

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2017

1. New Initiatives:

- a) FSSAI organized a National conclave on “Implementation of Food Safety Law” on 2nd November, 2017 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. Sh. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog was the chief guest. Sh. Ajay Sawhney Secretary, DIETY and Celebrity Chef Sh. Sanjeev Kapoor also attended the conclave. Following initiatives were launched during this conclave:
- **Food Regulatory Portal:** A single interface for food businesses to cater to both domestic operations and food imports. The Food Regulatory Portal is a full service, business-friendly portal for food businesses that focuses on six key areas viz. food standards; consistent enforcement; hassle free food imports; credible food testing; codified food safety practices; and training and capacity building. This would prove to be a game changer by addressing food business concerns across the spectrum by ensuring ease of entry; reduced burden of compliance and facilitating trade. One Nation One Food Law is the vision behind this portal.
 - **FoSCoRIS:** Food Safety Compliance through Regular Inspections and Sampling (FoSCoRIS) replaces manual inspections with digital inspections. It uses simple mobile devices with dashboards to monitor, on real-time basis, at the district, state and national level. For consistency, standard matrices have been developed for inspection for various kinds of food businesses. FoSCoRIS would thus ensure a consistent experience to food businesses across States and UTs, thereby building their confidence in the regulatory environment.
 - **Indian Food Standards-Quick access (IFS.QA) system:** To demystify standards, Indian Food Standards-Quick access (IFS.QA) system, a responsive IT platform has been created, where a user can access thousands of product standards and millions of provisions of additives and maximum residue limits for toxins and contaminants at the click of a button.
 - **Indian Food Laboratory Network (InFoLNet):** For credible and efficient food testing for food businesses, a nationwide network of all food testing labs on a single technology platform- Indian Food Laboratory Network (InFoLNet) was launched. This would bring in much desired standardization in food testing, that is ‘one food product, one set of parameters and one parameter one test method’. Several measures towards trade facilitation, including a single window clearance fully integrated with Custom Authorities and risk-based inspection, have been adopted.
- b) Hon’ble Minister for Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh formally launched the **Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations 2017**, along

with the '**Jaivik Bharat**' Logo and "**Indian Organic Integrity Database Portal**" during the 19th Organic World Congress organized by APEDA at International Expo Centre and Mart, Greater NOIDA.

"Jaivik Bharat" Logo is a symbol of authenticity and trust, a common logo for Organic Foods. The portal would help consumers verify the authenticity of organic foods. The Indian Organic Integrity Database Portal is jointly developed by FSSAI along with APEDA and PGS-India. Through this Portal, the consumers can access all information with respect to the producer, the certification system and the availability of certified organic products.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

a) Notifications issued regarding:

- Adoption of 46 BIS standards regarding specifications of various additives like Beta-ap-8"-carotenol, Titanium dioxide, Sodium benzoate, benzoic acid.
- Standards for certain processed fruits and vegetables

b) A single nationwide **Manual for Food Safety Officers (FSOs)** has been developed and released during National conclave on "Implementation of Food Safety Law" on 2nd November, 2017 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi.

It documents practices and procedures to be followed by the field staff as well as an 8-point code of ethics for them to their build capacity and change mindsets. A nationwide systematic training of regulatory staff has also been initiated.

c) To ensure hassle free imports, a '**Manual for Food Imports**' has also been developed and released during National conclave on "Implementation of Food Safety Law" on 2nd November, 2017 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi.

d) Participation in exhibitions/events:

FSSAI participated in following exhibitions/events for image building of FSSAI, public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders:

- "World Food India" organized by Ministry of Food processing & Industries, from 3rd - 5th November 2017 at C-hexagon, India Gate, New Delhi
- "19th Organic World Congress" organized by APEDA from 9th - 11th November 2017 at International Expo Centre and Mart, Greater NOIDA
- "37th India International Trade Fair, 2017 (IITF-2017)" organized by ITPO from 14th -27th November, 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- "11th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (11th IFAF)" organized ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) from 21st-24th November, 2017 at Hotel Le Meridian Cochin, Kerala.

3. Strengthening of Infrastructure and support systems:

a) Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs:

(i) **Strengthening of State/UT Food Laboratories:** A grant of Rs. 47.5 crore has been sanctioned and released to 7 States/UTs (J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Delhi and Goa) towards procurement of high end equipment. A grant of Rs. 25.5 crore has also been sanctioned to 6 States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Telangana).

(ii) **Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL):** All 19 Mobile Food Testing labs sanctioned to 17 States/UTs in previous months have been delivered to respective States/UTs. A grant of Rs. 55 lakhs (@ Rs. 5lakh/year/MFTL) has also been released to 9 States towards petrol, oil lubricants and consumables for running 11 Mobile Food Testing Laboratories.

b) **Notification of Referral Laboratories:** 2 more referral laboratories viz National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune and National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad have been recognized and notified under section 43 (2) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 by FSSAI thus raising the total number of Referral Food Laboratories from 16 to 18.

c) **MoU with NIFTEM:** FSSAI and NIFTEM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 05.11.2017 initially for a period of 5 years. This memorandum covers the co-operation between the Parties to identify, recognize and mutually collaborate in areas of common concern to the Parties that are vital for a robust food safety and nutrition eco-system in the country. The general areas of co-operation would be (a) Food Testing analysis and services, (b) Research and data analysis, (c) Training facilitation, and (d) any emerging areas of co-operation in the sphere of food safety and nutrition.

4. International initiatives:

49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) was held from 13-17th November, 2017 in Chicago, United States of America. The following agenda items concerned to India were discussed in the meeting as listed below:-

- Proposed draft revision of the general principles of food hygiene (CXC 1-1969) and its HACCP Annex - (Co-Chaired by India) returned to Step 3 for further revision. Further, the Committee establish Physical Working Group (PWG) chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by India also to prepare a revised proposal for consideration by CCFH50. ‘
- Proposed draft revision of the code of practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CXC 52-2003) - the committee agreed to forward the guidance for adoption by CAC41 at Step 5/8. The Committee also establish an EWG to work on outstanding issues identified by the Committee.