

FSSAI: In the process of framing GM food regulations

OUR BUREAU

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Thursday said it is in the process of framing regulations for Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods.

It was reacting to a study released by Centre for Science and Environment stating that genetically-modified processed foods were being widely sold in the country illegally and that there was a lack of regulations.

FSSAI said that these regulations will focus on procedures for safety assessment and approval of foods, including imported foods derived from genetic-modification processes based on internationally well-established and accepted scientific principles, procedures and best practices before they are allowed for food purposes.

Label declaration

“These draft regulations will, after formal approval of FSSAI’s Scientific Panel, Scientific Committee and the authority, be notified in the Gazette to elicit comments of various stakeholders, which will be duly considered and finalised with the approval of the government,” the food safety regulator added.

FSSAI further pointed out that it is the process of finalising the draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations that states that a company needs to make a declaration on the label in case it’s food product has 5 per cent or more of ingredients which are genetically engineered or genetically modified
