



FOOD PRO

E-News Letter of All India Food Processors' Association
(Established in 1943)

From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

It is with great sense of pride that I like to share that AIFPA was a co-associate of ITPO at the recently held **Aahar 2016** exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Hall No. 15 at Pragati Maidan was mobilized for AIFPA members and associates.

The National Meet on **“Operationalization of Standards of Food Additives & Other Food Regulations for Food Safety”** held on 17th March 2016 during Aahar provided a good platform for the industry members and FSSAI senior team to interact with each other on various subjects related to regulations.

A National Workshop on **“Export Potential of Value Added Food Products with focus on Organic Foods”** was also organized on 18th March 2016.

The month of March also saw the new team of AIFPA meet both the senior FSSAI officials as well as the Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Both these meetings were extremely productive from the point of view of the role AIFPA can play during this fiscal year.

AIFPA team also looks forward to meeting Dr. Amit Mitra, Finance Minister, Govt. of West Bengal who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the GST council.

AIFPA has plans to hold its signature event, namely, **“AIFPA Food Show”** during the month of August 2016. The team is actively talking with organizations who can be associated in managing and organizing this event. We hope to formalize this relationship shortly. I whole heartedly request the members to actively participate in this event and show-case their products.

This year will see activities related to increase in membership base of AIFPA. I request all members to encourage their colleagues in food processing industries to join AIFPA and strengthen the Association.

With regards,

(Sagar Anand Kurade)

Kind Attention of Readers

The E-Newsletter is being sent to over 50,000 E-mail Ids every month. We would welcome suggestions/comments from the readers to enable us to improve upon the contents.

Advertisements are also welcome (½ page/Full page) which carries nominal charges, which are as follows:-

In colour	:	Full Page	Rs. 3000/- per insertion
In Colour	:	Half Page	Rs. 1500/- per insertion
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Note: - For twelve advertisements published in a year, only ten insertions will be charged for and two insertions will be treated as free.

Chief Editor

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), a Govt. of India Enterprise and Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) are jointly organizing the 11th Regional Edition of AAHAR - The International Food Fair 2016, at Chennai from 15 - 17 September 2016 at Hall No.1 of Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai.

All India Food Processors' Association (AIFPA) as one of the Go Associates of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) invites Food Processing Industries, Bakery Industries, Additives/Ingredients Manufacturers, Machinery Manufacturers/dealers and allied Industries to participate in the above event and advertise their products, equipment, etc.

EXHIBITOR'S PROFILE

- ñ Food Products, all kind of foods & processed foods including beverages;
- ñ Food processing & packaging machinery, Equipments, Bakery Equipments;
- ñ Air-conditioning, refrigeration and cold storage systems;
- ñ Hotel and kitchen equipment and tableware, Laundry Equipments;
- ñ Health and fitness equipment;
- ñ Testing / Consultancy services;.
- ñ Hospitality Products, Retailing and Vending Equipments etc.

VISITOR'S PROFILE

- ñ Foreign buyers, Importers and Wholesalers
- ñ Businessmen, Policy makers, media persons
- ñ Suppliers, hoteliers, industrial canteens, clubs, etc.
- ñ Marketing and direct selling companies
- ñ Government Agencies, etc.

AIFPA would be happy to provide built-up stalls/space for the participants as per details given below.
Space Rent / Participation Charges will be as follows:

Participation Fee		
	Shell Scheme (minimum booking 9 sqm)	Bare Space (minimum booking 27 sqm)
Indian Exhibitor	Rs.6,500/- per sqm	Rs.5,500/- per sqm
Foreign Exhibitor	USD 185 per sqm	USD 170 per sqm
Indian Agents of Foreign Companies	USD 185 per sqm	USD 170 per sqm

Kindly Note:

- > 5% Refundable Security deposit will be charged from all domestic participants
- > 14.50% Service tax from all participants

We request you to kindly rush your order for booking for the stall/space that you intend to take in the show along with **RTGS/Demand Draft** favouring "**India Trade Promotion Organisation**" payable at **Chennai** to avoid last minute disappointment to enable us to arrange for space based on your requirements. The allotment shall be mainly governed on "**first come first serve basis**".

In case of any Query kindly contact:

1. **Rameshwar Maurya, Deputy Manager (Events),**
Mobile: +91-8744088116, Email: maurya@aifpa.net
2. **Harender Singh, Jr. Executive**
Mobile: +91-9953223356, Email: harender@aifpa.net

All India Food Processors' Association
206, Aurobindo Place Market
Hauz Khas, New Delhi-100016

28% samples of packaged drinking water, 23% of milk samples found violating safety norms

The packaged water and milk, that you buy assuming it is safe and of good quality, may not necessarily be so. Around 28% samples of packaged drinking and mineral water and about 23% milk samples tested during 2014-15 were found violating food safety standards and norms, government data shows.

"Some instances of sale of mineral water or packaged drinking water not conforming to the standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006 and Regulations thereunder and unlicensed packaged water, have come to the notice of FSSAI," health minister JP Nadda told Rajya Sabha in a written reply. Out of 2977 and 806 packaged water samples tested during 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively, 577 and 226 were found to be not conforming to the standards prescribed under the FSSAI Act.

Replying to another question on adulterated milk, Nadda said out of 6649 samples analysed in 2014-15, 1559 were found to be not conforming to the prescribed standard under the FSS Act

In June last year, TOI had reported that the food safety regulator sounded a countrywide alert on adulteration of food commodities and asked all states to "increase surveillance activities" with a special focus on milk, packaged drinking water and edible oils.

FSSAI had also asked Food Commissioners across the country to collect more samples of these products and send them for comprehensive testing.

"The Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare has requested the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to issue instructions to administrative and police authorities to extend all possible cooperation to the Food Safety Authorities in carrying out surveillance activities to check food adulteration and manufacture/sale of sub-standards food items," Nadda said.

Union health minister informs Rajya Sabha about state food testing labs

Union health minister J P Nadda, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, said that no funds have been provided for upgradation of state food testing laboratories from 2012-13 to 2015-16 as far as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is concerned.

He also informed that in addition to 14 referral laboratories, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified 82 private food testing laboratories accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for the purposes of carrying out analysis of food samples taken under section 47 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

FSSAI has initiated action to upgrade its food testing laboratories. There are 72 state food testing laboratories.

The up-gradation and setting up of state food testing laboratories is the responsibility of state governments, said the minister.

FSSAI to start drive to ensure proper display of licence numbers on products

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will start a drive to check whether FBOs are properly displaying the licence numbers on their products or not. "An enforcement drive would begin soon," informed Pawan Kumar Agarwal, CEO, FSSAI, while addressing a convention of All India Food Processors' Association (AIFPA) held here recently during the 'Aahar' fair.

According to FSSAI, there are some 35 lakh licensee FBOs (Food Business Operators) in the country as of now. And there is a great need to check whether they are properly displaying the number on the products, for which the last date for compliance was December 31.

Agarwal stated, "35 lakh licensees are within our ecosystem. Enforcement system is huge and much of litigation is not around testing but out of all sampling 90% of the rejection is based on labelling. We will have an enforcement drive to check whether the numbers are printed on packed food properly".

The drive will ensure that the licence numbers are displayed on the pack properly, as this number will be helpful to the consumer to reach enforcement if they find anything wrong, according to him.

Meanwhile, with regard to surveillance, the CEO stated that there was a need for risk-based assessment through robust lab infrastructure and use of technology. The CEO pointed out that the FSSAI was working towards a concrete roadmap for accredited labs.

“Lab testing has lots of weaknesses at both Central and State levels; we're working on it and a concrete roadmap is there to make the labs accredited with NABL. The whole process of accreditation is also being fast-tracked,” he said.

However, surveillance activity was non-existent for some time due to lack of manpower strength. And therefore a greater need for technology-based surveillance activity for risk assessment was desired by the apex food regulator. Together with strengthening lab system and use of risk-based assessment, the enforcement will be transparent and effective, according to the CEO.

The CEO told the FBOs, “The samples (of food products) should be tested twice a year. Many of you perhaps are aware of that. The aim is risk-based assessment, lab accreditation and samples getting tested by FBOs themselves. If there is a chronic defaulter who is not following the norms, only then the enforcement machinery comes into picture.”

Further, with regard to regulations and standards, the FSSAI CEO stated that the FSSAI was aiming at pragmatic and easy to understand regulation. “We consider ourselves as part of the ecosystem which is responsible for feeding our population. This is a joint responsibility for all of us and we have to work closely and therefore we need to be interacting on day to day basis. We have regular interaction within FSSAI on how to make standards at par with the global benchmarks and fast. Standards is an evolving process, we get feedback and we review it, it takes time and the process itself for standard formation is conservative. The decision is taken by the experts in the Scientific Panel, they make recommendations which then are placed before the stakeholders and it then goes to government for legal vetting. Make full use of consultative process,” he told the FBOs.

File No: 1(105) Maggi Noodles/201 5/ FSSAI (Part-I)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
(Enforcement Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

Dated:- 31st March, 2016

**Subject: Clarification on use of Monosodium Glutamate as flavour enhancer
in seasoning for Noodles and Pastas.**

Under Regulation 3.1.11 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives), Regulations, 2011, Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), a flavour enhancer bearing INS number 621, may be added to specified foods as per the provisions of Appendix A, subject to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) level and under proper declaration as provided in 2.4.5 (18) of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.

It is widely known that Glutamate is naturally found in several common foods such as milk, spices, wheat, vegetables, etc. MSG is the sodium salt of Glutamic acid and one of the many forms of glutamate. Presently, there is no analytical method to determine whether MSG was added to the product during its manufacture or was naturally present in the product. This can however be checked through inspection of the manufacturing premises.

To prevent, both, avoidable harassment/prosecution of Food Business Operators (FBOs) as well as to ensure that consumers are facilitated to exercise informed choices in respect of what they eat, proceedings may be launched against FBOs only when the labels state "No MSG" or "No added MSG" and MSG is actually found in the impugned foodstuff. Commissioners of Food Safety are advised that specific enforcement/prosecution may not be launched against the manufacturers of Noodles/Pasta on account of presence of MSG/Glutamic Acid unless it is ascertained by the department that Monosodium Glutamate flavour enhancer (INS E-621) was deliberately added during the course of manufacture without required declaration on the label as indicated in Para 1 above.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Rakesh Chandra Sharma)
Director (Enforcement)
011-23220994



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Food Processing Industries Minister Welcomes 100% FDI in Marketing of Food Produced and Manufactured in India

Minister for Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal thanked the Hon'ble PM and Hon'ble Finance Minister for approving and announcing the policy of 100% FDI in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India in the General Budget, 2016-17. This will provide impetus to the foreign investment in food processing sector, benefit farmers immensely and will create vast employment opportunities.

Interacting with the media to apprise them about the initiatives relating to food processing in the Union budget announced yesterday, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal said that this step will lead to creation of Swadeshi infrastructure with Videshi money. This will help farmers get remunerative prices for their produce, transfer of technology and modern agricultural practices required for producing agricultural produce on a large scale to meet the requirements of organized marketing.

A unified agriculture marketing e-platform will be set up which will bring markets to the doorstep of farmers. This coupled with 100% FDI in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India would result in big buyers reaching out to farmers for their agri-horti produce. 100% FDI will bring in higher efficiencies in food processing industry and trade, and will make our food products more competitive in international markets.

In addition to above, following announcements made in the budget 2016-17 will accelerate the growth of food processing sector:-

- (i) The budget of the Ministry has been enhanced by 21% against the overall increase of 11% of Government of India as a whole.
- (ii) To promote use of refrigerated containers in the supply chain, the basic custom duty and excise duty has been reduced from 10% to 5% and from 12.5% to 6%, respectively.
- (iii) Access to market is critical for the income of the farmers. A unified agriculture marketing e-Platform will be dedicated to the nation on the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on 14th April this year. This will connect to 585 regulated wholesale markets in the country.
- (iv) Food Processing to play a pivotal role in realising the vision of Government to double farmers income by 2022.

FSSAI was insisting upon product by product approval for all foods that do not have standards in the FSS Regulations, 2011. This was resulting in delays in launch of new products in the market and was also inhibiting innovation. Honble Minister had taken up the difficulties faced by the industry with FSSAI and the Honble Health Minister. Pursuant to the intervention by the Honble Minister FPI, FSSAI have now approved more than 8000 new Additives harmonized with the International Codex Standards. They have also notified an amendment to the regulations as a result of which non-standardized food products called proprietary foods {except novel food and nutraceuticals} that use ingredients and additives approved in the regulations will no longer require product approval. This has provided considerable relief to the industry.

Supplementing the observations of Smt. Badal, the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti said that the union budget for 2016-17 will provide impetus to maximisation of income of the farmers.

WFP plans to set up centre of excellence on food in India

UN agency World Food Programme (WFP) recently signed a letter of intent with India for setting up of a centre of excellence on food in the national capital. This is the first centre WFP has proposed to establish in Asia. It has already set up one in Brazil. WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin and Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan signed the letter of intent. The structure, mandate and budget for the centre will be finalized by October-end, a senior Food Ministry official said after the meeting.

The main objective of the centre is that it will collate the best practices followed to ensure efficient procurement, distribution and storage, among others, within India, the official added. Currently, WFP is working in a few states like Odisha and Kerala to learn whether installation of point-of-sale devices at ration shops has benefited or not as part of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Agriculture Ministry.

PM applauds organic state Sikkim

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared Sikkim as the country's first organic state. He applauded the work of the farmers and said that the government would make their welfare a priority and in order to do so, would implement certain schemes and initiatives. Modi made the announcement at the recent agriculture ministers conference in Gangtok.

It was way back in 2003 that the state government took the decision for the state to become organic and banned the use of pesticides there. Under the scheme, farmers would receive certain benefits.

Assocham sees jump in packaged food

The size of packaged food in India is all set to witness a jump to Rs. 33.39 lakh crore by 2017 from the present level of Rs. 21.37 lakh crore growing by a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 35 percent on the back of increasing popularity and demand for ready-to-eat food, snacks as such food is convenient and gaining consumer confidence, according to an Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) survey. The main categories of packaged food are bakery products, canned or dried processed food, frozen processed food, ready-to-eat meals, dairy products, diet snacks, processed meat and health products and drinks, points the survey.

According to the survey, the average rate of annual spending on packaged food by Indian households had increased by 32.5 percent between 2010-2015. The survey also highlighted that 76 percent of parents, mostly both working, with children under five years of age in the big cities were more into ready-to-eat meals at least 10-12 times per month in some form or the other.

Mr. D.S. Rawat, Secretary General of Assocham, said that the consumption of packaged food was much higher in the urban areas, especially metros, where life was fast-paced, attracting lot more companies to launch new types of products and variants.

Jharkhand gets Rs. 880 crore for food industry

Jharkhand has attracted more than Rs. 880 crore investment in the food processing sector since the state government formulated a policy for the industry a few months ago. According to the state's Chief Minister Raghubar Das, five of the investors had already procured land to set up units and were expected to start construction soon. The investment scenario has received a boost following implementation of the single-window and e-commerce system in the state.

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For more information please visit our website or contact

Germany
E-mail: project_assistant@ensymm.com
Tel: +49- 211 -336-7527
Website: www.ensymm.com/

India
E-mail: SFC@SumanFoodConsultants.com
Tel: +91-11-26313391/9811445569
Website: www.SumanProject.com

Chief Editor:- K.L. Radhakrishnan, assisted by Ms. Deeksha Srivastava, Food Technologist & Mr. Vishal Sarin

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Tel:- 011-26510860, E-mail:- deeksha@aifpa.net, vishal@aifpa.net, dvmalhan@aifpa.net, aifpa@vsnl.net, Website:- www.aifpa.net