Current regulatory status & strategy to reduce food borne illness in India
Regulatory Framework

Foodborne illness is not a local issue and a coherent approach is required to tackle the challenge effectively. The aim is to reduce the number of food related human cases in India.

FSSAI oversees the safety of domestic and imported food products:
• Food Safety & Standards Act 2006 and Rules & Regulations 2011
• Monitoring and surveillance programs for pathogens, toxins, pesticides, and other contaminants.
• Assessment of potential food borne risks.
Section 21 of FSS Act 2006

• (1) No article of food shall contain insecticides or pesticides residues, veterinary drugs residues, antibiotic residues, solvent residues, pharmacological active substances and micro-biological counts in excess of such tolerance limit as may be specified by regulations.

Food Safety & Standards (food standards & Food additives) regulation 2011

Appendix B of FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additive) Regulation, 2011 specifies Microbiological Requirements for food categories Based on different International Standards such as EU, FSANZ, US Canada etc. ICMSF (International commission on Microbiological Specifications of foods) Guideline Codex risk assessment guideline
Goal

The food chain for each commodity can generally represent as follows

- **Farm**
- **Processing**
- **Distribution**
- **Retail/food services**
- **Consumer**

Each stage contributes in a particular way to the level of pathogens in the end product.

Intervention at different points will have different impact on the final outcome and microbial count.

Building a Regulatory systems to promote self compliance and enforcement activities.

Working closely with industry to develop interventions.

Partnership and convergence.

SNF initiatives for all sectors for generating awareness.
Core strategic areas

- Development of options for data sharing with government agencies and research organizations working in the sector of food safety.
- Monitoring and surveillance mechanism is in place that is being shared with the states and food sector to target intervention, and monitoring also being done at the state level.
- Working on development of FSMS guidelines and consistent implementation of FSMS based on HACCP and suitable pre-requisite programs to ensure food safety across various food categories.
- Food Safety Audit regulation has been finalized and management of food safety auditors and food safety audits in process.
- Continuous work in engaging with government partners, industry associations, civil society organizations, and consumers to bring about behavioral change in every sphere.

- Regulatory strategy
- Implementation of FSMS and audits
- Partnership and convergence
- Communication strategy
Structure and components of Indian Food safety Emergency Response

Foodborne diseases

District Surveillance Officer (IDSP)

State Surveillance Officer (IDSP)

Project Director & National Project Officer

Food Safety Officer

Designated Officer / Food Safety Commissioner

National Emergency Contact point / FSSAI

National Focal Point

INFOSAN Secretariat

Food safety events

Food Safety Risk Assessment Committee

Food safety Coordination Committee
Food Safety Emergency Response (FSER) plan for India

Important and critical parameter in developing the plan lies in
• The areas of identifying the emerging hazards.
• Assessing risks which are of national and global importance
• Communication and dissemination of information to all stakeholders in the case of emergencies.

Objectives
• Prevention of food safety related events
• Managing / responding to any food safety situations.
Emergency response phases

**Alert phase:** notify identified food safety incident to INFOSAN Secretariat and/or National food safety Authorities

**Action phase:**
- Recall implicated food
- Temporary ban on the sale of implicated food
- Prevent the import of any such food.
- Initiate a process of tracing / linking the implicated food with human cases
- Advise consumers on the extent of risk

**Stand down phase:**
- withdrawal of the ban and advisories after the situation seems to be under control.
Schematic representation of the framework of FSER plan

Liaise with WHO and IHR focal point to develop a project document

Identification of key partners /stakeholders

Sensitization of stakeholders on INFOSAN and FSER Plan

Establishment of Risk assessment and coordination Committee

Development of SOPs

Operationalization of the Plan
Way forward

➢ Acute Diarrheal Disease Guidance Document
   for FSO and Designated Officers
   To be prepared in coordination with CDC India, WHO and NCDC

➢ Coordinating with NCDC under Disease surveillance through Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP)
   ➢ Develop a link between the forborne episode and the foods implicated in the event

➢ Outbreak response (FSO to be a part of Rapid response team during outbreak investigation.

➢ Prevention and regulatory efforts

   Information, Education, Communication
   • Community based
   • Vendors/caterers
   • Commercial
Thank you