

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTE - INDIA GOES GLOBAL ON FOOD SAFETY

FSSAI has tied up with Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) for training its lab personnel on high end testing of mycotoxins, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues in Singapore and at the University of Maryland in US.

FSSAI in collaboration with GFSP has already organized the first round training program for 10 trainers on Pesticide Residues and Mycotoxins in Singapore in December last year. These trainers would now act as master trainers and conduct training of the food testing personnel in the country. The reproduction of the Training of Trainers program is proposed at National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) in Hyderabad; CFTRI, Mysore; CFL, Kolkata and a private lab in Nashik. GFSP has agreed to provide training similar to the one given in Singapore to our master trainers on veterinary drug residues proposed to be held in University of Maryland, US.

GFSP will also provide technical assistance to FSSAI for making a detailed assessment of training needs of food safety personnels in the country, providing international consultancy and for establishing international advisory mechanisms for benchmarking and harmonizing food safety practices to the best in the world.

GFSP is a unique public-private initiative of World Bank dedicated to improve the food safety in middle-income and developing countries. It brings together producers, industries, governments, regulatory bodies, international organizations and civil society to drive a globally-coordinated and locally-driven food safety approach. GFSP combines food safety training and technical support so that developing countries can improve their food safety systems and benefit from better compliance of food safety standards.

The meeting of members of Governing Council (GC) of GFSP represented by World Bank, UNIDO, FAO, FDA, FIA, USAID and Waters Corporations held in New Delhi on 22nd February, 2017 in New Delhi. On the sidelines of this meeting, the GC members of GFSP had a meeting with FSSAI and other stakeholders of food safety in India on 21st February, 2017.

From India, apart from senior officials of FSSAI, industry majors including CEOs of HUL, Nestle, Tata Sons, Patanjali, the representatives from consumer organizations CII, FICCI and scientific community from ICMR, ICAR and Centre for Science & Environment also participated.

Dr. Nathan Belete, Chairperson of the GFSP Governing Council in his remarks deeply appreciated the manner in which the stakeholders in India are taking forward the agenda of food safety which is globally unique and Public Private Partnerships are key to addressing these issues.

Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI in his remarks stated that India's Food Authority is relatively new and there is immense opportunity for India to learn from global best practices.

In his presentation, CEO, FSSAI Mr. Pawan Agarwal outlined the initiatives and steps taken by FSSAI in addressing issues of food safety and hygiene in very comprehensive and structured manner. He expressed hope that the collaboration with GFSP which has began with activity around training in food safety would expand in coming years and India is committed to ensure food safety for all across the world.

In addition to GFSP, FSSAI has international partnerships for cooperation in the areas of food safety with various other countries including MoUs/Joint Statements signed with food safety authorities in Germany, France, Netherlands and New Zealand. FSSAI is also working closely with Food Safety Authorities in other countries including in US, Canada and Singapore for global benchmarking the food safety regulatory system in India.
