

**IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS  
DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**ONGOING EFFORTS IN FOCUS AREAS:**

**Quality Assurance:**

**Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country:**

- (i) An amount of Rs. 40,23,500/- has been sanctioned to National Research Centre – Meat, Hyderabad for procurement of major laboratory equipment under the Central Sector Scheme for upgradation of Referral food lab.
- (ii) **Capacity Building:** Total 27 online training programs have been organized in which all the laboratory personnel of State/UTs and FSSAI Notified laboratories, Food Business Operators, Consumers, etc., were allowed to participate. Total 4,061 participants attended these online training programs.

**Imports:**

To ensure that only non GM crops are imported into India, pending framing of regulations related to GM in Section 22 of FSS Act, 2006, FSSAI issued order dated 21.08.2020 regarding requirement of non GM origin cum GM free certificate issued by Competent National Authority of the exporting country, for every consignment of imported food products as mentioned therein. The order shall be effective from 01.01.2021.

**Social and Behavioral Change:**

1. **Public Awareness:** All significant steps being taken by FSSAI facilitating various stakeholders amid COVID-19 including public awareness material on eating right during COVID, measures on keeping raw/prepared food safe, storage of other food items etc. both in Hindi and English languages are being disseminated through various social media platforms on regular basis. A total of 23 creative (21 in English and 16 in Hindi) have been posted on the relevant sites in the month of August 2020.
2. **Eat Right Challenge:** An Orientation workshop was convened on 19/8/2020 to launch the Eat Right Challenge officially. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare presided over the workshop. He also launched an 'Eat Right India' Handbook and the website [eatrightindia.gov.in](http://eatrightindia.gov.in) to help various stakeholders scale up 'Eat Right India' initiatives across the country. Shri Ashwini Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare was also present. Officials of the 197 cities/districts participated in the workshop. Subsequently, four webinars on way forward have also been

conducted with the officials of Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern regions' cities/districts.

3. A resource book called the 'Eat Right Handbook' has been designed as a useful reference guide for the States/UTs to adopt and scale-up various Eat Right India initiatives in their respective jurisdictions. This book covers scope, implementation process and success stories under each of the Eat Right India initiatives and can be used as a ready guide to understand the impact of various projects.

4. FSSAI has signed a MoU with CSIR in respect of Collaborative Research and Information Dissemination regarding Food and Nutrition. FSSAI was also selected as one of the ten global organizations for the award by Rockefeller Foundation, in partnership with SecondMuse, and OpenIDEO for the 'Eat Right India' movement.

5. As part of the ongoing collaboration with MyGov platform, FSSAI has developed short videos with celebrity endorsements on tips and precautions to be taken during the corona times for mass awareness. Further, a set of videos have been created on simple tips to check adulteration in food for wide dissemination in the interest of public.

#### **Regulatory Compliance:**

1. Letter dated 31/8/2020 has been issued related to Standardized list of documents for FSSAI License. Details of letter are available at link [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/09/5f4dd5aa5c3f7Letter Standardized Document License 31 08 2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/09/5f4dd5aa5c3f7Letter%20Standardized%20Document%20License%2031%2008%202020.pdf).

2. Letter dated 28/8/2020 has been issued related to scale up implementation of 'BHOG' initiative of FSSAI in States/UTs.

3. A Pan-India quality surveillance of Edible Oil (both for the branded and unbranded oil samples) was conducted to intensify crackdown against the sale of adulterated Edible Oil, from 25 to 27 August 2020. This nation-wide survey, carried out for the first time with 4700 samples covering a total of 16 varieties of edible oil including mustard, coconut, palm, olive and blended oil. Various hilly as well as difficult terrains including Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Daman & Diu as well as Andaman (UT) have been strategically included to be a part of this exercise so as to represent a holistic distribution of the sample size across the country.

#### **Training and Capacity Building:**

1. Under FoSTaC, 119 trainings have been conducted for Food Safety Supervisors using digital platforms like gototraining, webex, zoom, jiomeetpro etc. in which 4,744 people are trained and assessed online.

2. Trainees are being trained on COVID- 19 Preventive guidelines along with the FoSTaC courses.

3. 2 hours COVID-19 Training is also being conducted by the Training Partners using online platforms for training/meeting. In August, 144 trainings have been conducted and 11,479 people are trained on COVID.

**Regulations:**

Details of notifications published are as under:

**Final Notifications:**

1. Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) first amendment Regulations, 2020 relating to Display of Information in food service establishment. (Notified on 21.08.2020)
2. Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) First Amendment Regulation related to limit of Metal Contaminant, Aflatoxin and Mycotoxin (Notified on 07.08.2020)

**Draft Notifications seeking stakeholders' comments:**

1. Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulation, 2020 related to MRL of pesticide, Tolerance Limit of Antibiotic and Toxins (Notified on 20.08.2020)
2. Food Safety and Standards (Organic) Amendment Regulations, 2020 related to exemptions for small producer and aggregators (Notified on 27.08.2020)
3. Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2020 related to exemption of imported expelled oil from refining, standards of Buffalo milk, Soya sauce, walnut kernel, grape seed oil, black pepper, dried sage, fermented soya products, oat products, packaged drinking water etc. (Notified on 27.08.2020)
4. Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2020 prescribing addition of Indigo Carmine or Brilliant Blue up to 10ppm in non-edible ice (Notified on 27.08.2020)
5. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Transaction of Business and Procedures for the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels) Amendment Regulations, 2020 related to revision of quorum of meeting of the Scientific Committee or Scientific Panel or Working Group and drawing up of agenda in consultation with Chairperson of the concerned Scientific Panel or Scientific Committee (Notified on 27.08.2020)

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