

**Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Food Authority held on June 24, 2021 at
10:30 hrs through virtual medium**

The thirty fifth meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 10:30 hrs on 24th June, 2021 under the chairmanship of Ms. Rita Teaotia, Chairperson, FSSAI. The meeting was conducted through online virtual forum due to covid-19 pandemic. The list of participants is at **Annexure -1**.

Head (GA) requested the members to submit duly signed Annual Declaration of Interest and Specific Declaration of Interest at the end of the meeting.

Item No. I: Confirmation of minutes of 33rd meeting held on 23/03/2021

The minutes of 33rd Food Authority meeting were confirmed with following inclusions:

1. Under the Agenda Item No. 33.1(1.1.3): After the sentence "CEO suggested that "wheat + other flour" was not consumer friendly and therefore flour mix with 10 - 20% other grains with wheat flour should also be called "multi grain flour" and the same was agreed.", the following may be added: "The product shall have flour composition obtained from whole wheat ranging from 50-90% and rest of the flour composition shall be from other permitted ingredients singly or in combination."
2. Under the Agenda Item No. 33.1 (1.1.8), the following paragraph may be inserted: "1.1.8 Labelling provisions for non-caloric sweeteners would be prominently on the label of bottle/container but not on crown".

Further, with regard to the suggestion that provision for inspecting foreign food manufacturing facilities should be only for high risk food category (Agenda item 33.1(4)), Chairperson emphasized that this provision is only an enabling clause and inspection would ordinarily be carried out as per the risk categorization of the food products and other risk parameters.

The minutes were approved as amended.

Item No. II: Confirmation of minutes of Special meeting of Food Authority

(34th) held on 23/04/2021

The minutes of 34th Food Authority meeting were confirmed and adopted with correction to include name of "Shri Thanglura, Mizoram Consumer's Union" in the list of participants.

Further, Shri Thanglura suggested to have two representatives from Consumer Organizations in the composition of the Food Authority and the same was noted. Chairperson clarified that the constitution of the Food Authority is done at the level of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Since the constitution of the Food Authority is awaited, few representatives are being invited as special invitees to the meetings of Food Authority.

Item No. III: Action Taken Report of 33rd & 34th meetings (to be presented during the meeting)

The Action Taken Report was noted by the Food Authority. However, one of the special invitees requested to circulate ATR well in advance to the Food Authority for review. The Authority took note of this remark and made it clear that the ATR is presented for the purpose of information only. Any modifications are not allowed as ATR reflects the action taken on the basis of the decisions taken by the Authority.

With respect to percentage of Chicory mix in Coffee under item 1.3, Advisor (S&S) informed that the inputs from Coffee Board of India have been received only recently. In this regard, CEO mentioned that these inputs will be analysed and accordingly placed before the next meeting of the Food Authority.

Item No. IV: CEO's Report (to be presented during the meeting)

CEO, FSSAI in his report, simultaneously tabled during the meeting, highlighted the action taken and developments since the last meeting of the Food Authority with respect to virtual meetings of various Scientific Panels of FSSAI and finalization of standards/ methods, training and capacity building programs, MoUs with States/UTs along with technical and financial support to them, Meetings of various Codex Committees.

Further, he apprised the Authority regarding a meeting to be held with stakeholders on 30.06.2021 under the chairmanship of Chairperson, FSSAI on issues pertaining to Front of Pack labelling to reach a consensus.

Authority took note of the CEO's report. The detailed report is placed at **Annexure-2**.

AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

35.1 FOOD STANDARDS

1 ITEMS PROPOSED FOR FINAL (DRAFT) NOTIFICATION

1.1 Amendment to FSS (Food products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

1.1.1 Relating to 2.4 Cereals and Cereal Products:

(A) Standard for Basmati Rice

Special invitees requested to notify the standard for Basmati Rice as draft once again since substantial changes have been brought out in the proposed final notification which would have impact on exports, and the fact that stakeholders have had no opportunity to comment on the revised proposal.

The Authority considered the request and agreed for draft notification of the revised standard for Basmati Rice.

(B) Nomenclature of Soy Yoghurt in the context of the use of dairy terms

Special invitees suggested to provide for the term "with low-dairy ingredients" as an optional declaration. The Authority did not agree to this suggestion in the interest of consumers, who may have specific reason to use non-dairy products.

The Authority considered and approved the final notification relating to nomenclature of Soy Yoghurt, as proposed.

1.2 Amendment to FSS (Packaging) Regulations, 2018

The Authority took note of Option 1 and Option 2 as placed in the Agenda (Page no. 11-12). Special invitees expressed a preference for Option 1 which relates to shifting of proviso for drinking water (both packaged and mineral water), both existing and the proposed amendment to "General requirements". However, it was clarified that Option 2 of placing the amendment under the regulations 4 is more clear and would also facilitate use of all packaging materials permitted under the regulations.

Special invitees requested to give time for their comments. To this, Chairperson directed to submit the same by 24h June, 2021 evening.

Special invitees submitted their comments through email dated 25.06. 2021 in support of option 2 with modification as:

"provided further that food grade packaging materials as specified in regulations 4(1) to (3), which may or may not contain plastic as component ~~other than plastics as mentioned~~ 4(4), compatible with the water to be packaged, may also be used. In such cases, requirements of transparency would not apply.

With the above deliberations, Authority approved option 2 of the agenda note along with the modification above.

2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR DRAFT NOTIFICATION

2.1 Amendment to FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011

2.1.1 Relating to 2.1. Dairy Products and Analogues

A. Lowering of Fat content for Double toned milk

B. Omission of "curd" bracketed with Dahi in 2.1.3

C. Low fat Mozzarella Cheese and Pizza Cheese

D. Low Dry Matter in Processed Cheese and Processed Cheese Spread

Special invitees had some comments on the draft notifications. To this, CEO

highlighted that the comments may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

With respect to items (C) & (D), the Authority, after considering the secretariat's remark that these standards may be returned to the panel as both C & D are suggesting only one standard based on the revoked Codex Standard and leaving the rest for next meeting, decided to refer the standard back to the concerned Scientific Panel for framing a comprehensive standard of all the products mentioned in items (C) & (D).

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed, except (C) & (D).

2.1.2 Relating to 2.6 Fish and Fish Products: Limits of naturally occurring formaldehyde in finfish and shellfish

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed. It was informed that any comments may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

2.1.3 Relating to 2.7 Sweets & Confectionery: Change in labelling declaration in case of Chocolates.

The Authority approved the draft notification with the secretariat's remarks of rephrasing the label declaration as "contains cocoa butter equivalent/vegetable fat.....butter" and to remove the list of vegetable fats from the regulations 2.7.4 (5) (b)(III). It was informed that any comments may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

2.1.4 Relating to 2.9 Salt, spices, condiments and related products: Deletion of the parameter 'calcium content expressed as calcium oxide on dry basis' for Nutmeg (whole)

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed. It was informed that any comments may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

2.1.5 Relating to Chapter 3: Appendix A & C

A) Revision in the limit of "Tocopherols" for the Food Category 2.1.3

Lard, tallow, fish oil, and other animal fats under Appendix A.

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed. It was informed that any comments may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

B) Inclusion of processing aids under Appendix C

CEO apprised that industry had submitted a list of currently used processing aids which are at different stages viz. Final notification, Draft notification and under consideration of Scientific Panel and Food Authority. It will not be proper to prosecute FBOs for using those processing aids which are under consideration. Hence, for smooth implementation, it has been decided to operationalize the two notifications already approved by Food Authority from 1st January 2022 and to issue direction to the Food Safety Commissioners of States/UTs not to penalize FBOs for those processing aids still under consideration (a list can be annexed) until a view is taken.

Director, MoH&FW suggested to take opinion of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and any other related departments on enzymes derived from GM sources. CEO mentioned that Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has already clarified that the processed food where LMO/GMO are not present will come under the purview of FSSAI.

With these deliberations the Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed. However, draft notification will be shared with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other related departments for their comments at the time of public consultation.

2.2 Amendment to FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011.

CEO apprised various stages of MRLs notifications and highlighted that the issues have already been discussed and presented before the Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and the same will be discussed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The Authority, thereafter, approved the draft notification.

With regard to the concerns raised by the Special invitees on enforcement of these standards, it was suggested to submit a formal note.

2.3 Amendment to FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018.

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed. Comments, if any, may be submitted at the draft notification stage.

2.4 Amendment to FSS (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020.

CEO briefed the Authority that labelling regulations have been notified on 17th November, 2020 and the same will come into force from 17th November, 2021. However, there are few amendments in these regulations which are at different stages viz. final notification, draft notification and under consideration of 35th Food Authority. He therefore proposed to operationalize all these amendments from 17th November, 2021 for ease of doing business.

Special invitees raised concern regarding the limited time period left is till November 2021 and requested to extend the timeline for operationalization

of these amendments. However, the same was not agreed by the Authority as the proposed operationalization is meant for facilitation of industry.

The Authority agreed with the proposal of CEO to operationalize all these amendments from 17th November, 2021 and approved the draft notification, as proposed.

2.5 Amendment to FSS (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020

Advisor (S&S) briefed that the Scientific Panel (SP) has sought direction on timeline for review of regulations. To this, Authority expressed that issue may rise at any time and there cannot be any standard guideline/direction on timeline for reviewing the standards/regulations. The Scientific Panel and Scientific Committee (SC) at its level, based on stakeholder's request for review may assess the appropriateness of the request and the justification provided, backed by scientific evidence. If found appropriate, the standard/regulation may be considered for review. Chairperson also emphasized that stakeholders should not submit the same comments again, if they have been rejected earlier after due consideration by Scientific Panel.

Additionally, CEO informed the Authority that infant definition and re-insertion of Infant milk food category has not been agreed by the SP/SC, as infant definition is in line with IMS Act. However, though infant milk food (IMF) is defined as a part of infant formula (IF), IMF purely being milk based has been placed under GST slab of 5 % and IF at 18 %. This being more of a policy matter rather than technical, he requested the Authority to consider and approve insertion of enabling provision under the draft for use of the term 'Infant Milk Food'.

With these deliberations, the Authority approved the draft notification along with the proposal to insert the category of Infant Milk Food (IMF).

3 OTHER ISSUES (Please refer volume-ii)

3.1 Draft provision related to 'Vegan Foods' in India

The Authority took note of Option-1 and Option-2 as placed in the Agenda (Page no. 46-47). Special invitees recommended for Option 2 which relates to utilizing QCI service to develop certification system subject to harmonization with ISO. However, the view that prevailed was Option 1 which relates to inspection, verification and compliance of the end product is much simpler and may not involve high cost of certification.

With the above deliberations, Authority approved the agenda item with Option-1.

Chairperson asked the special invitees to submit comments to incorporate any additional features, if felt necessary.

3.2 Recommendation on adoption of ICMR-RDA 2020

Advisor (S&S) briefed that transition time of 12 months for adoption of ICMR-RDA 2020 has been recommended by the Scientific Committee but a final decision may be taken by the Authority.

Special invitees requested for a transition time of 3 years considering reformulation of existing products available in market and products already under clinical trials. To this, CEO mentioned that requests from several stakeholders to adopt new RDA, 2020 (already in public domain since 2020) have been received, and the stakeholders are already aware of the same.

With these deliberations, Authority approved adopting RDA, 2020 with a transition time of maximum 24 months. It was also decided that no further time extension will be given. Authority also approved the recommendation to place the same on FSSAI website.

3.3 Mandatory fortification - Issues and concerns

The Authority took note of the views of the Scientific Panel and Scientific Committee which reflects that before proceeding for mandatory fortification,

impact assessment of voluntary fortification of staples which constitute a major part of the diets of Indian population is essential.

Director (FFRC) invited Dr. N. Arlappa, Scientist-F, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad to present Consumption Pattern of Milk, Oil and Dietary Vitamin A in India which covered citizens from all age groups and socio-economic strata.

Dr. N. Arlappa in his presentation, emphasized the fact that in spite of implementation of nutrient specific National Nutrition Programmes, micronutrient malnutrition continues to be a public health concern in India. He supported the idea of Mandatory Fortification in Milk and Oil as the probability of vitamin A toxicity is remote at the fortification levels set by Authority.

With these deliberations, the Authority directed FFRC to examine the available studies on micronutrient malnutrition in the context of the status paper provided by the Scientific Panel. FFRC will facilitate the Scientific Panel by developing a concise note including the data on deficiency of micronutrients in the country and suggesting the mode for fortification along with possible long term impact of mandatory fortification. FFRC would also bring on board subject matter experts to interact with the Scientific Panel.

The Authority recommended to refer the matter back to the Sc. Panel to look into the issue comprehensively along with the comments received on draft notification.

3.4 Core Committee (CC) on development of safety and/or quality criteria for products not covered under FSSR

The Authority approved the composition and ToR of Core Committee (CC) on development of safety and/or quality criteria for products not covered under FSSR, as proposed.

Special invitees suggested that this Committee should also examine the food or ingredients mentioned in the Indian Food Composition Tables (IFCT), 2017, National Institute of Nutrition and the same was agreed.

3.5 Method for determination of patulin in apple and apple juice

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

3.6 Revised FSSAI Manual of Methods of Analysis of Foods – alcoholic beverages

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

3.7 Certificate of Analysis (CoA) format for imported enzyme preparations derived from Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMM) for use as processing aids

Special invitees raised their observation that point no. 4, 7 & 8 of CoA are not analysed in every batch and are determined at the time of safety evaluation and approval only. Further, these parameters are not followed globally and hence, requested to delete these parameters from CoA.

Chairperson directed the secretariat to examine these three parameters and international practices followed for same. If as a consequence, there is any change in the proposal, the same will be placed before the Authority in its next meeting. If not, the CoA, as proposed, will be treated as approved.

35.2 FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE

1. Ratification of Notification/Recognition/Discontinuation of Food Testing Laboratories; 2. Information on Strengthening of State Food Testing Laboratories; 3. Information on Strengthening of Referral Food Testing Laboratories; 4. Information on Food Safety on Wheels; 5. Information on Trans-Fat Survey-2021; 6. Information on Honey Survey-2021; 7. Information on Online Capacity Building Programs

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified, as placed.

35.3 Ratification of operationalization of standards/regulations and directions issued by FSSAI

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified, as placed.

35.4 FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE

1. Redefining the criteria to determine the licensing authority -Schedule 1 of FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011

The Authority approved the agenda item and authorised the Chairperson to make further changes to the proposed order on behalf of the Authority.

2. Mapping of new standardised food products with Food Category System in FoSCoS for Licensing and Registration

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

3. Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS): Recent Developments and Upcoming Modules

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

4. Operationalization of policy for obtaining Central Licenses by food businesses manufacturing products covered under Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

5. Enforcement of FSS Act, 2006 & Rules/Regulations made thereunder in respect of the Food Business Operators having Central Licenses

The Authority considered the agenda item and approved, as proposed.

6. Permission for use of pre-printed packaging material

Authority noted that the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 will be effective from 17th November 2021. There may be old packaging material with FBOs that could not be utilized due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, it was suggested to incorporate the provision for approval on case by case basis for such unutilized packaging material in the said direction.

With these deliberations, Authority approved the agenda item.

7. MoU between FSSAI and States/UTs for Strengthening of Food Safety Eco-system in the Country-latest status

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

8. Conditional Licensing for Proprietary Foods

Special invitees made an observation that there is a fundamental shift in the licensing provisions for proprietary foods and requested to bring out this order as a draft for submitting their comments/suggestions. The suggestion was agreed to. The order will be placed on FSSAI website seeking comments/suggestions from stakeholders giving a short period of time, up to 15th July 2021 and may be finalised by the end of July 2021.

It was also proposed to make respective amendments in the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 and the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 so as to provide a legal framework for the Order.

With these deliberations, Authority approved the agenda item.

9. Third Party Audit Agencies of FSSAI: Recognition of agencies under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified, as placed.

ANY OTHER AGENDA ITEM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR

Supplementary Agenda Item 35.IV

1. Approval of the draft notification for amendment in FSS (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 related to change in the nomenclature of 'Multi Source Edible Vegetable Oil' as 'Multi Source Edible Oil'.

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

2. Addendum to Agenda Item No. 35.3 related to Operationalization of standards/ regulations and directions issued by FSSAI

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified, as placed.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15/06/2021 under the Chairmanship of Chairperson, FSSAI regarding representations received from Industry Associations to grant the extension of timelines of various FSS Regulations/notifications

The Authority took note of the agenda item with following observations:

1. With respect to S. No. 2 of the table, special invitees mentioned that there is an editorial error in the final notification relating to Coconut water. They were advised to submit details so that the error can be corrected if it is in the nature of a typographical error.

2. With respect to S. No. 4 of the table, CEO mentioned that decision in column no. 6 has inadvertently been linked to extension of IFR at S. No. 1. The regulation at S. No. 4 has not been considered for further extension.

3. With respect to S. No. 17 of the table, it was decided to issue a comprehensive direction to operationalize the amendments in (i) FSS (Prohibition and Restriction of Sales) Regulations, 2011; (ii) FSS (Food product standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 with respect to nomenclature of "Multi Source Edible Oil" and (iii) FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations related to revision in font size, warning statement on sweeteners, labelling requirement of Multi Source Edible Oil and any other amendment as approved by the Food Authority till date.

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



Chief Executive Officer



Chairperson

Annexure-1

List of Participants

A. Members of the Authority:

1. Ms. Rita Teaotia, Chairperson, FSSAI;
2. Shri Arun Singhal, Member Secretary;
3. Shri Manoj Joshi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
4. Shri Diwakar Nath Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
5. Shri Ashish Gawai, Director, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
6. Shri B.N. Dixit, Director, Legal Metrology, Department of Consumer Affairs;
7. Dr. Hemant Koshia, Commissioner of Food Safety, Gujarat
8. Smt. Manjushree Narasimhaiah, Commissioner of Food Safety, Karnataka
9. Shakeel-Ul-Rehman Rather, Commissioner of Food Safety, Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

B. Special invitees:

1. Prof. S Ayyappan, Chairperson, Scientific Committee;
2. Dr. N. Arlappa, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad;
3. Shri Avula Laxmaiah, ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad;
4. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);
5. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors Association (AIFPA);
6. Ms. Parna Dasgupta, FICCI;
7. Shri Thanglura, Mizoram Consumer's Union

C. Officers of the FSSAI

1. Ms. Inoshi Sharma, ED (CS);
2. Shri Rajeev Jain, ED (HR);

3. Dr. N. Bhaskar, Advisor (S&S);
4. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Advisor (QA);
5. Ms. Lily Prasad, CTO;
6. Dr. Amit Sharma, Director (Imports);
7. Dr. Sanu Jacob, Director (Quality Assurance);
8. Shri Sharad Agrawal, Director (Training);
9. Ms. Sweety Behera, Director (S&S);
10. Lt Col Lejy Jacob John, Director (GA);
11. Shri Raj Singh, Head (GA);
12. Shri R. K. Mittal, Head (RCD);
13. Shri Umesh Jain, Joint Director (QA);
14. Shri Pushp Vanam, Joint Director (S&S);
15. Dr. Inderjeet Singh Hura, Joint Director (S&S);
16. Shri P. Karthikeyan, Deputy Director (Codex/ Regulation);
17. Shri Praful Ranjan, Deputy Director (HR);
18. Dr S. C. Khurana, Lead Expert;
19. Ms. Veenu Taneja, Assistant Director, (S&S);
20. Shri Harish Kumar R. K, Assistant Director, (S&S);
21. Ms. Monika Puniya, Assistant Director, (S&S);
22. Shri Akhilesh Gupta, Assistant Director, (RCD);
23. Ms. Kriti Chugh, Assistant Director, (RCD);
24. Ms. Ratna Shrivastava, Assistant Director, (Regulations);
25. Ms. Kanika Aggarwal, Technical Officer (QA);
26. Ms Aiman Zaidi, Technical Officer (S&S);
27. Mohd. Amir Parray, Technical Officer (S&S);
28. Shri Ganesh Bhat, Technical Officer (S&S);
29. Ms. Firdaus Jahan, Technical Officer (S&S);

30. Ms. Manpreet Kaur, Technical Officer (S&S);
31. Ms. Arkalina Dwivedi, Technical Officer (S&S);
32. Ms. Anju Kavi, Technical Officer (S&S)

35th Meeting of Food Authority to be held on 24.06.2021
CEO's Detailed Report- (As Tabled)

1. FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS

1. Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and the Work on Standard Setting after the 33rd Food Authority meeting held on 23.03.2021 and Special meeting of Food Authority (34th) held on 23.04.2021.

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 FSSAI and the same have been placed as Agenda items for the approval of the Food Authority.

1.1 Scientific Committee meetings (1): The thirty eighth (38th) meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 13.05.2021.

1.2 Scientific Panel meetings (14): Following Panels met during the period:

SP. No.	Name of Scientific Panel	Meeting No.	Date
SP-01	Food additives, Flavourings, Processing aids & Materials in contact with food	49	16.04.2021
SP-02	Pesticides Residues	67	20.04.2021
SP-05	Functional foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other similar products	52	03.05.2021
SP-08	Labelling and Claims/Advertisements	35	23.04.2021
SP-09	Method of Sampling and Analysis	32	28.04.2021 & 29.04.2021
SP-10	Fish and Fisheries Products	22	13.04.2021

SP-11	Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their products (including Bakery)	29	15.04.2021
SP-13	Meat & Meat Products, poultry	16	16.04.2021
SP-15	Oils &Fats	21	16.04.2021
SP-16	Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners Sugar & Honey	18	19.03.2021
SP-17	Water & Beverages	19	09.04.2021
SP-18	Nutrition and Fortification	16	23.03.2021
SP-20	Packaging	04	20.04.2021
SP-21	Alcoholic Beverages	04	15.04.2021

2. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

2.1 2nd Edition of Manual for FSOs

First edition of Food Safety Officers (FSO) Manual was published in the year 2017 and also uploaded on FSSAI website. Considering the massive developments in the FSSAI since 2017 and the need of their incorporation, the 2nd edition of the manual has now been completely revamped, developed and designed as a ready reckoner to facilitate FSOs to perform their day to day functions.

2.2 Training Programmes for Regulatory officials

2.2.1 Induction Training for regulatory officials

Clauses 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 underlines the need of training for Food Safety officers and Designated Officers etc. Considering this mandate, FSSAI has devised a Training Policy for regulatory officials in 2016 according to which induction, refresher and orientation trainings are provided. Accordingly, nearly 260 Regulatory officials have been trained during the year 2020 and 2021 (till date).

2.2.2 Training on COVID-19 Guidelines

FSSAI has started conducting training on COVID-19 guidelines for the food safety regulatory officials. More than 850 regulatory officials including Food Safety Officers, Designated Officers etc of approximately 17 States /UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Tripura, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, NCT of Delhi were trained on Covid-19 guidelines in respect of food safety during the month April-June 2020 through online mode.

2.2.3 Training on special requirement

FSSAI has started conducting training for regulatory officials on special needs such as Health supplements, Packaging Regulations, Nutraceuticals etc. as requested by States/UTs from time to time. Accordingly, one day training on Food Safety and Standards (Health supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Uses, Food for Special Medical Purpose and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016 was held on 22.04.2021 through online mode. Approximately 100 regulatory officials participated in the training.

2.3 Induction Training of FSSAI officials

2.3.1 Induction training of 160 newly recruited FSSAI officials was held in two batches. Two weeks classroom training of both the batches was conducted at National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) followed by one week on-job training at FSSAI regional offices.

2.3.2 Three training Sessions were organised on different dates for the internal employees of FSSAI through online/virtual mode on the following topics:

(a) GFR & Purchase Policy

(b) Noting & Drafting

(c) Right to Information Act, 2005

2.3.3 Food Safety Training & Certification (FoSTaC):

As per Section 16(3) (h) of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) for training of food business operators. Moreover, as per Section 30 (2) (c) it is the duty of Commissioner of Food Safety of the State to conduct or organise training programme for different segments of food chain.

Hence, it is the responsibility of all States to take up FoSTaC for State Licensed food businesses as early as possible. In this context, it is to mention again, that, all food businesses having either Central License or State License should have at least one trained & certified "Food Safety Supervisor" for every 25 "Food Handlers" or part thereof in each of their premises. These supervisors would carry out periodic training of all Food Handlers in the premises and maintain records for food safety audit and inspections.

Till date, 20896 trainings have been conducted so far and more than 5.37 lakh people have been trained. 262 training partners have been empanelled for imparting the Training. It is also pertinent to mention that, 47 training partners also have been de-empanelled because of non-performance and other issues. List of de-empanelled and empanelled TPs are available on FoSTaC website. Moreover, 76,777 persons involved in food handling operations have been trained on COVID-19 guidelines related to food safety through 2440 training programmes.

3. FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE

3.1 Mandating mentioning of License/ Registration number on receipts/invoices /cash memo/ bills etc. by food businesses on sale of food products.

FSSAI License / Registration is the first step towards building a compliance and regulatory ecosystem. Presently, FSSAI number is compulsory to be displayed on packaged food labels and FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, are being amended to mandate display of 'Food Safety Display Boards' at all times at prominent places in case of Restaurants. However, there remains a deficit of mechanism for consumers to know the FSSAI number of the service/ product provider. Considering this, FSSAI has mandated mentioning of License/ Registration number on receipts/invoices /cash memo/ bills etc. by food businesses on sale of food products vide order dated 8th June, 2021.

3.2 Mapping of 29 new/revised standardised food products with Food category System in FoSCoS for Licensing and Registration.

Consequent to the recent amendments in the FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and notification of New FSS (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020, a list of 29 new or revised food products standards is prepared and updated in FoSCoS Database for issuance of manufacturing license so that an applicant will be able to select the name of standardized food product from the drop down list.

3.3 Enabling Food Businesses to migrate from State License to Central License without change in the FSSAI License number.

Food Businesses are facing difficulties in migrating between State to Central License or vice versa as it requires change in their FSSAI License number. FBOs are required to surrender their existing license and apply for the new license. The change in FSSAI number results in change in pre-printed packaging material, stationery, advertisement etc. Considering the difficulty faced by Food Businesses into account, FSSAI enabled Food Businesses to migrate from State License to Central License or vice versa without change in License number vide order dated 31st May, 2021.

3.4 Status of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between FSSAI and States/UTs.

FSSAI has extended both technical and financial support to the States/UTs for strengthening of Food Safety Eco-system in the country through MoUs. Based on the proposals received, MoUs were executed with 24 States/UTs during 2020-21 and funds

to the tune of Rs 64.66 Crore were released. FSSAI also sought Work Plan proposals for 2021-22 from all the States & UTs. Proposals from 23 States/UTs have been received so far and the same are under process.

3.5 Review of performance of States/UTs

FSSAI has developed standardized Quarterly Report formats for quarterly review of performance of States/UTs and shared it with States/UTs. It is aimed to gather the information from States/UTs and discuss their performance on various benchmarks like availability of Human Resource, Compliance, Inspection and Sampling, status of license/registration, Handling of consumer grievance, Testing Infrastructure, progress on various FSSAI Initiatives etc. So far, FSSAI has reviewed performance of States/UTs on three occasions based on Quarterly Report received from them.

4. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 In an effort to meet the continuous growing demand for office and lab space at Regional offices, FSSAI has taken on rent/lease the following office spaces at various locations in a time bound manner.

- FSSAI has occupied space admeasuring 1333sq. ft. area of BSNL's property @ Rs. 60/- per sq.ft./month at 1st floor, house no. 7-2-645/TE,CSC Bilding, BSNL, Telephone Exchange Compound, Erragadda, Hyderabad for nine years (3+3+3 yrs. Basis). The lease agreement was executed on 26th March, 2021. The rent will be revised @15% after every three years.
- Space admeasuring 1421 sq. ft. has been hired for three years on monthly rental basis @ Rs. 25.25 at Krishnapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh. The agreement is effective from 14th January, 2021 to 13th January, 2024. The rent will be revised @10% after every three years.
- FSSAI has finalized deal with Visakhapatnam Port Trust for hiring office accommodation of 2198 sq. ft. area at Visakhapatnam Port Trust for a period of 10 yrs.Deliberations are going on for seeking space at BSNL Bengaluru and Ahmedabad on hiring basis.

4.2 Recruitment Status in FSSAI

4.2.1 **Direct Recruitment**-The Recruitment Regulations for various posts were notified on 1.10.2018 and the process of recruitment as per provision of the Recruitment Regulations have been initiated. Accordingly, applications for direct recruitment against various posts were invited vide Advertisement No. DR-01/2019 dated 25th January, 2019, DR-02/2019 dated 26th March, 2019

and DR-03/2019 dated 16th October, 2019. All the stages of scrutiny/CBT/written examination of these advertisements have been completed. A total of 185 candidates out of 275 positions have already joined the organization and the remaining candidates are in the process. Based on the final results of few posts, two candidates for the posts of Director (Pay Level-13), One candidate for the post of Chief Technology Officer (Pay Level-13) and five candidates for the post of Food Analyst (Pay Level-10) have since joined on direct recruitment basis.

4.2.2 Deputation- Applications were also invited for filling up of 73 posts on deputation basis vide advertisement dated 03th June, 2020, 28th September, 2020 and 16th December, 2020. Consequent upon their selection, 37 officers have joined FSSAI on deputation basis during 2020-21.

5. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

5.1 EatSmart City Challenge

FSSAI in association with the Smart Cities Mission has recently launched a nationwide challenge for the Indian Smart Cities – ‘**EatSmart Cities Challenge**’ under the guidance of Hon’ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. This challenge is an annual competition among smart cities to recognize their efforts for adopting & scaling up various initiatives under the Eat Right India.

The challenge was open to all Smart cities in India and a total of 109 Smart cities have registered so far. Further, a series of webinars are being organized in collaboration with Food Foundation, UK (starting from 23rd June 2021) for participating cities to learn about national and international best practices on food systems transformation and a range of topics relevant to cities embarking upon developing the food vision of their cities for the first time. Based on the vision, Top 11 cities will be selected for Deeper Engagement for an extended period to implement their vision.

5.2 Indigenous Food Challenge

Indigenous food are defined as foods that are originating in a specific region in combination with food items that were introduced into a country and are being integrated into their local food culture. These foods add diversity to local-seasonal food systems and ensure food security with high micro-nutrient content. With this backdrop, an online healthy recipe contest named “Indi-Genius Food Challenge”, was launched on the occasion of 75 years of India’s independence to encourage people to share their innovative and healthy recipes that are indigenous to our country. The challenge was held from 15th April, 2021 till 15th May, 2021. As part of the challenge, 155 entries were received from various domain experts, professionals and students.

5.3 Case Study: Eat Right India

As part of the research on Multi-stakeholder Mechanisms to promote Sustainable Food Systems (SFS MSM), an independent research was commissioned by the Community of Practice on Food Systems Approach on the Ground (CoP-FSAG) of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network with United Nations. The Eat Right India initiative launched by the Government of India was also shortlisted among other promising interventions by over 15 countries, who participated in this research.

Key observations of the research are:

- Eat Right India has fairly well established mechanisms in place to capture and take into account all voices, communicate effectively, learn collaboratively, and develop the capacities of its members in the form of meetings & discussions. Further, there is an established mechanism to work collaboratively on the reports resulting from these discussions.
- While India does not have yet a comprehensive policy for the promotion of sustainable food systems, FSSAI implemented the Food Safety & Standards regulations which included fortification of 5 Key staples including wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and salt. ERI is also working closely with other initiatives, for example Eat Smart City Challenge in collaboration with Smart Cities Mission.
- The Regulatory & Compliance division of FSSAI is leading the implementation of policies at State level through the signing of Memorandums of Understanding, by utilizing the allocated budget.
- The major general achievement is that ERI has brought together entire ecosystem with all the stakeholders to a common goal. Also, the policy & strategy formulations, generating new collaborations, concrete projects & frameworks with a clear ground level execution plan (such as cluster certification)
- Large scale training & certification (FoSTaC) are some major achievements of Eat Right India program in India and it has already trained over 5 Lakhs people
- In challenges, stakeholders believe that is a relatively new initiative, and thus there are some areas that still need to be strengthened, which includes building trust & motivation of all stakeholders for better participation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives to report on their results and encourage their scaling up, and strengthening the leadership capacity at the sub-national level.
- The barriers to the SFS MSM work identified are (a) the inadequacy of the mechanism & limited representativeness (b) conventional leadership and governance not always conducive to multi-stakeholder work (c) the lack of budget to support participation and collaboration, and (d) lack of perceived political support.

Conclusion: In spite of the absence of Holistic policy to promote sustainable and healthy food systems, ERI is developing & promoting several programs at every level; segment, by catalysing Stakeholder's collaboration & Adopting the Whole of Government and Society approach, thus taking a role of Enabler & Reformer as well as Implementer. ERI is marching ahead with its aim to mobilize the nation towards a single goal: ensuring that all citizens eat healthy and safe food, produced in a sustainable manner. ERI owes its success to several factors, most important being the diversity; balanced representation of various stake holders and the trust built up over many years of networking and collaboration.

5.4 Field Exchange: Eat Right School program

Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) invited FSSAI's Eat Right School program content for their special edition of Field Exchange on 'Nutrition of school aged children and adolescents'. ENN is a UK registered charity working with programmers, policy makers and researchers to strengthen know-how and evidence to overcome malnutrition. A short abstract was submitted which was selected for a paper on the use of media to engage school-aged children and adolescents in the development and/or implementation of interventions. The paper would showcase the interactive learning model of Eat Right School and the use of media to engage school-aged children and adolescents in the development and implementation of interventions.

6. GLOBAL OUTREACH

6.1 FSSAI continued to function as the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) of India, and participate actively in the Codex work for development of international standards that are fundamental to ensuring safety and fair practices in international trade of food products. The meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission took place virtually.

6.2 Following Codex related activities were undertaken since April 2021:

6.2.1 Participation in Codex meetings

The Indian delegation attended the various virtual meetings as indicated below held since April 2021. The Indian delegation ensured that India's concerns were addressed. Following important decisions were taken:

i. **5th session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH5)-**

- India's proposals for elaborating standards on *Small cardamom* and *Turmeric* were approved by the Committee;

- The Committee recommended final adoption of Standards for Dried or Dehydrated Ginger, Basil, Cloves and Oregano.
- ii. **14th session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14)**
India will chair the electronic working group to prepare revised proposals for Maximum Limits for (a) total aflatoxins in Ready-To-Eat Peanuts and associated sampling plan and, (b) total aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in spices
- iii. **41st session of Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling-** The Committee recommended for adoption at step 8 Guidelines on Measurement Uncertainty by CCEXEC81 and CAC44.
- iv. **25th session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25)-**
- India proposed new work to develop "*Guidance on Appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food*", which has been agreed by the committee;
 - The committee recommended for final adoption, *Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates*, which provides timely, and consistent guidance for international paperless exchange of official certificates among Competent Authorities; and *Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes*.
- 6.3 **New work proposal-**India submitted new work proposal to elaborate Standards for Mahua oil, within an existing Codex standard for Named vegetable oils (under the Codex Committee on Fats and oils)