

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

1. New initiative:

- a) FSSAI and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) have decided to establish a communication and coordination mechanism to prevent and restrict the spread of food-borne diseases.

For this, FSSAI has issued a directive to all states for nominating Food Safety Officer(s) for each district as member(s) of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) for food safety surveillance and emergency situations in coordination with Integrated Disease Control Programme (IDSP) under NCDC.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) To ensure early disposal of cases and reduce the pendency, the referral labs have been directed to send their analysis reports within five working days after the receipt of the samples for chemical as well as microbiological testing and not more than 10 days in case of samples involving extended microbiological testing, like clostridium spores in the case of canned foods.
- b) The ban of import of milk and milk products from China which was due to expire on 23rd June, 2018 has been further extended after review for a period of six month i.e. 23rd December, 2018 or until their safety is established on the basis of credible reports and supporting data, whichever is earlier.
- c) As a part of FSSAI's recently launched initiative SNF@Workplace, FSSAI conducted training for Food Safety Supervisors across various central government departmental canteens serving several thousand employees every day. To ensure that all the Government Canteens are licensed/registered under the FSS Regulations, FSSAI also facilitated on-the-spot registration on the day of training and distributed Food Safety Display Boards to the registered canteens. This was the first phase of training and the objective is to cover all departmental canteens over a period of time.
- d) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 230 training programmes were conducted during June, 2018, in collaboration with various training partners.
- e) An interactive Radio Counseling Session was conducted in collaboration with IGNOU through Gyan Vani on the subject "Foodborne Illness and Prevention" on 23rd June, 2018 with a view to spread awareness about food safety among masses.
- f) FSSAI – IITR – CHIFSS Technical Workshop on "Food Safety Assessment – Novel Ingredients and Additives" was held on 22nd June, 2018 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capability, build on Food Safety Assessments (exposure and risk assessment focus) of Novel Ingredients and Additives, with focus on the scientific principles that can help appreciate the regulatory context as well as Scientific Capability Development Platforms (including laboratory capabilities and their linkages).

- g) Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) of FSSAI commemorated “World Milk Day” on 1st June, 2018 by theme “Raise a Glass – Say “Cheers” with Fortified Milk. The event was held to create awareness around food fortification and the cost effective benefits it offers to everyone without a change in food habits. The event saw several engaging activities that were intended to generate strong public interest and participation.
- h) Adopting FSSAI’s Clean Street Food initiative, Gujarat & Maharashtra have initiated the procedure to get some areas declared as “Clean Street Food Hubs” as per approved benchmarks.
- i) 10 gurudwaras in New Delhi including Bangla Sahib have agreed to implement FSSAI guidelines under the "BHOG" initiative to maintain food safety and hygiene in the preparation of prasad.

3. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

a) Strengthening of State Food Laboratories:

A grant of Rs. 50 Lakh each has been sanctioned/ released to Delhi and Tamil Nadu for establishment of Microbiology Laboratory.

b) Food Safety on Wheels (FSW):

One Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) along with grant of Rs. 5 lakh for POL and consumables has been sanctioned for the UT of Andaman & Nicobar. This has raised the total number of FSWs from 31 to 32 across the country.

c) Notification of Laboratories :

6 more laboratories have been recognized and notified under section 43 (1) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 by FSSAI vide Gazette notification SO 2426(E) dated 13.06.2018 thus raising the total number of food testing laboratories from 166 to 172.

d) Capacity Building:

- Three days training program on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP) was conducted from 20-22 June, 2018 at CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow for food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in Food Testing Laboratories
- Five days training program on method of analysis of fortificants (Vitamin A & D in milk) was conducted at Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF), NDDB, Anand, Gujarat from 11.06.2018 to 15.06.2018.