

# FSSAI NEWSLETTER

Ending 31 March, 2011

Volume 1, No. 2

April, 2011

## From the CEO's Desk

**Dear Readers,**

Substantial progress could be made by FSSAI towards a safe, sumptuous Food Regime for our countrymen. The contribution of Scientific Panels, Scientific Committee, CAC and Authority in various forms culminated towards FSSAI Rules, Regulations which were adopted and approved at 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011 and are about to be notified.

FSSAI continued to benefit from the leadership and guidance provided by the Chairperson and support of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, throughout the year 2010-2011. The challenges in the year 2011-12 would be still larger and I look forward to similar support from everyone to adhere to the targets set for the year.

- V.N Gaur  
CEO

## Latest News of FSSAI

- The draft FSSAI Rules forwarded to the Health Ministry for notification. The rules are framed for a governance structure of FSS Act, roles of different implementing agencies. On the basis of extensive consultations and regional workshop, State Governments have been sensitized to the provisions of the new FSS Act as well guided on the steps to be taken by them. During 2011, FSSAI shall closely work with each State to effect the transition from prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) towards new Food Laws (FSS Act), designate new functionaries, introduce various new provisions of it and help upgrade their regulatory institutions.
- The recent earthquake in Japan and concerns of possible radiation leakage from affected nuclear plants, there is a need to increase the surveillance of food imports from Japan to ensure that they are safe for consumption. As a precautionary measure it has been decided to test samples of food articles, particularly fresh produce, exported from Japan after 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, such as seafood, fruits, vegetables and meat for radioactive contamination.
- NISG (National Institute of Smart Governance) parting FSSAI in drafting import Rules and Regulations, development of MIS for clearance for imported food.
- EOI floated for empanelment of NABL accredited labs for testing imported food samples.



- EOI called for Development and implementation of scheme for undertaking
  - Research & Development,
  - Establishment of Food Safety Centres
  - Centres of Excellence
- Director FRSL, Ghaziabad delivered a lecture cum demonstration on "*Common Adulteration in Food and Their ill Effects on Health*" dated 4th February, 2011 at FRSL Ghaziabad.
- Director (Enforcement) and Director (Administration) joined Food Authority during February.
- Launch of jingles on FOOD SAFETY in Hindi on AIR (FM Gold) Radio and other Channels.
- International Women's Day celebrated 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. **Ms Pragati Seth DEO is a National Bravery Award Winner.**



## **A. MEETING & CONFERENCES**

### ***1.1 Central Advisory Committee***

CAC meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010 at Delhi. Main discussions on:

- The Result Framework Document 2010-11
- Enforcement structure in the States/ UTs for implementation of the Act
- IT enabled Licensing System
- Training policy, Capacity Building
- Up gradation, strengthening of food laboratories
- Awareness generation and communication strategy of FSSAI.

### ***1.2 Central Advisory Committee***

CAC meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 at Delhi.

Main discussion on:

- Review of preparedness PFA to FSS Act
- Licensing and Registration System
- Safety system for Imported Food
- Draft Regulation on Food Recall Procedure
- Information Updation System for States/UTs

### ***2.1 Authority Meeting***

Authority meeting held on 8th November 2010 at New Delhi. Main discussions

- ATR on previous meeting
- Food Safety Management System
- Import Safety Action Plan
- Scheme for associating

### ***2.2 Authority Meeting***

Authority meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011 at New Delhi. Main deliberations:

- Review of ATR of previous meeting
- Draft regulations and rules.
- Standards for Energy drinks, Olive Oil and Trans Fatty Acids.

## ***3. International Conference***

International Conference on Best Practices in Food Safety Implementation in collaboration with Michigan State University, USA and TERI (Tata Energy Research Institute) held on 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at New Delhi. The deliberations were:

- adoption of international best practices in food standards development,
- need for a risk assessment, consumer friendly labelling,
- science based process for approving innovations,
- regulation of food advertisements,
- rationalization of labelling info and presentation there-of,
- harmonization of standards and reciprocity in international standards & inspections,

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- sector-wise and industry level based approach in phased manner for traceability mechanism implementation,
- development of national reference documents by FSSAI on subjects related to food,
- Need for adopting a phased approach to achieve international standards etc.

#### 4. Scientific Committee Meeting

Meeting of the Scientific Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010 chaired by Prof. Nirmal Kumar Ganguly. The main deliberations were:

- standards on Trans-fatty Acids (TFA) and
- Caffeinated Beverages,
- draft regulation on foods for special nutritional or dietary uses,
- Approach for drawing up/ revision of food standards
- Proposal to create a network of Food Safety Centres & Centres of Excellence for Surveillance studies
- Research referral studies and an extra mural research grant system.

#### 5. Scientific Panels Meeting

- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Scientific Panel on functional foods, nutraceuticals, dietetic products and other similar products held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Scientific Panel on Biological Hazard held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.

### B. CAPACITY BUILDING

#### 1. Orientation Programme for State Food Safety Commissioners (FSC)

Programme conducted w.e.f. 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 in the FSSAI Head Quarter at New Delhi.

#### 2. ToT Programme for Food Safety Officers (FSO)

Training of Trainers (ToT) programs for Food Safety Officers were conducted at five regions viz.

- Northern region at Delhi during 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> June, 2010;

ToT programme for Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow during 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> July, 2010;

- Western region at Mumbai during 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July, 2010;
- Eastern region at Kolkata during 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2010
- Southern region at Chennai during 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.

#### 3. Five Days Training Programme for Designated Officers

- 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 at Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi.
- 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 at Human Resource Development Institute of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

#### 4. One Day Training Programme for local (Health) Authority and Food Safety Officers

Programme was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 at Gujarat.



#### 5. Workshop on Empowering for Mission Food Safety

The workshop held on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at Delhi. Twenty four employees of FSSAI from Head Quarter and other Regional Offices participated in the program.

#### 6. Two Day Workshop on Implementation of Sevottam and Elements of IS- 15700

Two day workshop on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at FSSAI's Headquarters to enable FSSAI employees to understand the concepts of Sevottam, followed by one day workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010, were organized by FSSAI.

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**7. Interactive meet with stakeholders on Imported Food clearances**

All major stakeholders participated in the session on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011 at Headquarter FSSAI, Delhi. Representatives from Customs Airport authority, CHA, DGFT, Ministry of Shipping, Export/Import association etc.

**C. LABORATORIES: GAP STUDY AND STANDARDS**

A MOU signed between Quality Council of India (QCI), and FSSAI on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 09 for conducting gap study of the Government public health/food laboratories. QCI has audited a total of 44 labs till August 2010. The gap study was conducted as per guidelines of ISO/IEC: 17025:2005 (General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories). It includes following areas:

- a. General Chemicals
- b. Pesticide Residue, antibiotic, heavy metals, veterinary drug residues etc
- c. Microbiology

FSSAI shall explore the options of involving suitable agencies for assisting laboratories for up-gradation. A suitable MOU will be developed with the State Governments to identify and fix responsibility for suggesting steps which are required to be taken by them.

**Standards for Labs**

State public/food laboratories are to follow entry level standard for the testing of samples and their documentation. This would be the first step in the progress towards achieving accreditation as per ISO/IEC: 17025:2005. They have to reach this standard in a span of one year and to the final standard in a span of three years for final notification under Section 43 of Food Safety Standard Act. The entry level standard will act as a base for getting the accreditation of food laboratories either by National Accreditation Board of Laboratories (NABL) or any other recognized bodies.

**D. INTEGRATED IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM (IIFSS)**

National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) engaged by FSSAI for conceptualization, design and implementation of an Integrated Imported food Safety System (IIFSS) for ensuring that food imported into India is safe.

NISG also helped FSSAI to operationalise Imported Food Clearance process at the following Sea and Air Ports during last few months.

- 1) Chennai Sea and Air Port
- 2) Mumbai Sea and Air Port Trust, Mumbai,
- 3) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Nhava Sheva, Mumbai,
- 4) Kolkata Sea and Air Port Trust, Kolkata and
- 5) Haldia Dock Complex, Purba, Mednipur, WB
- 6) New Delhi Air Port
- 7) Tuglakabad ICD, Dadri ICD.

A "Kick-off" meeting was held at each location with the involvement of all stakeholders during August, 2010. FSSAI has notified Authorized Officers under section 47 (5).



The imported food safety process includes the following steps:

- 1. Sampling request from Custom House Agents
- 2. Sampling of food item according to its hazard
- 3. Submission of sample to lab for testing
- 4. Receipt of lab report
- 5. Submission of No Objection Certificate (NOC) to customs for clearance of food import

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