR)
2. Dr Shobhit Jain, ED (RS)
3. Dr N. Bhaskar, Advisor (Standards)
4. Dr Rubeena Shaheen, Director (Standards)
5. Dr Amit Sharma, Director (Imports)
6. Ms Inoshi Sharma, Director (SBCD)
7. Shri Sanu Jacob, Director (Lab Training and Surveillance)
8. Shri Sharad Agrawal, Director (Training)
9. Shri Yogesh Kamat, Director
10. Ms Subhaprada Nishtala, Director (ITCFSAN)
11. Shri Raj Singh, Head (GA)



12. Shri Kumar Anil, Head (QA)
13. Shri Sunil Bakshi, Head (Regulations)
14. Shri AK Chanana, Head (IT)
15. Shri R. K. Mittal, Head (RCD)
16. Dr. A.C. Mishra, Joint Director (S & S)
17. Shri P. Karthikeyan, Deputy Director (Codex/ Regulation)
18. Dr A.K. Sharma, Expert mentor
19. Dr S. C. Khurana, Lead expert
20. Shri K. Harish, Assistant Director, (S & S)
21. Ms Ratna Shrivastava, Sci. IV(I) (Regulations)
22. Ms Kanika Aggarwal, Technical Officer (QA)
23. Shri Ganesh Bhatt, Technical Officer (S & S)
24. Ms Manpreet Kaur, Technical Officer (S & S)
25. Ms Arkalina Dwibedi, Technical Officer (S & S)
26. Ms Aiman Zaidi, Technical Officer (S & S)

## **31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Food Authority (20.10.2020)** **CEO's Detailed Report- (As Tabled)**

### **1. FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATION**

#### **1. Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and the Work on Standard Setting after the last Authority meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.**

The Scientific Panels met a number of times during the period and made significant contributions in arriving at draft standards and suggestions on issues of safety in food. Various recommendations so made were deliberated in the Scientific Committee of the FSSAI which has representation from all Scientific Panels as well as eminent scientists and the same have been placed in the Agenda for the approval of the Food Authority.

**1.1 Scientific Committee meetings (1):** The thirty fifth (35<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2020.

**1.2 Scientific Panel meetings (19):** Following Panels except Antibiotic Residues, Milk and Milk products and Labelling met during the period:

- i) **Scientific Panel on Pesticides Residues:** 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the panel held on 16.09.2020
- ii) **Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards:** 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 25.09.2020.
- iii) **Scientific Panel on Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their Products (Including Bakery):** 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of Panel held on 17.09.2020
- iv) **Scientific Panel on Contaminants in Food Chain:** 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of panel held on 11.09.2020
- v) **Scientific Panel on Food additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food:** 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Panel held on 09.09.2020
- vi) **Scientific Panel on Fruits & Vegetables and their Products (Including Dried Fruits and Nuts):** 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 11.07.2020
- vii) **Scientific Panel on Functional foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other Similar Products:** 46<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 & 47<sup>th</sup> meeting is held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020
- viii) **Scientific Panel on Meat and Meat Products including Poultry:** 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Panel held on 18.09.2020
- ix) **Scientific Panel on Oils and Fats:** 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 14.09.2020



- x) **Scientific Panel on Water (including flavoured water) & Beverages (alcoholic non -alcoholic):** 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 08.09.2020.
- xi) **Scientific Panel on Spices and Culinary Herbs:** 08th meeting of Panel held on 15th September, 2020.
- xii) **Scientific Panel on Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners, Sugar & Honey:** 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 19.06.2020
- xiii) **Scientific Panel on Packaging:** 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of panel to be held on 24.09.2020
- xiv) **Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Food:** 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 06.07.2020
- xv) **Scientific Panel on Fish and Fisheries Products:** 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of panel held on 22.09.2020
- xvi) **Scientific Panel on Alcoholic Beverages:** 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of panel held on 23.09.2020
- xvii) **Scientific Panel on Nutrition and Fortification:** 14th meeting of panel held on 30th September, 2020
- xviii) **Method of sampling and food analysis:** 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of panel held on 18.06.2020

2. Total 16 Final notifications relating to amendment in the FSS (Food Products Standards & Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and FSS (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) Regulations, 2011, FSS (Contaminant, toxin and residues) Regulations and FSS (Laboratory and sampling analysis) Regulations, including one new principal regulation namely FSS (Safe food and balanced diets for Children in School) Regulations, 2020 have been notified in the Gazette of India.

3. Total 8 final amendment notifications relating to articles of food, **including new principal regulations on labelling and display and food for infant nutrition** have been finalized and are under the process of vetting and approval of Central Government. Eight (8) amendment draft notifications have been published in the Gazette of India to invite comments and suggestions from stakeholders.

## 2. FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE

### 2.1. Strengthening Food Safety Ecosystem

#### 2.1.1. Strengthening of State Food Laboratories

A grant of Rs. 0.50 crore has been sanctioned to Composite Testing Laboratory, Khandaghat, Himachal Pradesh for Microbiology Laboratory in October 2020 for setting up / strengthening of State Food Testing Laboratories. With this, the total grant sanctioned/released towards upgradation has risen from Rs. 312.98 crore to Rs. 313.48 crore covering 39 State Food Testing Laboratories across 29 States/UTs.



### 2.1.2. Food Safety on Wheels (FSW)

2 more FSWs have been sanctioned/delivered raising the total number of FSWs sanctioned/delivered from 88 to 90 to 33 States/UTs.

### 2.2. Capacity Building Programs

Due to nation-wide lockdown, FSSAI organized Online training programs including live training session (practical session) have been organized by FSSAI, and ITC-FSAN., Mumbai to utilize the lock down period for all the laboratory personnel of State/UTs ,FSSAI Notified laboratories, other laboratories, Food Safety Officers, FBO's, Export Industry, Students and Consumers. Total 287 online trainings have been conducted during month of April, May, June, July, August and September 2020. Total 100,747 participants attended the training programs.

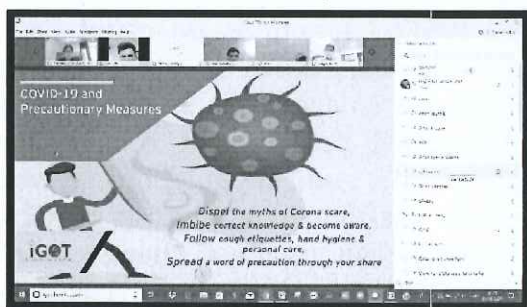
## 3. FOOD IMPORT

**3.1. Import of Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup:** To ensure the quality of honey and to contain the misuse of imported Golden syrup/Invert sugar syrup/Rice syrup in production of honey, all the importers/Food Business operators which are importing Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup into India have been directed to also submit necessary documents regarding details of the manufacturer(s) with end use to whom the aforesaid imported food items will be supplied and Authorised Officers have been directed to share the details of the cleared imported consignments of Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup with the concerned Central Designated Officer. **(Order No. 1-1600/FSSAI/Imports/2016 (Part 18) dated 20.05.2020 is enclosed) at Annexure-I.**

## 4. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### 4.1. Training on COVID-19 preventive guidelines

FSSAI has launched online training programme for food business operators on COVID-19 preventive guidelines. The training module was developed aligning with the guidelines issued by FSSAI, Ministry of Health and WHO. This COVID training is free of cost and is available in both Hindi and English. The training is being delivered online by the trained & certified trainers. The duration of the programme is 2 hours only. First training programme was conducted on 27 April 2020. As on date, more than 90000 food handlers have been trained.





#### **4.2. Food Safety Training & Certification programme**

FoSTaC which is the large scale training programme for food business operators on Schedule 4 has become on line also. During COVID Pandemic, physical classes was restricted and on line training and assessment started. Nearly 400 training programs were conducted on line and 16500 food safety supervisors were trained which includes street food vendors, anganwadi wrokers as well. However, currently both of these two modes are being used.

One hour mandatory COVID training has been incorporated in regular FoSTaC Courses in addition to the stand alone COVID courses. Currently there are 241 active training partners and more than 2000 trainers working for the FoSTaC programme. Till date, 3.38 lakhs of food handlers have been trained in 15063 training programmes.

A special drive for training of food handlers working for the MDM scheme, ICDS Scheme, Govt canteens and religious places has also been initiated. It is planned to conduct 400 trainings in these sectors within the current financial year.

Similar training drives for other FoSTaC courses ( as a part of the MOU) are also in pipeline

#### **4.3 Regulatory Staff Training**

Training division also conducted induction training of FSOs using online mode. ITCFSAN was the implemented agency for this programme.

In view of the above development in capacity building initiative of FSSAI, training division has taken the step to develop a common training portal which will align all training initiatives of FSSAI on a single platform. Generic content like genesis of FSS Act, basic concept of food safety etc will be disseminated through learning management system (LMS) and assesement will be done thorough this portal. In this connection, it is to mention that, Training Division has already digitised two FoSTaC manual- Advanced Catering and Advanced Manufacturing.

### **5. FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE**

#### **5.1. Launch of FOSCoS**

Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCoS) was launched initially in 9 States/UTs viz Delhi, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Odisha, Puducherry and Ladakh on 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2020. It replaces the existing online Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS). FoSCoS functions on cloud based server with upgraded software and hardware and will resolve the often reported issue of slowness of existing FLRS portal. FoSCoS is envisaged to be the one-stop 'Compliance Portal' for food safety and in future will be escalated to have more modules for functional needs such as advanced MIS, audit module, linkage with InFolNet, hygiene rating etc. FoSCoS essentially has the same flows as FLRS, so that users have convenience in using FoSCoS. The cardinal change is the methodology of licensing for manufacturers which now shall be based on standardised product list rather than a text box approach. Module for filing of



Annual Return has been incorporated in FoSCoS. Mandatory documents have been rationalised and many paper based declarations have been replaced with online declaration. The central theme is to enhance the ease of doing business for the food business operators without compromising. It has been planned to make FoSCoS live in remaining 27 States/UTs on or before 01<sup>st</sup> November 2020. A public notice has also been issued vide number 15(31)2020/FoSCoS/RCD/FSSAI dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## **5.2. Using Standardised Food Products for the purpose of Licensing and Registration**

The major change implemented in FoSCoS is the shift in the procedure of licensing from text based approach to a listing approach. The same was approved in 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of Food Authority and now stands executed in FoSCoS. The new approach will help in generation of credible data and enable data analytics. It will also enhance ease of doing business for users while applying for license. Standardised Food Products have been mapped with Food category system and the same has been incorporated in Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCoS). The methodology adopted would replace the text box approach for the manufacturer to the selection from the list of standardised products.

## **5.3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FSSAI and States/UTs**

Under the FSS Act, the primary responsibility for implementation of provisions of the FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder rests with States/UTs. However, infrastructure and regulatory gaps in the country's food safety ecosystem exist which are non-uniform across States and UTs. Of late, several reports have highlighted concerns regarding infrastructure and regulatory gaps in the country's food safety ecosystem. These gaps need to be addressed in a planned and customized manner to ensure uniform food safety practices throughout the country. In order to address the gaps in the food safety ecosystem of States/UTs and to promote the culture of safe and wholesome food through pooling of technical knowledge and best practices, as a shared responsibility, FSSAI proposes to extend both technical and financial support to the States/UTs. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Strengthening of Food Safety Eco-system in the country is proposed to be signed between FSSAI and States/UTs. The objective of the proposed MoU is as under:

- (i) Strengthening of enforcement and compliance system,
- (ii) Strengthening of food testing system, in States/UTs,
- (iii) Implementation of various initiatives under the Eat Right India movement in a focused manner,
- (iv) Any other matter consequential to ensuring food safety.

## **6. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**



In an effort to meet the continuous growing demand for office and lab space etc. FSSAI has occupied spaces at Chennai Port Trust (1306 sq.mtr.) and JNPT Township, Navi Mumbai (11,873) on long term lease of 30 years from 29.01.2020. The Authority has made lump sum payment of Rs. 17,09,04,516/- and Rs. 2,52,95,102/- to Chennai Port Trust and JNPT, Mumbai respectively. The Lease agreements of both the spaces have been executed on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 and 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, respectively.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has allocated 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & terrace temporary structure in Mass Mailing Unit (MMU) Building for office accommodation to FSSAI vide their allotment letter no. P. 15025/96/2019-FR(Pt.II) dated 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. The space is being renovated with provision of two lifts in the building. The work has already started and is likely to be completed by March, 2021.

## **7. SOCIAL BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE**

The progress so far that has happened since 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 is as follow:

### **7.1. Social and Behaviour Change Communication**

#### **7.1.1. Engagement Activities**

- a. Launch of Eat Right Challenge for Cities and Districts
- b. Launch of Eat Right Creativity Challenge
- c. NetProFaN Monthly Challenges
  - i. Sept Theme – Food Fortification – Jingle competition
  - ii. October Theme - HFSS

#### **7.1.2. IEC**

- a. Short videos on Training
- b. Videos on Eat Right School to be integrated with School Health Programme
- c. Supporting POSHAN Maah through social media

#### **7.1.3. Publications**

- a. Eat Right Handbook
- b. Do you Eat Right?
- c. Food Safety and hygiene guidelines for opening canteen/mess after COVID
- d. Orange Book (Revised)
- e. Launch of NetproFan newsletter

#### **7.1.4. Training and Capacity Building**

- a. Undertaken training for the School Health Programme

#### **7.1.5. Way Ahead**

- a. Eat Right Challenge for Eat Right Smart Cities Challenges in collaboration with Food Foundation and Smart city mission
- b. Advertorials in newspapers

## **7.2. Food Fortification Resource Centre**

### **7.2.1. Advocacy**

- a. National webinars for staples – Rice, Wheat Flour, Oil
- b. State level regional webinars – Western and Eastern region
- c. Supporting POSHAN Maah through social media

### **7.2.2. IEC**

- a. IEC posters/dangers for Karnataka / Andhra Pradesh/ UP State
- b. Short videos on fortification

### **7.2.3. Training and Capacity Building**

- a. 4 regional joint training with NIPPCD with all State ICDS officials
- b. Online training for FSOs

### **7.2.4. Publications**

- a. Dietary Recommendations and Fortification – A handbook for States/UTs (to clarify and support implementation of fortification)

File No. 1-16001/FSSAI/Imports/2016 (Part 18)  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
A Statutory Authority Established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002

The 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

ORDER


Subject: Import of Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup - reg.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has been informed that Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup are sometimes being used in production of Honey being cheaper in cost and due to having similar physical properties and easy availability.

2. Hence to ensure the quality of honey and to contain the misuse of imported Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup in production of honey, all the importers/food Business operators who are importing Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup into India are directed to also submit necessary documents at scrutiny stage before clearance to concerned Authorized Officer regarding details of the manufacturer(s) with end use to whom the aforesaid imported food items will be supplied.

3. Authorized Officers are directed to carry out clearance of aforesaid products only after ensuring the necessary documents and fulfillment of other requirements of FSSAI. Further Authorized Officer shall share the details of the cleared imported consignments of Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar Syrup/Rice Syrup with the concerned Central Designated Officer to ensure compliance to Regulatory Compliance Division order dated 23.12.2019 (copy enclosed).

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority

  
(Dr. Anil Sharma)  
Director (Imports)  
FSSAI-HQ

To:

1. All Authorized Officers, FSSAI- for compliance of above order
2. Director (Customs) & Commissioner (Single Window Project, UBI-C) with a request to circulate to all officials of Customs Department working as Authorized Officers for compliance.

Copy for information to:-

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PPS to CEO, FSSAI
3. Executive Director (CS), FSSAI
4. Advisor (QA), FSSAI-HQ
5. Advisor (Standards), FSSAI-HQ
6. CTO, FSSAI-HQ (for uploading on the FSSAI website)