The 14th essay of Fi India (Food Ingredients India) and Hi (Health Ingredients) commenced in Hall 1 of Bombay Convention and Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, on Tuesday. It was inaugurated by Dr Pallavi Darade, commissioner, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Yogesh Kamat, director, FSSAI (Western Region), Dr Prabodh Halde, immediate past president, AFST(I) (the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists of India), and Piruz Khambatta, chairman and managing director, Rasna International.

The event, which will conclude on October 24, 2019, was co-located with the second essay of Propak India, which was inaugurated by C K Ranganathan, founder, Cavinkare India Pvt Ltd, and Suresh Gupta, president, IFCA.

While Fi India and Hi 2019 will provide visitors an unparalleled networking opportunity with the food industry, Propak India will offer a complete value chain for food and beverage ingredient manufacturers.

Fi India seminars

The Mumbai chapter of AFST(I) conducted seminars on a number of topics, and there was a panel discussion on the art of new product development. It was chaired by M M Chitale, founder, FBO Consulting, and comprised Subha Nishthale, vice-president, AFST(I); Nilesh Amritkar, AFST(I) and Sanjay Indani, Safefoods. They spoke on various sectors.

Amritkar said, “Recently, a survey was conducted by FSSAI to ensure the safety of milk. While 90 per cent of the milk was considered to be safe for consumption, six per cent of the samples collected were found to be containing aflatoxin. Therefore, safety plays an important role in it.”

Indani said, “People look for products with longer shelf lives. But we can see that there are limitations to new products in the market. If the limitations are not there, then it will be good.”

Nishthale said, “We can see that carbonated drinks in India taste differently than they do in other countries.”

Propak India seminar

The onus is on Indian companies to build brands in other countries. Popular Indian snack brands should appoint popular food ambassadors. This would be helpful in reaching out to the masses. This was stated by Manoj Paul, general manager, India and South Asia, Heat and Control South Asia, at Propak India.

Speaking on the discussion of technology impact on food processing industry in the era of deglobalisation, Paul said, “Countries do not have much trust in each other. However, the growth potential in the Indian market is good. That is the reason many companies are planning to sell their products.”

Jayesh Gosrani. Joint managing director, process technology and equipment, Goma Engineering said, “Africa is a huge market, and they are rely on Indians. The government has started food parks, which will be useful.”

The vote of thanks was given by Chinmayee Deulgaonkar, secretary, Mumbai chapter, AFST(I).