

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

1. New Initiatives:

FSSAI organized a National Conclave on “Nutrition Security-Convergence and Partnerships” on 16th October, 2017 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey was the Chief Guest and released a comprehensive report on Large Scale Food Fortification in India – The Journey So Far and Road Ahead. The redesigned and updated web portal on food fortification was also launched by him. Following initiatives were launched during this conclave:

- **Indian Food Recovery Alliance (IFRA):** IFRA is a coalition of food recovery partners in the country to fight hunger and also prevent food loss and food waste in India. This web based platform was released on a pilot basis in which interested donors, individuals and volunteers can register to be a part of this initiative. After the pilot study, the main platform and mobile applications will be accessible for registered persons to donate food through online communication with food recovery agencies that will ensure proper distribution after due diligence.
- **Under FSSAI’s Diet4Life initiative,** a transactional website with basic information on Inborn Errors of metabolism (IEM) was launched. As the initiative progresses, the patients have now started getting the products. In addition to this, a series of awareness as well as training programs have also been planned by the joint efforts of the involved stakeholders. A few of the awareness programs and trainings have already been conducted.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

a) Notifications issued:

- Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Thirteenth Amendment Regulation, 2011 wrt Standards for Milk and Milk products.
- Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) First Amendment Regulation, 2011 wrt Restriction on sale of cream.
- Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Fourteenth Amendment Regulation, 2011 wrt Standards of oils and fats.
- Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) First Amendment Regulation, 2011 wrt Standards for monitoring quality of vegetable oil for repeated frying.
- Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Fifteenth Amendment Regulation, 2011 wrt Standards of Tapioca Sago.

b) SNF@ School initiative has been launched in Goa. The event was flagged off by Sh. G P Bhatt, Director of Education, Goa, & Sh. Salim Veljee, Director FDA. Total 181 Health

& Wellness Coordinators created for schools in Goa, during training held on 10th & 11th October 2017.

c) **Participation in exhibitions:**

FSSAI participated in following exhibitions for public awareness and interaction:

- “AAHAR- Mumbai” organized by ITPO from 11th - 14th October 2017 CIDCO Exhibition Centre, Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
- “Destination Himachal Pradesh 2017” from 24th - 26th October 2017 at Solan, Himachal Pradesh
- “drink tech India2017” from 26th -28th October, 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

3. Strengthening of Infrastructure and support systems:

a) **Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs:**

- Balance grant of Rs. 1.75 Crore (out of a total grant of Rs. 3.50 Crore) has been released to Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi for purchase of high end equipment.
- A five days Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Veterinary Drug Residues including antibiotics was organized by FSSAI in association with Export Inspection Council at Pilot Test House - Export Inspection Agency, Mumbai from 10th to 14th October, 2017. 13 laboratory personnel participated in the training program.
- A five days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was organized from 24th to 28th October, 2017 at M/s Vimta Labs Limited, Hyderabad for food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel of State Food Testing Laboratories and FSSAI notified laboratories. 29 laboratory personnel participated in the training program.

b) **Notification of Laboratories:** 5 more laboratories have been recognized and notified under section 43 (1) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 by FSSAI vide Gazette notification S.O. 3279 dated 10.10.2017. This has raised the total number of food laboratories from 137 to 142.

4. International initiatives:

During the month of October, 2017, two codex committee sessions were held and following agenda items were discussed in these meetings as listed below:-

a) **20th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)**

held from 2nd to 6th October 2017 in Kampala, Uganda.

- Draft Standard for Aubergines–(Proposal from India) forwarded to CAC for adoption at Step 8.
- Proposed draft Standard for Ware Potatoes– (Proposal from India), Held at Step 7 awaiting resolution on some issues in an EWG.

- Proposed draft Standard for Fresh Date (Proposal from India) returned to Step 3 for further revision.
- Proposed layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and Vegetables:- Committee approved the proposal as guidance document for CCFFV work.
- India will co-chair the eWG on proposed draft standard on shallots and onion.

b) Codex Committee on Food Labelling held in Asuncion, Paraguay from 16th to 20th October 2017:

- i) **Revision of Date Marking section in the General Standard for the Labelling of prepackaged foods:** Criteria for exemption from “date marking” discussed and forwarded to CAC41 at Step 8.
- ii) **Proposed Draft Guidance on the non-retail containers of foods-**The the proposed draft guidance will be a Stand-alone document. India will chair an EWG in this regard.
- iii) The Committee **agreed to start new work to develop draft guidelines on Front of Pack Labelling systems**
- iv) **India will co-draft discussion papers for new work proposals on the following :**Internet sales/e-commerce of foods, Development of Criteria for the definition of ‘High’ in nutritional descriptors for fats, sugars and sodium and Alcoholic beverage labelling