

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

1. Ongoing efforts in focus areas:

- a) Consequent on approval of Recruitment Regulations on 01.10.2018, FSSAI has advertised 415 posts on Direct Recruitment & Deputation basis. The process of selection of Executive Director and Advisor (both on deputation) and Director (on direct recruitment & deputation) has been completed.
- b) The ban on import of milk and milk products, including chocolates and chocolate products and candies/confectionary/food preparations from milk and milk solids as ingredients from China has been extended until the capacity of all laboratories at ports of entry across India have been suitably upgraded for testing melamine.
- c) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, total of **(416)** training programs have been conducted in collaboration with training partners during April 2019. The following are the list of training programs that have been conducted.
- d) The EAT-Lancet Commission's 'Food Planet Health', was formally released for India at the headquarters of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Policy-makers, development agencies, embassy representatives, farmers' associations, food tech entrepreneurs, researchers and students were present at this event, which was webcast live to 43 colleges across the country.

2. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and support systems:

- a) A Food Safety Solution Center" (a unique initiative of Thermo Fisher Scientific in association with FSSAI) was opened on 2nd April, 2019 at National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad. The centre would cater to the need of analytical community by developing critical work flows and integrated solutions that help build food safety capacity in India.
- b) A Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (C-MAT) was handed over to FSSAI by MERCK on 30th April, 2019 at National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad. This centre would impart training to laboratory personnel in the area of microbiological testing.
- c) Capacity Building:
 - (i) An awareness program on ISO/IEC-17025:2017 for state food Laboratories was conducted at ICAR- Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture(CIBA) Chennai for the food analysts & other scientific/technical personnel working in State Food Testing Laboratories.
 - (ii) A training program for estimation of formaldehyde in fish and fishery products was conducted at ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi for Food Analysts and Laboratory personnel attended the training program.

3. International initiatives:

FSSAI participated in 51st Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues Macau, S.A.R, P.R. China (April 8-13, 2019).

- a) India presented the discussion paper on Guidelines for the determination of pesticides as Endocrine Disruptors (ED) and harmonized risk management approaches in respect of their presence in foods in the Committee.
- b) India will work as co-chair of electronic working groups for development of guidance for compounds of low public health concerns that could be exempted from the establishment of Codex MRLs and discussion paper on the management of unsupported compounds.
- c) India will prepare a discussion paper regarding monitoring of purity and stability of CRM of multi-class pesticides during prolonged storage along with Argentina for consideration at CCPR52.