

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

1. New initiative:

- a) To improve public health in India and combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases, FSSAI launched 'The Eat Right Movement' on 10th July, 2018. The food industry, public health professionals, civil society and consumer organizations, influencers and celebrities came together on a common platform and pledged to take concrete steps to create 'The Eat Right Movement' in the country. While the edible oil industry, bakeries and 'halwais' committed to phase out trans-fats by 2022 [India@75 - Freedom from trans-fats by 2022], major food companies pledged to reformulate packaged foods to reduce the level of salt, sugar and saturated fat. The food services sector promised to provide healthier food options and introduce menu-labelling, even as major food retail players including e-commerce players agreed to promote healthier food options and responsible retail practices.

To kick start and popularize the movement, a powerful infotainment campaign through a short video starring National Award winning actor Sh. RajKummar Rao (who consented to participate in the campaign pro-bono) was also launched that encourages citizens to reduce salt, sugar and fat on mass media and social media, and has the potential to go viral with its simple message - '*Aaj Se, Thoda Kam*'. Sh. Rao, as the main face of the campaign officially launched the 'The Eat Right Movement' in Mumbai and offered his support to spread the message of '*#Aaj Se Thoda Kam*' across possible formats.

The video is being screened through Digital Cinema Theatres in 10 metro cities for duration of 60 days. The video was also screened on Food Food Channel and is also running on DD, Regional and Satellite channels through MoHFW.

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Notifications issued regarding:
- Standards of Spring Water
 - Use of Spices in Edible Ices and Ice Lollies
 - Tolerance limit of antibiotics and Pharmacologically active substances
- b) Following a series of complaints related to sub-standard food being supplied by food businesses listed on e-Commerce food service platforms, FSSAI has directed 10 such platforms to delist the un-licensed/un-registered food operators and ensure compliance of food safety rules and regulations. The current list includes Box8, Faasos, FoodCloud, Foodmingo, Foodpanda, JusFood, LimeTray, Swiggy, UberEats and Zomato.
- c) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 277 training programmes were conducted during July, 2018, in collaboration with various training partners.

- d) Two interactive Radio Counseling Sessions were conducted in collaboration with IGNOU through Gyan Vani on the subject “Safe & Nutritious food at Home-II” & “Food Contamination and Allergy Awareness” on 7th July and 21st July respectively, with a view to spread awareness about food safety among masses.
- e) To address the concerns about safety of food additives and to evaluate their benefits, a two-day Seminar on “*Food Additives: A Global Perspective on Safety Evaluation and Use*” was conducted at FSSAI in association with US Deptt. of Agriculture and ILSI –India on 19th - 20th July, 2018.
The discussions focused on science based approaches for safety assessment; procedures for approval of Food Additives in US & India; Case Studies on Food Additives; Important considerations in development of Food Additive Regulations; Surveillance Mechanism & Labeling.
- f) FSSAI participated in the ‘Govt. Achievements & Schemes Expo’ held during 27th – 29th July, 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. FSSAI’s achievements and initiatives were showcased at the stall to ensure public awareness, consumer education, and publicity of FSSAI’s initiatives. FSSAI was awarded 1st prize for Excellent Achievements and Best Display.

3. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

a) Strengthening of State Food Laboratories:

Food Testing Laboratory, Department of Food & Drug Testing, Indira Nagar, Gorimedu, Puducherry has been taken up for the upgradation and mobilization. Advance of Rs. 50 Lakh has been released for the creation/renovation of infrastructure for installing high end equipments.

b) Food Safety on Wheels (FSW):

4 Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) has been sanctioned for the State of Uttar Pradesh. This has raised the total number of FSWs from 32 to 36 across the country.

c) MoU with Merck:

For the purpose of building a world class laboratory for skill development of food analysts and other research, FSSAI and Merck signed an MOU on 12.07.2018 to develop a state-of-the-art laboratory called "Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training" or C-MAT.

4. International initiative:

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) held its 41st session in Rome, Italy during 2nd – 6th July 2018 wherein following agenda items were discussed which are of concern to India:

a) New work proposal on pesticides as endocrine disrupting chemicals:

India presented the paper on “Development of guidelines for determination of pesticides as endocrine disruptors and harmonized risk management approaches in respect of their presence in food” highlighting purpose and need for harmonized guidelines to deal with the presence in food of pesticides having endocrine disruption activity. The Commission noted the importance of the issue raised by India while acknowledging that India has revised the proposal as per suggestion of CCPR50 with a focus on pesticides and therefore CCPR is the relevant technical body to further consider this issue. Now, India needs to take up the proposal at the next session CCPR in April 2019 for its consideration.

b) Standard for Aubergines and Draft Standard for Ware Potatoes:

The commission adopted the standard for aubergines at step 8 and the draft standard for ware potato at step 5. The proposals for development of the standards for aubergines and ware potatoes were originally framed and submitted by India.

c) Maximum Levels for lead in selected commodities:

The commission adopted the maximum level (ML) of lead in mango chutney at 0.4mg/kg at step 8 as proposed by the India. The adopted ML is higher than the occurrence levels as per the data generated by India domestically and furnished to Codex for the purpose of finalizing the ML of lead for this commodity.

d) Proposed draft MLs for aflatoxins (AFT) in ready-to-eat (RTE) peanuts and associated sampling plan.

The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXE75) noted that 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF12) had agreed to hold the ML of 10 ug/kg for AFT in RTE peanuts at Step 4 to ensure implementation of the *Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts (CXC 55-2004)*. After considering the concerns expressed by Regional Coordinator, on the behalf of India, the CCEXEC75 recommended that CCCF should accelerate the process to finalize the ML and sampling plan and CAC41 took note of the discussion and conclusion of CCEXEC75 on this issue.