

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

1. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

a) Notifications issued regarding:

- Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Third Amendment Regulation, 2017 related to microbiological standards for fish and fish products.
- Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Second Amendment Regulation, 2017 with respect to prescribing Standards for Malt Extract, Expeller Pressed Flour, Lactic Acid, Baker's Yeast, Ascorbic Acid, Calcium Propionate, Sodium Metabisulphite and Potassium Metabisulphite.
- Food Analyst Board Amendment Notification

b) Draft Notification issued regarding:

- Food Safety and Standards (Food product Standard and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation related to revision of Cane Jaggery or Cane Gur and Sodium Saccharin (food grade) and standards for Calcium Saccharin (food grade).

c) Clarification issued regarding use of FSSAI logo and name by Food Business Operators (FBOs)

d) Guidelines issued for operations of E- Commerce food business operators.

e) The fifth multi-stakeholder consultation on large-scale food fortification for the North Eastern States was held in Guwahati, Assam on 15th February 2017. The event was jointly organised by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The Consultation was attended by representatives from the State Governments of all the NE states (Department of Health, Education, Women and Child Development and Food and Civil Supplies), North Eastern Council (NEC), Food Business Operators, Roller Flour Mill Federation, academia such as Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI), M S University, Baroda, and development partners such as World Food Programme (WFP), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Tata Trusts and Consumer organisations.

There was a successful discussion to address queries, offer guidance and technical support from development partners to motivate and enable the Government representatives to take up fortification of Food articles mainly Wheat Flour, Salt, Oil as well as Rice and Milk in their respective states.

f) Video Conferences were held with State Food Safety Departments of Kerala and Meghalaya to discuss issues regarding food safety.

g) Trainings:

- Induction Training of 80 newly recruited Food Safety Officers was held at Thiruvananthapuram from 14th -27th Feb 2017.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) for Serve Safe was conducted by FSSAI & HRANI (Hotel & Restaurant Association of Northern India) at Gurugram, New Delhi & Mumbai.
- Training of 32 street food vendors under Clean Street Food was conducted by SSMMS (Sadik Masih Medical Social Servants Society) & FSSAI at Shakkarpur, New Delhi on 16th February 2017.
- ToT was conducted to create Master Trainers for SNF@School, for a national roll out at Executive Development Centre, Institute of Hotel Management, Bengaluru on 10th February 2017.
- Roll out of FSMS implementation in 20 PoW in Tamil Nadu, under initiative Serve Safe @ Places of Worship(PoW):
The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department of Tamil Nadu has identified 20 PoW to implement FSMS in food and *Prasad* preparations. The training programme in safe food practices for over 50 food supervisors from 10 PoW has been done during Feb'17 in Chennai, in coordination with the HR & CE Department, Tamil Nadu.

This was followed by handholding of the food supervisors by the trainers, who would audit and support them in FSMS implementation in Vadapalani Murugan Temple and Kapaleeshwarar Temple, Chennai. Five local trainers were also trained who will visit the identified temples to design suitable FSMS plan and will be closely involved in implementation of same.

2. Strengthening Infrastructure and support systems:

- a) Under the Scheme for Strengthening of Food Testing Systems, a grant of Rs. 4 crore was released to CFTRI for purchase of two major equipments, namely EAIRMS & LC-MS/MS.
- b) The Practical Examination of 3rd Food Analyst Examination was conducted by FSSAI on 14-15 Feb & 21-22 Feb, 2017 at four centers viz, NIFTEM (Kundli), CFTRI (Mysuru), CFL (Kolkata) and NDDB (Anand).

- c) In order to ensure that all State Food laboratories attain NABL accreditation, the awareness program for laboratory accreditation in collaboration with NABL in four regions viz. east, west, north, south covering all laboratories are being conducted. The third NABL awareness program was conducted for the eastern region at Administrative Training Institute on 16th Feb, 2017. The fourth NABL awareness program was held at Pilot Test House, EIA Mumbai for the Western region on 23rd February, 2017.
- d) 4 more NABL Accredited private food testing labs have been notified by FSSAI in the Gazette vide notification No. 567(E) thus raising the total number of notified labs from 121 to 125.

3. International initiatives:

- a) Meeting of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs was held in Chennai, India from 06th to 10th February 2017. The Major decisions taken during the meeting were as follows:
- The Draft Standards for Cumin and Thyme and the Proposed Draft Standard for Black, White and Green Pepper were discussed and forwarded to 40th session of CAC (2017) for adoption at the final Step 8 and Step 5/8 respectively.
 - Electronic working group (EWG) had been established for proposed draft group standard for “dried roots, rhizomes, and bulbs” based on the following commodities i.e. dried or dehydrated ginger and dried garlic. India will act as a co-chair in this EWG.
- b) US-CCASIA Colloquium with US and CCASIA members was held at Xiamen, China from 22nd to 24th February 2017 for preparation of the upcoming meetings of Codex Committee on Food Additives, Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods and Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues.
- Through this Colloquium India was able to have consensus of US and the CCASIA members who attended the Colloquium on the concerned Agenda items under each of the above mentioned Committees.
- c) The interactive workshops on Canadian Food Safety Regulatory System and Lab Management were held at FSSAI HQ New Delhi on 16th and 18th February, 2017 respectively, in collaboration with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The experts from Canada apprised FSSAI officials and lab managers from labs across the country about the Canadian best practices.
- d) The meeting of the members of Governing Council (GC) of GFSP (Global Food Safety Partnership) represented by World Bank, UNIDO, FAO, FDA, FIA, USAID and Waters Corporations was held on 22nd February, 2017 in New Delhi.

The meeting concluded with belief from both sides that the collaboration of FSSAI with GFSP which has began with activity around training in food safety would expand in coming years and would help India in ensuring food safety for all across the world.