

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

A. New efforts in focus areas:

1) The 2nd Eat Right Mela was organized in conjunction with the 11th National Street Food Festival by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) during 25th – 29th December 2019 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. Over the past year, such Eat Right Melas have been organized in various parts of the country from Barpeta, Assam to Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Eat Right Mela provides the ‘complete food experience’ to families such as conversations with food visionaries and experts, quizzes, games, healthy cooking demos by renowned, cultural performances by famous artists amidst delicious street food from all corners of the country.

The Hon’ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, graced the occasion and launched NetSCOFaN and released ‘The Purple Book’. He congratulated FSSAI on its initiatives, remarked, *“Eat Right India should be scaled up across the country in schools, colleges, institutions, residential colonies and become a mass movement”*. He further added *“The Ministries of Health and Science should collaborate to bring science to the service of the common man by utilizing scientific research and innovations to improve the health of people. Initiatives such as NetSCOFaN and resources like The Purple Book bring this principle into practice.”*

Three mobile food-testing vans (CNG enabled) were handed over to the Delhi Food Safety Department at the event. Three campuses –Hyundai, Marico and Post-graduate Govt. College for Girls, Chandigarh were awarded for successfully being certified as ‘Eat Right Campuses’. A sculpture ‘Aham Annam’ that symbolizes the philosophy of Eat Right India- *“We are what we eat and digest”* was unveiled. It depicts all the essential food groups required for a healthy life.

2) A workshop was held at FSSAI on 13.12.2019 wherein the representatives of over eighty (80) voluntary consumer organizations (VCOs) participated. The VCOs decided to create a nation-wide network of consumer organisations for food safety and nutrition (NetCOFaN) with the support of FSSAI. This network will initially work in three specific areas, namely – (i) awareness and training, (ii) mobilization of small and petty food businesses for various schemes, and (iii) food testing and surveillance. In order to earn consumer trust, FSSAI has decided to get food testing and surveillance activities done through the consumer organizations.

B. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

1) FSSAI and NASSCOM Foundation signed an MoU on 12.12.2019 to jointly build a technology platform for Food Donation in India. The technology platform would have a 24-hour helpline number, an interactive application and a back-end website to connect donors with surplus food to food distribution organisations and will lead to seamless distribution of surplus food to the needy, across the country.

2) FSSAI participated in the following exhibitions for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders:-

- i. The First North East Food Show 2019 organized by Govt, of Meghalaya & SIAL Group, Paris, during 4th to 6th December, 2019 at Polo Grounds Shillong Meghalaya.
- ii. Drink Technology 2019 organized by M/s Messe Munchen's held during 12th to 14th December, 2019 at Pragati Maidan New Delhi. FSSAI organized seminars on licensing /registration, import and initiatives under Eat Right India.

3) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, total of **(893)** training programmes have been conducted in collaboration with training partners during December 2019.

4) Strengthening of testing infrastructure, support systems and Capacity Building:

- a) In order to ensure "faster, better, cheaper" real-time testing of food, FSSAI has so far approved 30 rapid food testing kits/devices under the regulation for approval of rapid testing devices, kits and methods to strengthen the food testing ecosystem in the country. FSSAI is also providing these kits/devices to the State Governments for use by field officers and get quicker & validated results for tests conducted on different food products such as milk and edible oils, amongst others. Steps have been initiated to make these available on government eProcurement marketplace (GeM) portal so that further procurements can be made by Governments, local bodies on their own. FSSAI has invested over Rs. 5 crore on this. FSSAI would spend over Rs. 20 crore and procure rapid food testing kits and devices.
- b) Status of Grant to State Food Testing Laboratories:

A grant of Rs. 6 Crore (Rupees six crore only) has been released to the State of Uttarakhand for procurement of three High End Equipment under CSS and Rs. 50 lakh has been released to the State of Haryana for renovation of State Food Laboratory, Karnal.

c) Capacity Building:

Three days training program was conducted on Multi-Elements (Heavy Metals) Analysis in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" by using Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) from 18-20 December, 2019 at Food Safety Solution Center (FSSC) National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad.

- d) Four days Training of Trainers program on Analysis of Mycotoxin was conducted from 10th - 13th December 2019 at Export Inspection Agency, Kochi, Kerala.
- e) Five days training program was conducted on Advanced Microbiological Techniques from 9-13 December, 2019 at Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi Kerala.

5). International initiatives:

a) 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) was held during 24 to 29 November 2019 in Dusseldorf Germany. The decision on the following important agenda items which are of concerns to India are as follows:-

- i. Review of the standard for Follow-up Formula-The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft scope, definition and labelling section to Step 5 for adoption by CAC43.
- ii. Review of the standard for follow-up formula (codex stan 156-1987): proposed draft follow up formula for older infants and [product] for young children- Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to defer discussion on this item to CCNFSDU42.
- iii. Proposed draft guideline for Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods
- iv. The Committee agreed to (i) advance the guidelines for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods to Step 5 for Adoption by CAC42.

b) The 6th Session of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) was held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 9th December to 13th December 2019. The decision on the following important agenda items which are of concerns to India are as follows:-

Proposed draft revision of the code of practice to contain and minimize foodborne antimicrobial resistance (CXC 61-2005). Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft COP to Step 5 for adoption by CAC43.

c) Under the aegis of the MoU between ANSES (French agency for Food, Environment and Occupational Health & Safety) and FSSAI in areas of food safety, a Hands-On Training on Advanced Microbiological Techniques was held from 9th to 13th December, 2019 in ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin.

A seminar on the challenges of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Agriculture and Food production was organized jointly by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) from 11-12 December, 2019 at the Royal Danish Embassy, New Delhi.