

The fish is good to eat

25 SEP 2018

PANJIM: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) has given a clean chit to the fish available in Goan market stating it to be chemical-free.

The expert body has also maintained that one cannot conduct rapid test to determine formaldehyde presence in fish using a bare-hands, as done by the Congress party during their recent demonstration in Margao fish market. Stating that there is no standard called 'permissible limit', the FSSAI said that marine fish naturally contains certain amount of formaldehyde. The regulatory body has urged scientist panel to set the limit of naturally contain formaldehyde in fish so as to make necessary amendment into the guidelines.

ICAR-CIFT, who has developed the rapid test kit to help regulators to instantaneously determine the adulterated fish, along with team of FDA on Monday conducted random checks of fish samples in Margao and Panjim fish market. They also tested fish from the Margao wholesale market. All the samples were tested negative of formalin. Health Minister Vishwajit Rane was also part of the team that conducted the tests. Addressing media persons, ICAR-CIFT scientist Lali S Jawahar said that one cannot conduct the test using bare hands as our hands are not cleaned. "One needs to use proper protection while conducting the test. If the test paper comes in contact with water or bare hands or other polluting substance, then it will change the colour," she explained as he made demo presentation before media.

"If there is added formaldehyde, then the colour changed dark green within 30 seconds. The normal change in colour is between 1 to 1.20 minu