

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2018

1. New Initiative:

- a) **National Conclave on Scientific Co-Operation on Food Safety and Applied Nutrition:** National Conclave on Scientific Co-Operation on Food Safety and Applied Nutrition' was organised by FSSAI on 5th February, 2018 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi .This National Conclave was being organised as part of a larger initiative 'Food Safety Knowledge Assimilation Network' (FSKAN). The Conclave was a high level dialogue between the scientific communities; stakeholders involved in research and development area and government organisations for exploring the avenues of collaboration/coordination targeting three major areas as under:
- Research coordination in the field of food safety and applied nutrition
 - Development in food testing methodologies and technology
 - Data generation/sharing on food safety and applied nutrition

2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Notifications issued regarding:
- Food Safety and Standards(Imports) Amendment Regulation, 2018 w.r.t shelf life
 - Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2018 relating to 'Inclusion of fatty acid composition of various edible vegetable oil'.
- b) The 25th Meeting of the Food Authority was held on 21.02.2018 at FSSAI HQ, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI wherein the Food Authority approved the following:
- Draft Standards with respect to standards for Goat/Sheep milk, chhana and paneer, whey cheese, cheese in brine, dairy permeate powder, refined vegetable oil, synthetic syrup and sharbat, coconut milk and coconut cream, wheat bran, non-fermented soybean products, meat and meat products, , processing aids for use in various food categories, limit for heavy metal (lead) in tea etc.
 - Final Standards relating to all pulses, whole and decorticated pearl millet grains, cornflakes, degermed maize, formulated supplements for children, honey, bee wax, royal jelly, inclusion of provision for additional additives in various food categories, tolerance limit of antibiotic and pharmacology active substances etc.
 - Two final regulations namely FSS (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018 and FSS (Recognition and Notification of laboratories) Regulations, 2018
 - Formulation of two new scientific panels on 'Antibiotic Residues' and 'Sweeteners, Sugars & Honey'

- c) Mobile food testing laboratory 'Food Safety on Wheels' was launched in Hyderabad by Health Minister Dr C Laxma Reddy at Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) on 5th Feb, 2018 to facilitate on-spot testing of food samples and to create awareness about food safety.
- d) 1000 Women Entrepreneurs were provided with free FSSAI Business Licenses for starting their own Food Businesses, during 3rd Edition of the Prominent Vasai Industrial Expo 2018 held from 10th-12th Feb 2018 at Hitendra Thakur Appa ground,Vasai.
- e) FSSAI has renewed the MoU with Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to Co-regulate & Curb Misleading Advertisements in the Food & Beverage Industry.
- f) **Training Programs:**
- The 5th Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Veterinary Drug Residues including antibiotics was organized by FSSAI in association with Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali, Punjab from 6th to 10th February, 2018. Total 11 laboratory personnel participated in the training program.
 - The 6th Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Veterinary Drug Residues including antibiotics was organized by FSSAI in association with M/s Waters India Private Limited, Bangalore from 19th to 23rd February, 2018. Total 12 laboratory personnel participated in the training program.
- g) Under FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) initiative, total 113 training programmes have been conducted during Feb, 2018, in collaboration with training partners.

3. Strengthening of Infrastructure and support systems:

- a) **Notification of Laboratories:** 15 more laboratories have been recognized and notified under section 43 (1) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 by FSSAI vide Gazette notification S.O. 848 dated 19.02.2018 thus raising the total number of food laboratories to 161.
- b) **Recognition of Food Testing Laboratory of Bhutan:** FSSAI has recognized the National Food Testing Laboratory, Thimpu, Bhutan for analysis of food samples. The test analysis certificate issued by the National food Testing laboratory, Bhutan shall be accepted by the Authorities in India dealing in food import.