

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2018

1. New initiative:

In order to address rising incidence of Vitamin 'D' Deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst children, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) of FSSAI has launched a unique initiative, 'Project Dhoop' in association with NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools on 9th April, 2018 in New Delhi. Project Dhoop highlights the importance of Vitamin D through sunlight exposure and importance of food products like milk and edible oils that are fortified with Vitamins A and D.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Notification issued regarding revision of the standards of Cane Jaggery or Cane Gur; Sodium Saccharin (Food Grade) and addition of new standards for Calcium Saccharin (Food Grade).
- b) MoU has been signed between FSSAI and Danish Veterinary & Food Administration on 16th April, 2018 to encourage and promote cooperation and mutual exchange in the areas of food safety between the two countries. The same has been exchanged during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Stockholm (April 16-17, 2018).
- c) FSSAI - CHIFSS Roundtable on "Reducing Food borne Illness: Strengthening Surveillance Capabilities and Epidemiological Investigations" was held on 27th April 2018 to prepare a roadmap for improving surveillance, response to outbreaks and capturing critical data and insights that will help identify priorities and enable addressing the high burden of food borne illness in India and to suggest steps to assess burden and develop a roadmap monitor and mitigate the disease burden in India.
- d) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 73 training programmes were conducted during April, 2018, in collaboration with training partners.
- e) Two interactive Radio Counseling Sessions were conducted in collaboration with IGNOU through Gyan Vani on the subject "Food Safety & Nutrition at School-I" (on 01st April, 2018) and "Food Safety & Nutrition at School-II" (on 15th April, 2018) with a view to spread awareness about food safety among masses.
- f) Provisional Recognition of Food Safety Auditing Agencies:

In accordance with the draft Food Safety and Standard (Food Safety Auditing) Regulation, 2017, FSSAI has now provisionally recognized 05 more food safety auditing agencies in addition to 15 earlier agencies to create a pool of auditing agencies with FSSAI. These agencies have been granted a certificate of provisional recognition for a period of 6 months from the date of provisional recognition or till

they are recognized under the final regulation whichever is earlier. The list of all 20 agencies along with their validity and scope of auditing is updated on FSSAI website.

g) Guidance documents :

In addition to existing 5 Guidance documents, FSSAI has developed another two Food industry guides to implement Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) as per Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standard (Licensing and Registration) Regulation, 2011.

- i. Guidance document on "**Meat and Meat Products (Poultry)**" covers poultry slaughter, processing and retail. This document is written with a purpose to guide the food businesses especially the small and medium sector, both existing and newly established businesses.
- ii. Guidance document on "**Food Supplements**" covers all product categories as per Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016. It is prepared with the intent to provide implementation guidance to food businesses (especially the small and medium businesses) involved in manufacturing, packing, storage and transportation of Food Supplements, to ensure that critical food safety related aspects are addressed throughout the supply chain.

3. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

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

- Food Safety on Wheels (FSW):
One Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) each has been sanctioned for the States of Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh. Besides, a grant of Rs. 5 lakh each has been released for POL and consumables to the States of Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh. This has raised the total number of FSWs from 27 to 29 across the country.'
- Capacity Building:
Three days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was conducted from 24th to 26th April, 2018 at Hubert Enviro Care Systems (P) Ltd., Chennai for food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in Food Testing Laboratories in the State of Tamil Nadu. Total 22 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 dated 06.04.2018 thus raising the total number of food laboratories to 166.

c) Metastudy of Food Testing Laboratories:

FSSAI has awarded a contract to M/s Yes Bank to conduct a metastudy of food testing laboratories with an objective to evaluate capacity of food testing laboratories in India in its endeavour to strengthen and develop a robust food testing network in the country.

4. International initiatives:

During the month of April, 2018, following three codex committee sessions were held and following agenda items were discussed in these meetings as listed below:-

a) 50th Session of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA50) held from 26th to 30th March 2018 in Xiamen, China:

Food additive provisions in various categories as proposed by India were adopted, which includes TOCOPHEROLS in Food category Dried fruit and Fruit-based spreads (e.g. chutney) excluding products of food category 04.1.2.5; Nisin, Polyglycerol Esters of Fatty Acids, Propylene Glycol Alginate, Sucroglycerides, Sucrose Esters of Fatty Acids, Sucrose Oligoesters, Type I And Type II and Tocopherols in food category 1.6.4 -Processed cheese.

b) 50th Session of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR50) held from 9th – 14th April, 2018 in Haikou, China:

i) The Committee supported the proposal of Chile on bio-pesticides and established EWG chaired by Chile and co-chaired by India and USA.

ii) India presented a proposal for new work on guidelines for “Uniform Risk Management Guidelines to address Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals as Pesticides in Food”, and stressed that there was a lack of harmonized guidance on regulating endocrine disrupting chemicals which has emerged as a major concern among countries. The Committee deliberated on the proposal and recognized the importance of this issue in trade and also pointed out that EDCs could arise from a wide range of sources, that the issue was broad and went beyond the mandate of CCPR. The Committee suggested that India could raise the concern to CAC.

c) 24th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF24) held from April 23-27, 2018, in Chicago, United States of America:

The Committee agreed to retain Ethoxyquin on the list at the request of Philippines and India. Now, India has to submit data on Ethoxyquine (used as Feed Additive for shrimps) for evaluation or re-evaluation by JECFA by next session of CCRVDF.