

Minutes of the 12th meeting of Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

The 12th meeting of Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was held on 1st August, 2014 at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The list of participants who attended the meeting is at **Annexure I**.

Sh. Bimal Kumar Dubey, Director (Enforcement), FSSAI extended a warm welcome to all the members and their representatives to the 12th meeting of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) and invited Sh. D. K Samantaray, CEO, FSSAI on the dais for inaugural address.

Inaugural Address by CEO, FSSAI

Sh. Samantaray, CEO, FSSAI welcomed all the CAC members. CEO congratulated the states for creating the institutional mechanism for effective implementation of the Act. He expressed his satisfaction that most States/UTs have appointed Designated Officers, Food Safety Officers and constituted Steering Committee and Appellate Tribunal in the States. However, he expressed his concern on the appointment of full time Designated Officers. It was mentioned that 23 states have implemented the online FLRS system and the remaining states will soon join the list by next year. CEO, FSSAI congratulated pioneer states like Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for performing exceptionally well in licensing and registration and mentioned that the states like Daman and Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar, Nagaland, Delhi, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya have achieved great success in a year's time. But the states still having low licensing and registration figure viz. Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, West Bengal and Pondicherry are the area of concern.

He further mentioned that till date, FSSAI has captured 80% turnover in the area of Food Business under Licensing and Registration proving that the FSS Act, 2006 has struck deep root amongst the food business operators across the country.

Talking about the future plan of action, CEO, FSSAI stressed the need and importance of making food safe and healthy. He mentioned that focus should also be given to food surveillance, both active and passive, and named the year 2014 as "Surveillance Year" for FSSAI. CEO, FSSAI informed the house that draft Surveillance plan is ready and will be circulated soon. Each state may customise the surveillance plan as per local requirement of their state.

CEO, FSSAI emphasized on the training of officers and staff working at Centre and State. He laid stress on developing curriculum as per the latest advancement in Food Industry. He also told the FSCs to identify the training institutes in the States for training DO, FSOs and other officers of the State Government. FSSAI may conduct workshops/seminars on food safety, safe and healthy food and food surveillance, to create and spread awareness in the Country. The Consumer Organisations can play an active role in it.

It was mentioned that the training of Food Business Operators is also an important area of concern. A committee under Advisor was suggested with FSCs of selected States and member of consumer organisations and industry as its members to develop a complete model including curriculum for such training. For the training of Petty Food Business Operators, funds from CSR initiatives of food industry may be utilised. The Committee will include their suggestions in this regard after consulting industry representations.

He informed that in recent times, FSSAI has taken a number of steps for ensuring overall implementation of the act. A few of which are as follows:

1. Harmonisation of standards with CODEX and other International Standards.
2. Deficiency of Vitamin A and D is a serious issue in our country and fortification of various widely consumed food items with Vitamin A and Vitamin D has been initiated.
3. For strengthening of state/ public food testing laboratories baseline assessment/ gap study has been done and the compilation of reports is under process. Committees have already been set up for technical guidance to laboratories w.r.t. up-grading the labs and for setting up of new laboratories
4. Public analyst exam was conducted so that the state labs may recruit them as Food Analyst, if needed.

In the end, Sh. Samantaray, CEO FSSAI, thanked all for their combined effort to take the FSS Act forward and stressed that hard work would bring tremendous change in the consumer's attitude towards food safety, and implementation of the act.

The inaugural address was then followed by the key note address by Sh. K. Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI. In his key note address, he praised the success in the area of online licensing and registration and stressed the need for more enthusiastic effort in the area. He mentioned that FSSAI has issued 30 lakh licenses and registrations till date and thanked States/UTs Governments for ensuring the implementation of the Act in the spirit it was laid down. CP mentioned that that no other government program in India had such a big online presence as FSSAI's FLRS system.

Chairperson, FSSAI drew attention of the CAC members towards the vitamin A and Vitamin D fortification initiative by FSSAI which would mark a transition of the act from safe food to healthy food. The challenge before FSSAI is merging enforcement of the act with the standard setting, and this may be achieved through harmonisation of International standards to Indian conditions. Chairperson, FSSAI requested all the states to carry out the surveillance activities for continuous monitoring and also emphasised that it should be carried out in a transparent manner.

He stated that along with food safety, issues like high fat, salt and sugar food in schools should be addressed through awareness campaigns.

In the end, Chairperson, FSSAI thanked CEO, FSSAI for his contribution to FSSAI and wished him luck for his future endeavours.

Agenda 1- Disclosure of Interest by members

The members filled the Disclosure of Interest forms and submitted to FSSAI representatives.

Agenda.2- Confirmation of minutes of the eleventh meeting of the CAC held on 7th March, 2014

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the eleventh meeting of the CAC held on 7th March, 2014.

Agenda 3 - Presentation by Bank of Baroda on Payment Gateway

A presentation was made by Mr. J. K Das, DGM, and Sh. Sarvesh Gupta, AGM, Bank of Baroda, on integrated internet payment gateway with FLRS and FICS in case of Central Licensing and Imports.

It was informed that the State of Kerala has already adopted the payment gateway offered by Bank of Baroda (BOB), other States can adopt the payment gateway system which will facilitate a very transparent and accountable licensing and registration system through FLRS. In this connection, a communication will be sent to the States. The representatives of BOB also informed that the State Food safety Commissioners if they wish can contact the BOB directly in this connection.

Agenda 4- Enforcement of FSS Act, 2006

Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Assistant Director (Enforcement), FSSAI presented the data regarding the Food Safety infrastructure available in the States/UTs for enforcement of Acts and Regulations.

It was mentioned that a few states like Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan have not yet established the Appellate Tribunal. The concerned States responded that they are waiting for guidance from the respective Hon'ble High Court.

Chairperson, FSSAI impressed upon the states about the importance of steering committee and requested that all the states should expedite the formulation of appellate tribunal and steering committee.

A brief report submitted by the States/UTs is presented below:

1. Andaman & Nicobar Island

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 3 DO, 3 AO and 18 FSO are notified.
- b) No Food Analyst is notified.
- c) Till date 404 Licenses and 4,768 Registrations issued.
- d) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- e) Steering committee is constituted.
- f) One food testing laboratory established which don't have any food analyst.
Therefore the informal food samples are being tested which has no legal validity.

2. Assam

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 5 DO, 27 AO, 16 Senior FSO, 26 FSO, and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 3,412 Licenses and 2,021 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory established.

3. Chandigarh

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 1 DO, 1 AO and 3 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 2,824 Licenses and 573 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal established.
- d) Steering committee constituted.
- e) State food laboratory of Punjab and Haryana are utilised for food analysis.

4. Delhi

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 8 DO, 15 FSO, 11 AO and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 6,481 Licenses and 1,693 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee constituted.
- e) One NABL Accredited food testing laboratory is established.

5. Goa

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 2 DO, 2 AO, 11 FSO and 2 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 2,229 Licenses and 14,313 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.
- d) Steering Committee not yet constituted.
- e) State has one food testing laboratory.

6. Gujarat

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 34 DO, 33 AO, 261 FSO and 10 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 32,486 Licenses and 95,867 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Nine food testing laboratories were notified out of which 2 are NABL Accredited.

7. Haryana

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 21 DO, 21 AO, 12 FSO and 3 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 3,948 Licenses and 8,357 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) State has 2 food testing laboratory.

8. Himachal Pradesh

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 13 DO, 10 AO, 9 FSO and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 6,406 Licenses and 68,188 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is establishment.
- e) State has 1 food testing laboratory but not NABL Accredited.

9. Jammu & Kashmir

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 25 DO, 22 AO, 87 FSO and 2 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 7,990 Licenses and 68,748 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is not established.
- d) Steering committee constituted.
- e) State has 2 food testing laboratory.

10. Karnataka

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 21 DO, 30 AO, 68 FSO and 5 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 25,090 Licenses and 1,02,593 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process. Instead a special court is constituted.
- d) Steering committee is not constituted.
- e) State has five food laboratories.

11. Kerala

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 14 DO, 14 AO, 75 FSO and 8 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 30,675 Licenses and 1, 35,388 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.

- e) State has three food laboratories.

12. Madhya Pradesh

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 51 DO, 184 FSO, 51 AO and 1 Food Analyst notified.
- b) Till date 37,362 Licenses and 3, 17,933 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established, presiding officer to be appointed.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory is established.

13. Maharashtra

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 62 DO, 78 AO, 265 FSO+ 35 local bodies and 23 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 1, 55,467 Licenses and 5, 55,357 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal established.
- d) Steering Committees established.
- e) There are 16 notified food testing laboratories.

14. Meghalaya

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 1 Deputy Commissioner, 3 DO, 7 AO and 7 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 1,737 Registrations and 1,252 Licenses issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee constituted at State and District level.
- e) Food analyst post vacant.

15. Nagaland

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 11 DO, 11 AO, 8 FSO notified and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 280 Licenses and 3,110 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not established.

- d) Steering committee not constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratory notified.

16. Odisha

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 37 DO, 30 AO and 25 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 4,722 Licenses and 6,877 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) One food testing laboratory notified.
- f) Non availability of food analyst creating problems in food sample analysis.

17. Punjab

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 22 DO, 22 AO, 45 FSO and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 12,236 Licenses and 88,507 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratories established.

18. Puducherry

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 2 AO, 1 DO, 2 FSO and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 1,317 Registrations and 511 Licenses issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is under process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratory established.

19. Rajasthan

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 42 DO, 88 FSO, 48 AO and 6 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 30,383 Licenses and 1,17,287 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.

- e) Six State food laboratories established.

20. Tamil Nadu

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 32 DO, 32 AO, 503 FSO and 6 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 28,251 Licenses and 1,55,555 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is not yet established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) Six State food laboratories established.

21. Uttar Pradesh

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 75 DO, 75 AO, 287 FSO and 3 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 38,489 Licenses and 3,19,931 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is establishment.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) Five food testing laboratories working out of total six laboratories.

Agenda 5 – Progress of States/UTs regarding Implementation of FSS Act 2006

CEO, FSSAI praised the states of Goa, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand for sending their monthly report on regular basis and requested the other states to send their annual reports immediately.

Addressing the issue of sample collection, it was suggested to create a central portal for reporting the sample collected for analysis and samples failed(found adulterated, unsafe, substandard, misbranded etc.). Since the whole focus of sample collection is based on risk assessment of food, the data collected may be analysed by the authority and risk based surveillance framework could be formulated for better surveillance.

Commissioner Food Safety, Goa stated that in Goa, 15% sampling was consumer oriented, and after the analysis of samples, the consumers are informed about the results through FSOs. This model was praised by Chairperson, FSSAI and he asked the other states to follow the same. CEO, FSSAI also recommended that training of consumer organisations may be organised for sampling.

Agenda 6- Appointment of Designated Officers in States

CEO, FSSAI mentioned that states should immediately take steps to appoint full time Designated officers and since this issue is now under judicial scrutiny before the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, any delay would lead to legal complications in discharge of duties by Designated officers. FSSAI has already written to the States in this matter.

Agenda 7- Implementation of FLRS in States/UTs

The above agenda was presented by Mr. Raghu Guda, General Manager, NISG. In his presentation, certain concerns were raised:

1. Adoption of FLRS is low, inspite of citizen service centres in some of the States.
2. If FLRS is adopted in a state, then it should be adopted completely and not partially
3. The infrastructure in states in implementing FLRS
4. Some States have yet to start the FLRS

He stated that the issue of digital signature on the certificates is being considered and would be rolled out soon.

Sh. Mahesh Zagade, Commissioner Food Safety, Maharashtra suggested to develop an Android based application for online Licensing and Registration for making it easily accessible. Mr. Raghu, NISG informed that NISG and FSSAI are working on this strategy as well.

Agenda 8- Training and Capacity building

CEO, FSSAI asked the states to send the nominations of officers for ToT training to FSSAI, as per the eligibility criteria sent to the states. The states should also send the name of the institutes to be notified by FSSAI for the regular training Programs of Food Safety Regulators on a continuous basis.

Also, the states may send the names of newly recruited FSOs for the 5 days Crash Course Training Program, till the time institutes are notified in the states.

Agenda 9- Harmonisation of Indian Standards with Codex and other International Best Practices

The above agenda item was discussed by Sh. S. Dave, Advisor, FSSAI who informed the members that draft prepared by e-WG for horizontal standards of food commodities were being placed before the Scientific Panels/Expert Groups for finalisation. He also mentioned that harmonisation could be in terms of procedures and technologies, and was another extension of concept of quality by design.

Agenda 10- Disposal of Confiscated Seized Products

Director (Enforcement), FSSAI also mentioned that FSSAI would be making manuals on disposal of seized products, which would be circulated to the states.

Agenda 11- Time Period of Appeal against report of food analyst

Sh. Bimal K. Dubey Director (Enforcement) discussed this agenda and informed that Authority will take a decision and will communicate it to all the States.

Agenda-12- Food Import Clearance System Implemented by FSSAI

Dr. Sandhya Kabra, Director (Imports), discussed the agenda and mentioned that FICS began in 2010. It is proposed to implement the 5th phase in 5 more ports i.e Tuticorin, Kandra, Mundla, Kakinada and Vizag. The milestones and the way forward in FICS were also stated and discussed in the meeting. It was stated that FICS would ensure a single window clearance system for customs and also that FSSAI is in process of developing food inspection prioritization system.

Agenda 13 - Any other issue with the permission of the chair

1. **Presentation on Organisational Structure:** Sh. Bimal K. Dubey, Director (Enforcement), presented the organisational structure finalized by the committee set up by the CAC to be implemented in the States and divisional district offices of the states. The members accepted the proposed organisational structure.

2. The provision and disbursement of funds to the states was also discussed. It was informed by Mrs. Vinod Kotwal, Financial Advisor and Director (CODEX), FSSAI that funds may be released to the states for centrally sponsored schemes once the funds are sanctioned to the Authority. These funds would be released after signing a MoU with the states with some benchmarks to be fulfilled by the States. The focus of fund release will be two fold

- Strengthening of food safety infrastructure
- Infrastructure of labs

Actionable Points emerging from the meeting:

Based on the discussions held during the meeting the following actionable points emerged:

1. States may contact Bank of Baroda directly or through FSSAI for the implementation of payment gateway solution as implemented by FSSAI. .

2. A committee headed by Shri. S. Dave, Advisor (S), FSSAI will be constituted to draw up strategy for the training of food business operators. The committee will also have Food Safety Commissioner, consumer organisations and industry as member of the committee. The committee will examine the issue how best to utilize the CSR funds from FBOs for the purpose.
3. States/UTs to conduct Surveillance activities on a regular basis for effective implementation of Act.
4. To examine the feasibility of having an online surveillance system on the lines of FLRS to capture all the activities being undertaken as part of surveillance activities.
5. States/UTs to expeditiously complete the process of digitization of manually issued license/registration.

Towards the end of the meeting Chairperson, FSSAI informed the house that this will be the last CAC meeting of CEO as he will be relinquish the charge of CEO, FSSAI shortly. Chairperson, FSSAI on behalf of all the members thanked CEO for his contribution in ensuring effective implementation of the Act in cooperation with all concerned.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

ANNEXURE – 1

The following were present during the CAC Meeting of CAC members held on 1st August, 2014 at Gulmohar hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi:-

1. Shri. K. Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI, Delhi
2. Shri. D.K Samantaray, CEO, FSSAI, Delhi
3. Shri. S.Dave, Advisor (Standards), FSSAI, Delhi
4. Ms. Vinod Kotwal, Director (Codex), FSSAI, Delhi
5. Shri. Bimal K Dubey, Director (Enf/ Sur), FSSAI, Delhi
6. Dr. Meenakshi Singh, Scientist (Standards), FSSAI, Delhi
7. Shri. Pradip Chakraborty, Director (Admin/IEC/Zone), FSSAI, Delhi
8. Shri. Sanjay Gupta, AD (Enf) FSSAI, , Delhi
9. Shri. P. Kartikeyan, AD (QA) FSSAI, Delhi
10. Dr. Bishan Chand, A.D (Training), FSSAI, Delhi
11. Dr. B.G. Pandian, A.D (Imports), FSSAI
12. Shri. Rakesh Kulsreshtra, JD (M), FSSAI
13. Shri T.D. Parshanta Rao, DD (FA), FSSAI
14. Shri. A. Rastogi, AD (Surveillance), FSSAI, Delhi
15. Dr. S.K. Paul, Commissioner Food Safety, Andaman & Nicobar Island
16. Smt. M. Hegjer, Commissioner Food Safety, Assam
17. Shri. Samiran Bamrah, Food Safety Officer, Assam
18. Dr. K. S. Rana, DO, Chandigarh
19. Shri. K.K. Jindal, Commissioner food Safety, Delhi
20. Shri. Sohan Singh Kanawat, Special Commissioner Food Safety, Delhi
21. Shri. Sumiti Kumar Gupta, DO, Delhi
22. Shri. Salim A. Veljee, Commissioner Food Safety, Goa
23. Shri. Raj Kumar Singla, Joint Commsioner, Haryana
24. Sh. Rameshwar Sharma, Director, Health Safety & Regulation, Himachal Pradesh
25. Dr. Baldev Raj Sharma, Controller, Jammu & Kashmir
26. Sri S N Nanjundaiah, Chief Food Analyst, Karnataka
27. Shri. K. Anil Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Kerala

28. Shri. Davendra K. Verma, Senior FSO, Madhya Pradesh
29. Shri. Mahesh Zagade, Commissioner Food Safety, Maharashtra
30. Shri. K.V. Sankhe, Joint Commissioner, Maharashtra
31. Dr. K. U. Methekar, Sr. FSO, Maharashtra
32. Shri. S.N Sangma, Dy. Commissioner, Meghalaya
33. Dr. Chubatoshi, Joint Director, Nagaland
34. Dr. Bikas Patnayak, Deputy Commissioner, Orissa
35. Dr. G.L. Upadhyaya, Deputy Food safety Commissioner, Puducherry
36. Shri. Hussan Lal, Commissioner Food Safety, Punjab
37. Dr. Aditya Atreya, DO, Rajasthan
38. Dr. K. Amarender Reddy, Director, Telangana
39. Shri. Kumar Jayant, Commissioner Food safety, Tamil Nadu
40. Shri. Hemant Rao, Commissioner Food Safety, Uttar Pradesh
41. Shri. R.S. Rawat, Designated Officer, Uttar Pradesh
42. Shri. George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International, Jaipur
43. Shri. R. Desikan, Founder Trustee, CONCERT and Consumer Association of India
44. Dr. S.P Vasireddi, Executive Chairman, VIMTA Labs, Hyderabad
45. Ms. Monika Rawat, Senior Assistant Director, FICCI, Delhi
46. Shri. Anita Rao, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
47. Shri. S.K. Pandey, Assistant Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Delhi
48. Ms. Rajni Agrawal, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Delhi
49. Shri. R. Muthuraj, Director, Ministry of Commerce, Delhi
50. Dr. Tarsem Chand, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi
51. Shri. R.K. Gupta, Ministry of Agriculture, Delhi
52. Shri. K.R.S. Iyer, Bank of Baroda, Delhi
53. Shri. S.K. Gupta, Bank of Baroda, Delhi
54. Shri. J.K Das, Bank of Baroda, Delhi
55. Shri. I.N. Moorthy, General Manager, NISG, Hyderabad

56. Shri. Raghu Guda, General Manager, NISG, Hyderabad

*** It may be noted that names of participants have been arranged as appeared in the attendance list and does not follow any seniority order. Any mistake in name spelling is regretted.**