IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF January, 2020

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1. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

1) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, total of (965) training programmes have been conducted in collaboration with training partners during January 2020.

2) An order dated 13th January,2020, related to Standardized Street Food Cart under Clean Street Food Hub “initiative of FSSAI was issued. All the states were requested to identify key locations and devise their roadmap for the distribution and subsequent usage of the model carts. This initiative will strengthen the unorganized street food sector and to uplift food safety, hygiene of street food vending.

3) A letter dated 17th January,2020 was issued to all Central and State Licensing Authority regarding the rectification process for cases of minor labeling defects without any food safety concern.

4) 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. 107th Indian Science Congress (ISC) - Pride of India Expo held from 3rd-7th January, 2020 at GKVK Campus, University of Agriculture Sciences Bengaluru. The main aim of the participation was to engage the scientific fraternity, academia, R&D institutes and public awareness for develop strong engagements. FSSAI highlighted the Network for Scientific Cooperation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (NetSCoFAN) initiative FSSAI stall was awarded as Best Design Stall at the Pride of India Expo.

   ii. Indus Food 2020 organized by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India and Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) on 8th and 9th January,2020 at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida NCR, India.

   iii. 27th Indian Convention of Food Scientists and Technologists (ICFoST) - Food and Wellness Expo at Tezpur University, Tezpur Assam during 30th January,2020 to 1st February,2020

5) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between FSSAI and National Institute of Open Schooling on collaboration with vocational and academic verticals for food safety education and integration on 22nd January,2020.
6) Strengthening of testing infrastructure, support systems and Capacity Building:

i. A grant of Rs. 50 lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs only) has been released to the State of Tamilnadu for ‘Setting Up of Microbiological Laboratory’ in Food Analysis Laboratory, Guindy under the Central Sector Scheme.

ii. Capacity Building: A Hands on Training on Microbiological Techniques for Analysis of high Risk Food-Meat and Poultry" was organized from 20th – 24th January, 2020 at Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (CMAT), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad.

iii. One Training Program on Good Food Laboratory Practice was conducted at International Training Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (ITC-FSAN), Mumbai from 28th – 30th January, 2020 for the food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in State Food Testing Laboratories and Notified Laboratories.

iv. Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method: Under the RAFT Scheme of FSSAI, 20 rapid food test kits/equipment were approved for regulatory and surveillance purposes; 11 rapid food test kits/ equipment were provisionally approved for surveillance purposes. These kits/equipment ensure “faster, better, cheaper” real-time testing of food. These can be used by field officers/ Analysts to get quick results for tests conducted on different food products.

v. Notification of Food Testing Laboratories: 4 food testing laboratories have been approved by FSSAI. This has raised the total number of FSSAI notified food testing laboratories from 183 to 187.