

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

1. New Initiative:

FSSAI has developed “Safe Water Portal” for building the confidence level among the consumers regarding safe packaged drinking water, wherein consumers shall be able to view and compare the test reports uploaded by Food Business Operators and Enforcement agencies through the system/portal developed for the purpose. Consumers can verify the information by using either FSSAI License No. or BIS Certificate No. on the portal.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

a) Notifications:

- Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2016.
- Standards of List of Histamine Forming Fish Species and limits of Histamine level for Fish and Fishery Products.
- Referral Food Laboratories under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

b) Orders issued regarding:

- Drawal of one sample out of the commingled cargo of pulses, other cereals and oils for discharge at multiple ports
- Registration of FBOs using the platform of Common Service Center Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV)
- License requirement to Molasses - a sugar industry by product

c) Draft Guidelines issued for operations of direct selling food business operators.

d) Advisory issued regarding “Reduction of contamination of food with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) from smoking and direct drying”.

e) FSSAI organized a workshop on social mobilization for “Safe and Nutritious Food- A Way of Life” on 31st January, 2017 at the Banquet Hall of New Motibagh Club, Chankyapuri, New Delhi. The workshop was organized under the broad theme of ‘Corporates for Safe and Nutritious Food’, focused on building a coalition of corporates and design specific interventions that corporates can take up. It received an overwhelming response with over 100 representatives of corporates participating in the event. On this occasion, FSSAI also launched its new website, a water portal and Food safety Connect for an integrated complaint redressal system.

- f) Video Conferences were held with State Food Safety Commissioners of Bihar and Jharkhand to discuss issues regarding food safety pertaining to their respective states.
- g) FSSAI organised an on-ground state review and training module on handling food concerns for the state of Delhi that was attended by 10 DOs and FSOs.
- h) FSSAI participated in 104th Indian Science Congress- Pride of India Expo from 3rd to 7th January, 2017 at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. FSSAI utilized this platform successfully to highlight the new initiatives of FSSAI and extend their outreach to scientific community and college students.
- i) Training of Trainers program was conducted for Food Regulatory staff from 9th to 11th Jan, 2017 at FDA Maharashtra in Mumbai.
- j) FSSAI in cooperation with EU is setting a risk based National Food Control System under Activity 128 of CITD Project. In this regard, a training cum activity session was conducted from 16th to 20th Jan, 2017 at 3rd floor Conference room, FSSAI.
- k) Training of Master Trainers for the Serve Safe Restaurant was conducted with training partner Hotel & Restaurant Association of Northern India (HRANI) at Deep Palace, Lucknow on the 31st January 2017.

3. Strengthening Infrastructure and support systems:

- a) The second meeting of Empowered Committee was held on 19th January 2017 under the chairmanship of Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI, to guide and oversee the implementation of the Scheme for “Strengthening of Food Testing Systems in the Country including Provision of Mobile Food Labs”. Following major decisions were taken:
 - Rs.50 lakh to States/UTs would be released to those States/UTs which have submitted complete proposals under the Scheme towards the sub component of renovation of state food laboratories subject to the specified conditions
 - Funds would be released to the State Public Health Laboratory, Guwahati, Assam as mobilization advance
- b) Theory Examination of 3rd Food Analyst Examination was conducted by FSSAI on 7th Jan, 2017 at four centers viz, NIFTEM (Kundli), CFTRI (Mysuru), CFL (Kolkata) and NDDDB (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 second program was held at Institute of Public Health, Poonamallee, Chennai for the Southern region on 27th January, 2017.
- d) Two more referral laboratories have been notified by FSSAI in Gazette vide notification S.O. 97(E) dated 10.01.2017 thus raising the total number of referral laboratories to sixteen.

4. International initiative:

The National Codex Committee meeting was held on 16th January, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by 33 members from various Departments of the Ministries, Institutes and Industry.

It was proposed that India should co-host Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) in 2019 under consultation with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.