

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2019

1. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

a) Draft notifications issued:

- Draft Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Regulations, 2019 relating to AGMARK seal on Light Black Pepper
- Draft “Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Amendment Regulations, 2019 w.r.t. claims for edible vegetable oils
- Draft “Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2019 prescribing revised standards for synthetic syrup and sharbat
- Draft Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2019 relating to revision in mandatory certification of AgMARK and Bureau of Indian standards (BIS)

b) A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between FSSAI, Export Inspection Council (EIC) and Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) for cooperation in areas of food safety.

c) A workshop with objective to co-create Network of Professionals in Food & Nutrition (NetPro.FN) was held during 22nd -23rd March, 2019 at Vivanta by Taj, Surajkund. NetPro.FaN is envisioned as a collective of professional bodies and experts in the areas of food, nutrition and public health to come together to contribute to national efforts to improve the status of food safety and nutrition.

d) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, 569 training programmes were conducted during March, 2019, in collaboration with various training partners.

e) FSSAI has issued a guidance document on Food Safety Management System (FSMS) to implement GMP (good manufacturing practices)/GHP (good hygiene practices) requirements for milk and milk products. This guidance document is applicable for food businesses involved in the dairy sector, and it contains practical approaches which a business should adopt to ensure food safety.

f) A guidance note titled “Ensuring safety of pulses & besan” has been developed with purpose to create awareness about safety of pulses/besan and serve as a guide to ensure that the pulses/besan they buy are not adulterated. The same has been shared by FSSAI through its website and social media handles.

g) FSSAI participated in AAHAR International Food & Hospitality Fair, 2019 organized by Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) during 12th-16th March, 2019 at

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders.

2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

a) Notification of Food Testing Laboratories:

4 new food testing laboratories have been notified by FSSAI vide S.O. 1377 (E) dated 8th March, 2019. Now, the total number of FSSAI laboratories notified under section 43(1) is 175.

b) Strengthening of State Food Laboratories(SFTLs):

A Grant of Rs. 47.70 crore has been sanctioned for procuring high end equipment in 8 SFTLs and for setting up of microbiology laboratory in two SFTL. This includes grant of Rs.3.20 crore to Assam, Rs.5.00 crore each to Karnataka (Mysuru) & Sikkim (Singtam), Rs.5.50 crore each to Bihar & Jharkhand, Rs.6.70 crore each to Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Rajasthan (Udaipur) and Tamil Nadu (Madurai) and Rs.2.40 crore to Manipur for establishment of a new SFTL. A grant of Rs.50.00 Lakh each to Meghalaya and Nagaland has also been sanctioned for setting up of Microbiology Laboratory.

c) Status of Grant to Referral Laboratories

A grant of Rs 8.36 Crore has been sanctioned to four Referral laboratories. This includes Rs 0.84 Crore to National Dairy Development Board, Anand, Gujarat; Rs.2.72 Crore to CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow; Rs 2.40 Crore to ICAR-National Research Centre on Meat, Hyderabad and Rs 2.40 Crore to Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali.

d) Capacity Building:

A awareness program on ISO/IEC-17025:2017 for state food Laboratories was conducted at Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), HQ, New Delhi on 12th March, 2019 for the food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in State Food Testing Laboratories.

3. International initiatives:

FSSAI participated in following Codex Committee meetings held during the month of March:

a) 26th Session of Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, Kuala Lumpur from 25thFebruary to 01stMarch 2019.

The inclusion of Walnut oil, Almond oil, Hazelnut oil, Pistachio oil, Flaxseed oil and Avocado oil in the Codex Standard for named vegetable oils, as supported by India has been forwarded to the 42nd Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5/8. India was co-chairing the electronic working group for this work along with Iran.

b) 31st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, 11-15 March 2019, Bordeaux, France

The Committee agreed to develop criteria to identify work appropriate to be undertaken by committees working by correspondence and develop procedural guidance for such committees based on and consistent with relevant guidance in the procedural manual while ensuring that the core values of codex i.e. Collaboration, Inclusiveness, Consensus building and Transparency are maintained.

c) Training of the Sri Lanka stakeholders involved in food safety and codex contact point Sri Lanka(25th to 28th February, 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka)

A workshop and a training program were conducted for the stakeholders involved in food safety in Sri Lanka and the codex contact point of Sri Lanka. The main objective was to sensitise the participants, particularly the Government officials, on complete understanding of the Codex procedures including the National Codex Structure; Need for active participation in Codex for an effective food control system; The newly developed Codex web tools for participating in Codex related activities; Structure and functioning of a codex contact point - example of India; Rights and Obligations under the WTO regime and Legal process for notifying Food Regulations in line with the SPS Agreement. The training was imparted by officers from the codex contact point of India (FSSAI), along with Senior International consultant to WHO.