

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

1. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

a) On the occasion of World Biofuel Day, FSSAI jointly with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas hosted a programme to commemorate this year's theme "Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil" on 10th August, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare released a pilot scheme which is designed to encourage entrepreneurs to build a robust ecosystem of collection and conversion of used cooking oil into biodiesel. A 'Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO)' sticker was launched which will be displayed by the Food service establishments to indicate that they are RUCO Compliant. A mobile phone application was also launched to enable stakeholders to track and trace all transactions in the value chain.

b) FSSAI in collaboration with ReCHaN (Resource Centre on Health Supplements & Nutraceuticals), which is a resource centre created under the initiative of the International Alliance of Dietary/Food Supplement Associations (IADSA) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organised an 'Awareness training on Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals' for Pharmacists and Retailers on 30th August, 2019 at 5th Floor, FSSAI, FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. The objective of this awareness programme was to sensitize the pharmacists and retailers of health supplements and nutraceuticals regarding these products, their standards and how to position these products right with the consumers.

c) Eat Right Mela and NetProFaN workshop was organized by Mumbai NetProFaN Chapter and AFSTI chapter on 29th August, 2019. The event was organized with support of World Bank, FSSAI, FDA Maharashtra at Khalsa College, Mumbai. During the event various activities like street play, Eat right quiz, debates, Zumba, yoga were performed by students. Street food vendors were trained on good hygienic practices to be followed while preparing and serving food. NetProFaN workshop concluded with the one year road map and commitments by various stakeholders.

d) Draft notifications issued and placed for public comments:

- Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2019 relating to "limits of trans fats in Food Products. The Food Products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain trans fatty acids more than 2% by weight of the total oils/fats present in the product, on and from 1st January, 2022.

- e) Under Food Safety Training and Certification(FoSTaC) initiative, total of **(516)** training programmes have been conducted in collaboration with training partners.
- f) Vide order no. 1-1790/FSSAI/Imports/2019 dated 22.08.2019, it has been decided that Certificate of Analysis for testing of imported proprietary food shall be accepted by Authorised Officers only if it issued by an ISO 17025 accredited lab of exporting country with a valid scope for those parameters and product matrix.
- g) As per the direction of Hon'ble NGT vide order passed in O.A No. 15/2014 dated 31.05.2019 titled "Himjagriti Uttaranchal Welfare Society Vs Union of India & Ord., an Expert Committee (EC) was constituted comprising of the representatives of FSSAI, BIS, CPCB and DGHS. FSSAI was appointed as a nodal agency for coordination. The EC examined whether any further regulatory provisions are required on the subject of restrictions on the packaging by use of plastic material, after the steps already taken, and if so to what extent. Report on the EC's recommendations has been submitted by Hon'ble NGT.
- h) FSSAI participated in following (a) India International Hospitality Expo at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida during 07-10 August,2019 and (b) Annapoorna Anufood India 2019 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai during 29-31st August, 2019, for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders

2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure, support systems and Capacity Building:

- a) Inauguration of National Food Laboratory (NFL), Delhi-NCR, Ghaziabad:

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare inaugurated National Food Laboratory, Delhi-NCR and also laid the foundation stone of the FSSAI tower at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad on 23.08.2019. During the inauguration, the report titled "Food Laboratories in India: A Metastudy" was also released.

- b) Status of Grant to State Food Testing Laboratories:

A grant of Rs. Rs. 18.90 Crore (Rupees eighteen crores and ninety lakh only) has been released for State Food Testing Labs of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Kerala.

- c) National Reference Laboratories:

FSSAI has recognized 13 notified food laboratories as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) under Regulation 3 of Food Safety and Standards (Recognition and Notification of Laboratories) Regulations, 2018 for the functions as specified in the regulation for a period of three years from 08.08.2019. Also, 2 notified food laboratories have been recognized as Ancillary National Reference Laboratory (ANRL) for acting as a support facility to all the NRLs for a period of three years from 08.08.2019

- d) Notification of Food Testing Laboratories:

3 new food testing laboratories have been notified by FSSAI vide SO 2842 (E) dated 06.08.2019. This has raised the total number of FSSAI notified laboratories from 179 to 182.

e) Capacity Building:

FSSAI organized 4 days Training of Trainers (ToT) program on Analysis of Mycotoxins at ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune from 27th August, 2019 to 30th August, 2019 in which 15 Food Analysts/ Laboratory personnel attended.

f) 6th Food Analyst Examination & 3rd Junior Analyst Examination, 2019:

The Food Analyst Examination Board declared 70 candidates as qualified to appear for Paper-II (Practical Examination) of 6th FAE. Further, 85 candidates have also been declared as qualified Junior Analysts.

3. International initiatives:

- a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC), Nepal for cooperation in food safety on 21st August, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The MoU would help in exchange of information and expertise and facilitation of technical cooperation in the field of standards, inspection, testing and certification of foods and related services.
- b) The training of the Codex officials of Bhutan and Nepal on the Codex work and functioning of the Codex India, under the joint Codex Trust Fund 2 was conducted at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India from 27th to 31st August 2019. The objective of the training was to impart basic knowledge about codex and learnings from experience about Codex work management in India. This will help Bhutan and Nepal develop a stronger national Codex structure within their respective countries.