

**Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Food Authority held on May 29, 2020 at  
15:00 hrs through virtual medium**

The thirtieth meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held at 1500 hrs on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rita Teaotia, Chairperson, FSSAI. The meeting was online through virtual medium because of lockdown due to Corona Virus pandemic. The list of participants is at **Annexure -1.**

Head (GA), FSSAI welcomed the Chairperson, CEO, Members of the Authority and special invitees from Industry. He introduced all officers of the Authority who were in attendance. He mentioned that last meeting was held on November 6, 2019 and there is inordinate delay in convening meeting this time due to lockdown and the meeting once scheduled for 13.03.2020 had to be postponed. He further mentioned that as the physical meeting could not be conducted in the circumstances, there is no option but to hold the meeting on line. The Chairperson was requested thereafter to commence the meeting with her opening remarks.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson thanked the representatives from the Ministries and the special invitees from the industry for their participation in the meeting. She placed on record the appreciation of the Authority for the services rendered by former CEO, Shri Pawan Kumar Agarwal, for all round development of FSSAI during past 4 years and she cheerfully acknowledged that he fosters a culture of transparency and collaboration between the regulator and the industry during the period. The Chairperson introduced new CEO, Dr. G .S .G. Ayyangar to the Food Authority. She further mentioned that this pandemic of COVID-19 has changed the way of working of Government Organizations. FSSAI has scheduled various meetings online including the Scientific Panels, CAC etc. with some constraints. Chairperson highlighted the fact that this time it appears that the Food Authority agenda was circulated to the trade bodies who were not members of the Food Authority. She drew attention to the fact that the agenda is confidential and not the final word of the Food Authority. Further, she urged that confidentiality may be maintained by all recipients of agenda notes. Thereafter CEO, FSSAI was requested to report the

achievement of the Authority since last meeting.

CEO informed that this is his first Food Authority meeting as officiating CEO of FSSAI. He brought to the notice of all several myths doing rounds regarding transmission of Corona Virus but clarified that FSSAI is reviewing the case on ground for last 60 days. The National Food Laboratories of FSSAI and other laboratories notified by FSSAI are all working functioning during this pandemic. It is ensured that Food Import clearance is smooth; FSSAI is closely working with States/UTs to ensure that the transition is smooth for FBOs to obtain licenses, adopt regulations etc.

**Item No. I: Confirmation of the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 06.11.2019**

As no comments had been received on the draft minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, which were circulated to the Members, the minutes were confirmed and adopted.

**Item No. II: Action Taken Report of 29<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The Action Taken Report was noted by the Food Authority. It is observed that many amendment/ new regulations are pending with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for approval. In this regard, the Authority requested the ministry to expedite the approval.

**Item No. III: Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Authority took note of the Chief Executive Officer's Report which was tabled during the meeting (Annexure-2).

**AGENDA FOR APPROVAL**

**30.1 FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS**

**(A) AMENDMENTS PROPOSED FOR FINAL NOTIFICATIONS**

**(I) Amendment to Food Standards in respect of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011;**

- i. Draft Notification dated 26.07.2019 relating to standards of (a) Biscuits (b) Bread and Bread-Type Products (c) Jowar (Sorghum grains) (d)**

**Maida (Refined Wheat flour) (e) Semolina (Suji or Rawa) (f) Breakfast Cereal (g) Pearl Millet Flour (h) Sorghum flour.**

- 1) With regards to item (f), (g) and (h) Special Invitees have submitted their comments a day before the meeting mainly regarding moisture content, and alcoholic acidity. To which the earlier response of concerned Scientific Panel and Scientific Committee was highlighted during the meeting.
- 2) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries also submitted that the data available with them is also not in sync with the proposed limit for moisture content and alcoholic acidity and hence requested that the Scientific Panel may validate the data to reconsider the limit.
- 3) The secretariat was directed to discuss the comments with concerned Scientific Panel.
- 4) with regard to breakfast cereals, it was agreed to replace the sentence “The product shall contain 50% of cereals/ pseudo cereals/ grains taken together” with “The product shall contain cereals/pseudo cereals/grains when taken together as the first ingredient in the ingredient list” under the clause (4) at page no. 11 of agenda item Volume-II. Further, Chairperson suggested to have quick market search regarding the cereal content in the available products.

With these observations, the Authority approved the final notification for item (a) to (e) only and authorized the Chairperson to take a final view on behalf of the Authority for items (f) to (h) above.

- ii. Draft Notification dated 26.07.2019 regarding amendment to Regulation 2.14 and 2.15 Gluten free food and Foods specially processed to reduce gluten content to a level 20-100 mg/kg**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

- iii. Final notification relating to (a) Inclusion of TOCOPHEROLS in the FC 1.7 “Dairy based Dessert” and (b) Additional processing aids for use in various food categories**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

**iv. Consideration of Comments received on Draft Notification dated 26.07.2019 regarding standards of Trehalose**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

**v. Draft Notification dated 15.04.2019 relating to microbiological standards for Spices and Herbs**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**vi. Draft Notification dated 16.07.2019 relating to microbiological standards for Egg and Egg Products**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed.

**(II) Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations**

**(a) limit of Total Polar Compounds in Fresh/Unused Vegetable Oil**

The Authority approved the final notification, as proposed. However, Special Invitee from CII mentioned the issue of testing kits for Total Polar Compounds and that they have some data which can be validated against the method. The Chairperson recommended to submit the data to the Food Authority for further consideration.

**(III) Final (Draft) notification w.r.t the amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018**

1) Special Invitees submitted their comments to which response of concerned Scientific Panel was presented and after discussion the following modifications were suggested:

- (i) In table 4, S.No. (1), in column (3) insert the symbol ">" before given limit at page 41 of given agenda as it was a typographical error.

(ii) To delete the term and definition of “Port wine” as it has already been decided not to use any term which are protected under Geographical Indicator.

2) It was also noted that some new comments were also submitted by Special Invitees which cannot be considered at this stage as enough time have already been given at the draft stage. However, they may be referred to concerned Scientific Panel and the recommendation of Scientific Panel may be taken as amendment, if any.

With the above modifications, the Authority approved the final notification.

#### **(IV) Final (Draft) amendment in FSS (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018 to prescribe the tolerance limit of micro nutrients**

Special Invitees submitted that a general tolerance limit of 10% for nutrients needs to be reviewed and suggested that tolerance limit should be nutrient specific as in Codex and other regulations. Chairperson suggested to review the matter in consultation with concerned Scientific Panel.

The Authority agreed to revise the amendment and authorised the chairperson to approve the final notification on behalf of the Authority.

#### **(V) Amendment to Food Standards in respect of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011: Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020**

Ministry of Food Processing Industries and special invitees raised several concerns in the proposed final regulations. Based on the deliberations the authority agreed: -

- 1) to give one-year transition period for the enforcement of these regulations as a special case considering the existing pandemic-COVID-19 situation and to provide time to the FBOs for exhausting old labels inventory.
- 2) to refer the definition of “Children” and its harmonization with other international guidelines to the task force to take final decision within 30days so as to revise the said definition, if required.
- 3) to delete the words and symbol “and/ or processing aid” from the regulation 4.2 (2) (c) at page 50 of agenda in volume II.

- 4) to delete the word “separately” from the regulation 4.2 (2) (e) at page 52 of agenda in volume II.
- 5) to include food products coffee, decaffeinated coffee, soluble coffee powder, coffee chicory mixture in the list of exemption from nutritional information labelling at page 55 of agenda in volume II.
- 6) to include Foods for Special Dietary Uses and Food s for Special Medical Purposes in the list of exemption from nutritional information labelling at page 55 of agenda in volume II subject to the compliance of requirements specified in the Nutra regulations.
- 7) to revisit the tolerance of maximum minus 10 % of the value for the nutrient in alignment with other regulations.
- 8) to move the regulation 4.2 (4) (e) at page 57 of agenda in volume II and place the same as clause (15) at the end of the regulation 4.2.
- 9) to include declaration format for allergy causing ingredients within brackets against each allergen listed under regulation 4.2 (14) at page 60 of agenda in volume II.
- 10)to add the sentence “in addition to the requirement mentioned in these regulations” under the regulation (11) at page No. 60 of agenda in volume-II.
- 11)to seek physical samples from the industry with respect to the height of numeral and letter mentioned in the table under regulation 5 at page 61 of agenda in volume II for review later, if required.
- 12)to include license number and logo in the regulation 7 (1) at page 64 of agenda in volume II. Inclusion of Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) will be done once the revision on FOPNL is done.
- 13) to make other editorial and minor corrections as suggested by the members.

With these agreements, the authority approved the final regulations and the same may be forwarded to the Ministry. The decision w.r.t points 2,7 and 11 will be incorporated suitably later in the final regulation, if required.

## **(B) DOCUMENTS PROPOSED FOR DRAFT NOTIFICATIONS**

- (I) Amendment to Food Standards in respect of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011**
- i. Relating to Regulation 2.2, Fats, Oils and Fat Emulsions
  - ii. Relating to Regulation 2.3, Fruits and Vegetable Products: Harmonization of existing standard of Grated Desiccated coconut with Codex.
  - iii. Relating to Regulation 2.4, Cereals and Cereal Products: PAPAD
  - iv. Relating to Regulation 2.5, Meat and Meat Products
    1. Inclusion of Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) meat in the standard on FRESH OR CHILLED OR FROZEN BEEF.
    2. Inclusion of Shelf life of fresh Eggs
  - v. Relating to Regulation 2.9, Salt, Spices, Condiments and Related Products:1. New standard for Refined Iodized Salt, 2 Low Sodium Salt.
  - vi. Relating to Regulation 2.10, Beverages, (Other than Dairy and Fruits and Vegetables Based): 1. Coconut Neera, 2. Amendment in sub-regulation 2.10.8 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.
  - vii. Relating to Chapter 3: Substances added to Food& Appendix A
    1. Inclusion of Propylene Glycol Alginate (INS 405) in the food category 7.1 Bread and ordinary bakery wares and mixes and its sub-categories.
    2. Insertion of note 33 for "PHOSPHATES" in the food category 1.6.5 cheese analogues
    3. Amendment related to food category 5.2 Confectionary including hard and soft candy.
    4. Amendment in the SO<sub>2</sub> level in Fruit and Vegetable juices for industrial use.
    5. Inclusion of food colours Tatrazine, Carmoisine, Brilliant blue, Sunset Yellow and Ponceau 4R in the food category 14.2.6 Distilled Spirituous Beverages
  - viii. Relating to Chapter 3: Appendix B
    - a. Microbiological Standards for Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(II) Amendment to Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulation, 2018; 1. Amendment in clause 5.9.1 and 5.9.2**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(III) Amendment to Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulation, 2018;**

**(i) Inclusion of provision for patients suffering from Sickle Cell Anaemia**

**(ii) Revision in the provision for iodine content of Iodized and Iron fortified iodized salt**

**(iii) Inclusion of provision for Fortified Milk Powder**

**(iv) Revision of provision under Schedule – I, Clause-6**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(IV) Amendment to Food Safety and Standards (Advertisements and claims) Regulation, 2018;**

**(i) Revision in the claims mentioned for folate and folic acids**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(V) Amendment to Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulation, 2018;**

**(i) Revision in the clause 4.4**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(VI) Amendment to Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulation, 2016;**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.



**(VII) Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales)  
Regulations: Labelling of Brown Bread**

The Authority approved the draft notification, as proposed.

**(VIII) Nomenclature of various types of Breads**

The Authority approved the proposal in-principle, as proposed.

**(C) OTHER ISSUES:**

**(I) Certification and logo for Whole grain**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(II) Food Consumption Data**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(III) Methods of analysis– Fortificants in Foods and Formulated Supplements  
for Children**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(IV) Operationalization of NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Cooperation  
for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition)**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(V) Blended Edible vegetable oil (BEVO)**

Special Invitees proposed that as AGMARK already has a approval process and hence, instead of creating a separate process of prior approval within the FSSAI, the conversion can be created so that AGMARK process can be notified or linked with FSSAI.

To which Chairperson mentioned that as this issue is now being looked up by Inter-ministerial Scientific Team (IMST), hence, this suggestion can be shared with ISMT .

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(D) Operationalization of standards/regulations and directions issued by FSSAI- for ratification**

Agenda items 30.3 (f), 30.8 (A) and 30.8 (B 1-3) all pertaining to the directions issued by FSSAI under Section 16 (5) of FSS Act, 2006, were taken up together and a compiled list of such directions covered under these items was presented before the Food Authority.

The Authority considered the agenda items and ratified the actions taken.

**(E) Proposed final regulations on Food safety and standards (Safe food and balanced diets for Children in School) Regulations, 2020-for ratification**

Special invitee proposed to incorporate the statement "5. Other Food Products not included in Category 1 and 3" as an additional point under schedule (I) in column (3) of table against S. No. (2) as given on page 87 of Agenda. However, it was clarified to the Authority that the given list is only illustrative and not intended to be exhaustive covering all types of food therein and, hence, the proposed change was not required.

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(F) Food Safety Emergency Response (FSER) Plan - for approval**

The Authority approved the agenda item in-principle, as proposed.

**30.2 FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE**

**(a) Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method- for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(b) Recognition and notification of food laboratories u/s 43(1)-for ratification**

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(c) Surveillance of Milk Products- for approval**

The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.

### **30.3 FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE**

**(a) Mapping of Standardized Food Products with Food Category System for the purpose of licensing and registration- for approval.**

The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed with correction that the date 30<sup>th</sup> September in the agenda shall be read as 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**(b) Status of transition from existing online licensing system to Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS)- for approval.**

The Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed. Further, It was apprised to Food Authority that the launch of FoSCoS in few States/UTs wef 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. These States/UTs are Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, Delhi, Manipur, Goa, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Puducherry. Pan-India launch is tentatively scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

**(c) Submission of Annual Return (D1 Form) only through online mode- for approval**

1) Several views were expressed on the format and the elements of new data proposed to be collected. Generally, the feedback was to understand the reason for collection of such data fields and allow average/ approximate or available values than exact. The new return was explained and it was also mentioned that for the year 19-20 the new format shall not be made mandatory. However, keeping with the proposals sent to Ministry, the new returns have been recasted for online version to generate data for policy decisions and compliance checks. Based on the experience further refinements and amendments can be done and finally notified. Suitable indication for average or approximate values shall be provided in the online returns.

2) It was agreed that the format shall be used for online return for 19-20 and the same shall be not be mandatory. FBOs shall be allowed to file their returns in old format manually as per prevalent practice.

With these deliberations the Authority approved the agenda item, as proposed.

**(d) Central Licensing of products covered under Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016- for approval**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(e) Food Safety Smart Jackets- for perusal and information**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**(f) Directions issued under Section 16(5) of FSS Act, 2006- for ratification**

This agenda item has been replaced by revised agenda item as tabled during the meeting and the same have been merged and considered with agenda item number 30.1 (D).

**30.4 RESEARCH ON FOOD SAFETY AND APPLIED NUTRITION**

**Merging the existing scheme of Research & Development/Surveys for Food Quality and Safety with NetSCoFAN and Revision of the guidelines of the Scheme-for approval**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**30.5 FOOD IMPORT**

**Establishing a robust Food Import Clearance System-for information**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**30.6 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**(a) Implementation of House Building Allowance Rules, 2017 for FSSAI regular employees**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**(b) Completion of Selection process for the post of Food Analyst advertised against DR-03/2019**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**(c) Introduction of Annual Performance Management System (PMS) for the employees of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**30.7 FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATIONS**

**Approval of the draft notification relating to amendment in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 regarding compliance of commercial feeds/feed material intended for meat and milk producing animals with the relevant BIS standards- for approval**

Head (Regulation) while presenting the agenda item proposed to incorporate the word "pig" in note (c) after the words "except poultry" as given at page 299 of agenda.

With this modification, the Authority approved the draft notification.

**30.8 (A) Order/Decision- for ratification For information**

**(B) 1. Advisory dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 related to requirement of BIS certification prior to import of Packaged Drinking Water/Mineral Water**

**(B) 2. Clearance of Imported consignments of Onions**

**(B) 3. Notification of Authorised Officers**

These direction and orders have been merged under agenda item 30.1 (D)

The Authority considered the agenda item and ratified the action taken.

**(B) 4. Revision of mapped ITC-HS Codex as per Finance Act, 2019**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**ANY OTHER AGENDA ITEM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR**

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (1)**

**Refund Policy**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (2)**

**Amendment in procedure for Renewal of License and Registrations**

the agenda item was withdrawn.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (3)**

**Data Sharing Guidelines**

The Authority considered the agenda and authorised the Chairperson to take decision with respect to orders regarding data sharing policy in respect of any operational issue and its format.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (4)**

**(I) Annual accounts for FY 2019-2020**

The Authority considered the agenda and authorised the Chairperson to approve final accounts before submission to CAG on behalf of Food Authority.

**(II) Provisional Budget for FY 2020-2021**

The Authority took note of agenda item as circulated for information

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (5)**

**Surrender of Rented premise at Navyug Market to Ghaziabad Development Authority.**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (6)**

**Method for Determination of 2-Acetylfuran-3-Glucoopyranoside (2-AFGP)/3-O- $\alpha$ -D-Glucosyl Isomaltol as a Specific marker for Rice Syrup (SMR) adulteration**

**in Honey by LC-MS/MS**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (7)**

**(a) Revised Guidelines for approval of Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT)  
Kit/Equipment/Method**

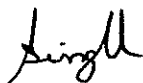
The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

**Supplementary Agenda Item No. 30.IV (8)**

**Reconstitution of Screening Committee for recommending agencies and  
Recognition of agencies under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety  
Auditing) Regulations, 2018**

The Authority approved the proposal, as proposed.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all the participants.



**Chief Executive Officer**



**Chairperson**

**List of Participants**

**A. Members of the Authority:**

1. Ms. Rita Teatota, Chairperson, FSSAI;
2. Dr. G.S.G. Ayyangar, Member Secretary;
3. Smt. Reema Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
4. Shri Ashish Gawai, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

**B. Special invitees:**

1. Ms. Parna Dasgupta, FICCI;
2. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);
3. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors Association (AIFPA);

**C. Officers of the FSSAI**

1. Dr N. Bhaskar, Advisor (Standards)
2. Shri Kumar Anil, Advisor (QA)
3. Shri Rajeev Jain, ED (HR)
4. Dr Shobhit Jain, ED (RS)
5. Dr Rubeena Shaheen, Director (Standards)
6. Dr Amit Sharma, Director (Imports)
7. Ms Inoshi Sharma, Director (SBCD)
8. Shri Sanu Jacob, Director (Lab Training and Surveillance)
9. Shri Sharad Agrawal, Director (Training)
10. Shri Yogesh Kamat, Director
11. Shri Raj Singh, Head (GA)
12. Shri Sunil Bakshi, Head (Regulations/Codex)
13. Shri AK Chanana, Head (IT)
14. Shri R. K. Mittal, Head (RCD)



15. Shri. Pushp Vanam, Joint Director (Standards)
16. Shri P. Karthikeyan, Deputy Director (Codex/ Regulation)
17. Shri Vikas Talwar, Deputy Director (Regulatory Compliance)
18. Dr. Kavitha Ramaswamy, Consultant (Scientist-III) (Standards)
19. Dr S. C. Khurana, Consultant
20. Ms Kriti Chugh, AD (Standards)
21. Ms Ratna Shrivastava, Sci IV(I) (Regulations)
22. Ms Kanika Aggarwal, TO (Standards)
23. Manpreet, TO (Standards)
24. Ruchika Sharma, Lead - Digital Media, PR & Corporate Engagement

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**30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Food Authority (29.05.2020)**  
**CEO's Detailed Report- (As Tabled)**

1. Before dwelling upon the regular activities of FSSAI, I want to apprise the Authority of the special steps taken in the context of COVID pandemic, which briefly are:

1.1). Taking the cognizance of the situation and to dispel myths regarding any food borne transmission of Corona Virus, FSSAI acted swiftly to constitute a Committee of experts and on the basis of its report had clarified vide Press Release dated 05th March 2020 that there is no conclusive evidence for any food borne transmission of Corona virus.

1.2). FSSAI is regularly reviewing the situation on ground. When movement was the key issue on ground, we had declared imports and testing as essential services. We ensured that our National Food Laboratories at NCR and Kolkata remains functional. FSSAI accredited private laboratories were also facilitated to function in the lockdown period. Imports clearance were ensured diligently.

1.3). For facilitating food business operators in logistic supply chains, FSSAI has allowed FBOs, other than manufacturers, to temporarily operate their businesses on the basis of an application on Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS). Innovating further we have even allowed e-inspections. Various compliance requirements such as renewals and returns have been deferred.

1.4). We have been working closely with States. Initially the focus was to share data to enable States to provision food and supplies for needy. Food safety officials in most States are in front line COVID duty involved in enforcement activities of ensuring lockdown, surveys/ surveillance, inspections of working food businesses/ community kitchens, coordination for food supplies.

1.5). FSSAI has also issued guidelines for food handlers for COVID pandemic.

## **2. FOOD STANDARDS/REGULATION**

### **Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and the Work on Standard Setting after the last Authority meeting held on November, 6, 2019.**

The Scientific Panels met a number of times during the period and made significant contributions in arriving at draft standards and suggestions on issues of safety in food. Various recommendations so made were deliberated in the Scientific Committee where all Scientific Panels as well as eminent scientists are represented, the details of which are placed in the meeting for decision of the Authority.

**2.1 Scientific Committee meetings (1):** The thirty fourth (34<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 27.11.2019.

**2.2 Scientific Panel meetings (34):** Following Scientific Panels met during the period:

- i) **Scientific Panel on Antibiotic Residues:** The fourth meeting of the Panel was held on 24.02.2020.
- ii) **Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards:** The twenty ninth meeting of the Panel was held on 27.02.2020.
- iii) **Scientific Panel on Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their Products (Including Bakery):** The twenty third and twenty fourth meetings were held on 22.11.2019 and 28.02.2020, respectively.
- iv) **Scientific Panel on Contaminants in Food Chain:** The twenty third meeting was held on 17.12.2019.
- v) **Scientific Panel on Food additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food:** The forty third and forty fourth meetings of the Panel were held on 22.11.2019 and 18.02.2020, respectively.
- vi) **Scientific Panel on Fruits & Vegetables and their Products (Including Dried Fruits and Nuts):** The eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Panel were held on 13.11.2019 & 17.02.2020, respectively.
- vii) **Scientific Panel on Functional foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other Similar Products:** The Two meetings of the Panel were held on 13.11.2019&18.02.2020.
- viii) **Scientific Panel on Milk and Milk Products:** The thirteenth meeting was held on 25.02.2020.
- ix) **Scientific Panel on Meat and Meat Products including Poultry:** The thirteenth meeting was held on 03.03.2020.
- x) **Scientific Panel on Oils and Fats:** The eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Panel were held on 10.12.2019 and 25.02.2020, respectively.
- xi) **Scientific Panel on Pesticide Residues:** The sixtieth and sixty-first meetings of the Panel were held on 11.12.2019 & 20.02.2020, respectively.
- xii) **Scientific Panel on Water (including flavoured water) & Beverages (alcoholic non -alcoholic):** The eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Panel were held on 16.11.2019 and 25.02.2020, respectively.
- xiii) **Scientific Panel on Spices and Culinary Herbs:** The sixth and seventh meetings of Panel were held on 16.12.2019 and 20.04.2020, respectively.
- xiv) **Scientific Panel on Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners, Sugar & Honey:** The fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Panel were held on 18.12.2019 and 22.04.2020, respectively.
- xv) **Scientific Panel on Packaging:** This is a new Panel constituted on 01.01.2020. Its first meeting was held on 14.02.2020

- xvi) **Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Food:** The nineteenth meeting of the Panel was held on 26.02.2020.
- xvii) **Scientific Panel on Fish and Fisheries Products:** The eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of Panel were held on 01.11.2019 and 06.03.2020, respectively.
- xviii) **Scientific Panel on Alcoholic Beverages:** This Panel was newly constituted on 01.01.2020. Its first meeting was held on 19.02.2020.
- xix) **Scientific Panel on Nutrition and Fortification:** The twelfth meeting of the Panel was held on 14.11.2019.
- xx) **Scientific Panel on Labelling & Claims/Advertisements:** The 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Panel was held on 04.03.2020
- xxi) **Scientific Panel on Method of Sampling and Analysis:** The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Panel were held on 05.11.2019 and 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, respectively.

### 3. FOOD TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE

#### 3.1. Strengthening Food Safety Ecosystem

##### 3.1.1 Strengthening of State Food Laboratories

A further grant of Rs. 50.79 crore was sanctioned/ released to different States/UTs for setting up / strengthening of State Food Testing Laboratories. With this, the total grant sanctioned/released towards upgradation of laboratories has risen from Rs. 262.19 crore to Rs. 312.98 crore covering 39 State Food Testing Laboratories across 29 States/UTs.

##### 3.1.2 Food Safety on Wheels (FSW)

34 more FSWs were sanctioned/delivered raising the total number of FSWs sanctioned/delivered from 54 to 88 to 32 States/UTs.

#### 3.2 Capacity Building Programs

FSSAI organized various specialized training programmes as well as Training on Good Food Laboratory Practices (GFLP), at various locations in India in collaboration with National and International organizations/institutions/agencies for the food analysts and other scientific/technical personnel of State Food Testing Laboratories, FSSAI notified laboratories and other food testing laboratories where 200 personnel were trained. Details of such programmes since last Authority meeting are at **Annexure-I**.

- 3.3 Due to nation-wide lockdown, FSSAI has organized a total of 144 online training programs from 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 in which all the laboratory personnel of States/UTs and FSSAI's Notified laboratories, Food Business Operators, Consumers, etc., were allowed to participate. A total of 34,703 persons participated in these online training programs.

### 4. FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE

**4.1 Amendment proposals of the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011** Some provisions regarding reduction of modification fee to Rs. 1000/- only and provisions regarding testing, inspection, audit, food safety supervisor and scheme for facilitator has been operationalized on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

**4.2 Mapping of standardised Food Products with Food category system for the purpose of Licensing and Registration**

This is a paradigm change in the methodology of licensing of manufacturers, shifting from a text box approach to selection from prelisted standardized products. The matter was approved in 29<sup>th</sup> Food Authority and is being brought to this meeting for final approval. It will be initialized with launch of FOSCOS.

**4.3 Launch of FOSCoS**

Very soon, the Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCoS) will replace the existing online Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS) in a phased manner in different States/UT's. FoSCoS functions on cloud based server with upgraded software and hardware and will resolve the often reported issue of slowness of existing FLRS portal. FoSCoS is envisaged to be the one-stop 'Compliance Portal' for food safety and in future will be escalated to have more modules for functional needs such as advanced MIS, audit module, linkage with InFoINet, hygiene rating etc. FoSCoS essentially has the same flows as FLRS, so that users have convenience in using FoSCoS. The cardinal change is the methodology of licensing for manufacturers which now shall be based on standardised product list. Module for filing of Annual Return is incorporated in FoSCoS. Mandatory documents have been rationalised and many paper based declarations have been replaced with online declaration. The central theme is to enhance the ease of doing business for the food business operators

**4.4 Submission of Annual return (Form D1) only through online mode**

To promote ease of doing business, FSSAI is providing provision of online submission of annual return (Form D1) w.e.f. FY 2019-20. This shall be available with FOSCOS and eliminate need to submit and track evidence of receipt of returns in manual mode.

**4.5 Food Safety Smart Jackets**

Food Safety Smart Jacket has been designed as a mark of professional identity for all the Food Safety Officers across the country. It will usher in enhanced efficiency, professionalism and transparency in the Food Safety Ecosystem. The tender for the supply of the Food Safety Smart Jackets has been finalised @Rs 519 per jacket to be supplied by the M/s Wintex Ties Mfg Co. The final sample/ specifications of jacket are under process and the work order will be placed shortly ensuring start of dispatches over next month.

**4.6 States/UTs Interaction**

During the year 2019-20, 25 States/UTs were interacted through Video conferences. Chairperson visited 11 States/UTs and CEO, FSSAI visited 5 States/UTs. Revised State Food conferences were held with the all Regional Offices.

#### 4.7 Audit

Audits of Central/ State licensed Slaughter Houses all over India (approx 300) are being carried out. Also 20/50 Audits of Sweet Shops and Meat Shops each in Small/ Large States, respectively have been started. It is also proposed to undergo desktop Audits of major E- Commerce platforms. These special audits alongwith the mandatory audit of central licensee manufacturers are expected to usher in enhanced compliance without intrusive regulation.

4.8 FSSAI is regularly organizing online interactions with FOBs, States, Professionals in Food and Nutrition etc. Recently, the Food Authority organized an online interactive discussion with top leaders of the food industry on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. The interaction with businesses was attended by more than 50 CEOs, Managing Directors and Senior Leaders from packaged food companies, retail chains, QSRs and e-Commerce platforms. Representatives of various industry associations were also present during this high level interaction with the Chairperson FSSAI, Ms. Rita Teotia and Dr. G.S.G. Ayyangar, CEO, FSSAI.

Many of the challenges that food industry is facing currently are similar to that of frontline services such as police and medical staff. Therefore, this high-level deliberation helped address most of the concerns and challenges voiced by the food industry. The shared goal was to ensure uninterrupted food supply while minimizing the risk of COVID-19 for workers, customers and players in the food supply chain.

4.9 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Central Advisory Committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020. It was very widely attended by State Food Safety Commissioners, officials of Ministry and members of CAC. The main agenda was the challenge faced by food safety department and the food industry amidst corona pandemic. The core theme and priorities for food safety officials were detailed which are based on three pillars- Ensuring safety and integrity of food supply chains, Ensuring safety of food safety officials and food handlers and Promoting ease of doing business.

### 5. FOOD IMPORT

- 5.1 **Direction regarding Import of Specialty foods for IEM and hypoallergenic conditions:** Directions have been issued allowing the import of specialty foods for IEM and hypoallergenic conditions till 30.11.2020.
- 5.2. **Advisory dated 27th November 2019 related to Requirement of BIS Certification prior to import of Packaged Drinking Water / Mineral Water:** Vide advisory no. 1-1800/FSSAI/Imports/2019 dated 27.11.2019, Importers/ stakeholders have been informed that as per Regulation 2.3.14(17) and (18) of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011, *"No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale, packaged drinking water and mineral water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards certification Mark."*

Further, all Authorised Officers have been directed to ensure that the imported packaged drinking water and mineral water without BIS certification and other FSSAI requirements, shall not be cleared through respective points of entry.

**5.3. Clearance of imported consignments of Onions.**

Vide order no. 1-1771/FSSAI/Imports/20189 dated 04.12.2019, regarding imported onions, importers were directed to declare and submit the undertaking/declaration in Form 13 of FSS(Import) Regulations, 2017 to the concerned Authorised Officers and Authorised Officers were directed to carry out visual inspection on same day without delay and upon satisfactory visual inspection, shall draw samples and issue Provisional No Objection Certificate (P- NOC) without waiting for the analysis report from laboratory. On receipt of the analysis report from the laboratory, the Authorised Officers were directed to issue final No Objection Certificate, if product conforms to specifications of the FSSAI.

In continuation to above order, vide order no. 1-1771/FSSAI/Imports/2018 dated 01.01.2020, Authorised Officers were directed to facilitate smooth and early clearance of the consignments of imported onions.

**5.4. Notification of Authorised Officers:**

An order No.1156/FSSAI/Imports/2014(Part-1) dated 17.12.19, was issued notifying Shri Sukant chaudhary, Deputy Director as Authorised Officer for jurisdiction of Mumbai Sea and Airport, for imported food clearance process, replacing Dr. Sheetal Gupta till further orders under section 47(5) of the FSS Act.

**6. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 6.1** In an effort to meet the continuous growing demand for office and lab space etc. a multistorey building at National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad is being constructed creating space of approx. 45,000 sq.feet. In this regard, NBCC India Limited has been entrusted the job of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for carrying out this project. The work has already started.
- 6.2** NFL Laboratory at Ghaziabad on PPP model with latest ultra-modern equipment has been created last year and was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Government of India.
- 6.3** Northern Regional Office of FSSAI was located at rented accommodation at Lodhi Road on rental charges of approx. 15 lakh per month. After creating adequate office accommodation at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, NFL, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, the NRO shifted in February, 2020 to the new premises, thus effecting a saving of Rs. 15 lakh per month.
- 6.4** Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai has allotted office space admeasuring 11873 sq. ft. at Trainee's Hostel Building at JNPT Township, Navi Mumbai to FSSAI for setting up of FSSAI's laboratory and office on 30 years long term lease basis. The FSSAI has paid an upfront amount of Rs. 2,51,95,102/- to JNPT and necessary formalities of lease deed etc. are being

processed and the premises would be suitably redone to house Lab & Import office of FSSAI.

- 6.5** FSSAI has been allocated 1306 sq. mtr. office space by the Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) at Central Documentation Complex Building, Rajaji Salai, Chennai to FSSAI Chennai for FSSAI's Chennai office as well as laboratory on 30 years lease. The requisite payment of Rs. 17,09,04,516/- has been made to Chennai Port Trust for the lease period. The lease deed is being entered into. The premises would be suitably furnished to house Lab and the office of SRO.
- 6.6** In an effort to create FSSAI sub-office at Hyderabad, Chief Secretary, Telangana Government has been requested to provide built up space of around 250-300 sq. mtr. at Hyderabad. This is being pursued. For other places viz. Bengaluru, Kutch/Kandla, Vizag and Krishnapatnam, correspondence with respective authorities is going on to get suitable accommodation.
- 6.7** International Training Centre for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition has been created with international level facilities as joint venture with EIC on 50% cost sharing basis at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Pilot Test House, MIDC area, Andheri (E) Mumbai
- 6.8** EIC has agreed to sub-lease/sub-let an [area approx. 380.25 m<sup>2</sup> at Pilot Test House EIA, Andheri (East) Mumbai] which is being renovated to house WRO, which is presently in a rental accommodation.
- 6.9** The CFL, Kolkata building is being renovated. NFL lab is being created with latest equipment with capability of all kinds of food testing and allied test.
- 6.10** **Annual Performance Management System (PMS) for employees of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India: -**  
In the 29<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 6.11.2019, a proposal for introduction of Annual Performance Management System (PMS) for the employees of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was considered. It was decided that the proposal will be circulated for comments of all employees of FSSAI. Few comments received were considered and the PMS has been implemented in the year 2020-21.

## **7. GLOBAL OUTREACH**

- 7.1** 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 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin.
- 7.2** A seminar on the challenges of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Agriculture and Food production was organized jointly by FSSAI and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) from 11-12 December, 2019 at the Royal Danish Embassy, New Delhi.



7.3 India participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Ad hoc Codex Inter-governmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) and 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) in November and December 2019. With India's active participation in the work of these Committees, several important Codex texts have been forwarded to the Commission which notably include the *Proposed Draft revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene and its HACCP Annex (Drafting team Co-Chaired by India)* for final adoption at Step 8.

7.4 FSSAI continues to effectively participate in the ongoing work of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its various Committees and Task Forces through electronic means, although the meetings of several Committees scheduled in the first half of 2020 have been cancelled or rescheduled on account of Covid-19 pandemic. Notably, FSSAI is actively participating in the ongoing 29th session of Codex Committee on Processed Fruits & Vegetables-CCPFV, currently working by correspondence, with India acting as rapporteur on 2 agenda items.

7.5 India will be completing its extended term (2015-2020) as the Regional Coordinator for FAO/WHO Coordinating committee for Asia (CCASIA) with the election of China as the new Coordinator in the forthcoming electronic session of Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC). Our role as Regional Coordinator effectively put India in the mainstream of Codex work and provided an opportunity to be a part of the CCEXEC (the think tank and strategic advisor of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) while effectively representing the interests of Asian Region therein. As the Regional Coordinator, India has also hosted two successful sessions of CCASIA with an all-round appreciation by the CCASIA membership and Codex Secretariat.

## **8. SOCIAL BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE**

**8.1 Eat Right Mela:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Eat Right Mela was organized from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at JLN Stadium in New Delhi in collaboration with NASVI. Hon'ble Health Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the mela. This mela followed an infotainment model wherein visitors not only enjoyed delicious street foods from all over India but also attended quizzes, panel discussions and talks on right eating practices by experts. There were interesting and informative stalls on FSSAI's initiatives, healthy cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs and shows by prominent artists. Over 10,000 people visited this mela over 5 days.

**8.2 Eat Right Quiz on MyGov Platform:** An Eat Right Quiz has been created to engage and educate citizens, particularly young people on basic concepts of eating right. Topics include hygiene and sanitation, safe food practices, food adulteration, balanced and healthy diets, food fortification, reduction of food loss and food waste

and other food related areas. This quiz has been designed to be played online on <https://eatrightindia.gov.in/eatrightquiz/home>. This quiz not only provides the correct answer but also the correct explanation and additional facts related to the question. The online quiz generates a certificate for the winner. This quiz was hosted on the MyGov platform from 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 to 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 with around 1 lakh participants. The first hundred winners were awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation and a cash prize of Rs. 1000.

**8.3 Experts Speak on My Gov Platform:** A series of short, 30-second videos by experts in the field of food and nutrition are being shown on the MyGov platform for two months to engage citizens and educate them about right eating habits. Each video contains a tip to follow, its explanation and call to action.

## 9. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Till date a total of 12900 training programs have been conducted and 3.13 lakh food handlers trained under the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme. With the outbreak of CoVID-19 in March 2020, FSSAI had to stop all physical training programmes and improvisation in the form of online trainings were started. Entire FoSTaC ecosystem with 242 Training Partners and 600 trainers were utilized to train the food industry and food handlers about CoVID-19 precautionary measures while handling food. Till date, nearly 800 training programs on CoVID-19 precautionary measures have been conducted and 22000 people trained. To reach out to maximum number of food handlers, a collaborative effort with FICSI- Food Processing Sector Skill Council, one of the sector skill councils under NSDC is being undertaken. FSSAI is also going to start regular FoSTaC courses online which will include online assessment. Not only Food Safety Supervisor's programme but also Training of Trainer's programme will commence online from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 onwards. FSSAI also has started online COVID 19 training for regulatory staff across the country. The training programme is mainly focused on understanding COVID-19, precautionary measure for the field level officers as well as the requirements of FBO.

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**Details of Capacity Building Programs Organised**

**Annexure-I**

S. No.	Participating States/UTs	Venue	Date of Training	No. of Candidates
<b>A. SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS</b>				
<b>I. Basic Techniques in Microbiology</b>				
A	All States/UTs	Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (CMAT), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> September, 2019	11
<b>II. Multi Pesticide Residue Analysis in Fruits and Vegetables (Batch-I &amp; II)</b>				
A	All States/UTs	Food Safety Solution Center (FSSC), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2019	10
B	All States/UTs	Food Safety Solution Center (FSSC), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	11 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> November, 2019	19 (including 4 from Nepal)
<b>III. Analysis on Mycotoxin</b>				
a	All States/UTs	Export Inspection council, Kochi	10-13 December, 2019	14
<b>IV. Multi-elements (heavy metals) analysis in fresh fruits and vegetables by using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)</b>				
a.	All States/UTs	Food Safety Solution Center (FSSC), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2019	18 (including 4 from Nepal)
<b>IV. Hands on Training on Microbiological Techniques for Analysis of High Risk Food-Meat and Poultry (in collaboration with CHIFSS)</b>				
A	All States/UTs	Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (CMAT), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	12
<b>V. Multi-residue analysis in cereals by using LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS</b>				
a	All States/UTs	Food Safety Solution Center (FSSC), National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad	17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	12
<b>VI. Method of analysis of Fortificants (Iron &amp; Iodine) in Double Fortified Salt</b>				
a	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh	Fare Labs Pvt Ltd, Gurugram, Haryana	3-5 March, 2020	15
<b>Total</b>				<b>111</b>

S. No.	Participating States/UTs	Venue	Date of Training	No. of Candidates
<b>B. GENERAL TRAINING PROGRAMS - Good Food Laboratory Practices</b>				
a.	Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal	Edward Food Research and Analysis Centre, Kolkata	15-17 October, 2019	26
b.	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala.	ITC-FSAN, Mumbai	28-30 January, 2020	41
c.	Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Srinagar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh,	Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi	24 -26 February, 2020	22
<b>Total B</b>				<b>89</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>				<b>200</b>