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81st AIFPA Annual Conference on

Unscientific Narratives for Processed Foods Not in National Interest : Safeguarding Farmers, Consumers & Industry and

AIFPA Food Safety Awards 2025 Honoring Excellence In Food Safety



13th March, 2026



The Royal Ballroom,
The Imperial, New Delhi



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All India Food Processors'
Association (AIFPA)



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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

India's **food processing sector** plays a crucial role in **strengthening agricultural value chains, improving farmer incomes, reducing food wastage, ensuring nutrition security and boosting exports**. However, the sector is increasingly facing narratives and pressures that are not always based on scientific evidence or regulatory consensus. Such approaches risk undermining innovation, investment, and the growth of a sector that is vital to the country's economic and food security goals.

The theme of this conference has been chosen to highlight the **need for science-based policymaking, balanced public discourse, and evidence-driven regulation**. Food processing today operates under stringent standards set by authorities such as the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** and global benchmarks like the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**. Ignoring scientific assessments in favor of perception-driven campaigns can create confusion among consumers, discourage responsible industry practices, and slow progress in food innovation.

For a national industry body representing food processors, this issue is central to its mission. The conference aims to **bring together policymakers, scientists, regulators, industry leaders and consumer groups** to promote constructive dialogue grounded in science. By addressing misinformation and **encouraging transparent, evidence-based decision-making, the sector can continue to contribute to India's goals of value addition in agriculture, job creation, safe food systems, and global competitiveness**.

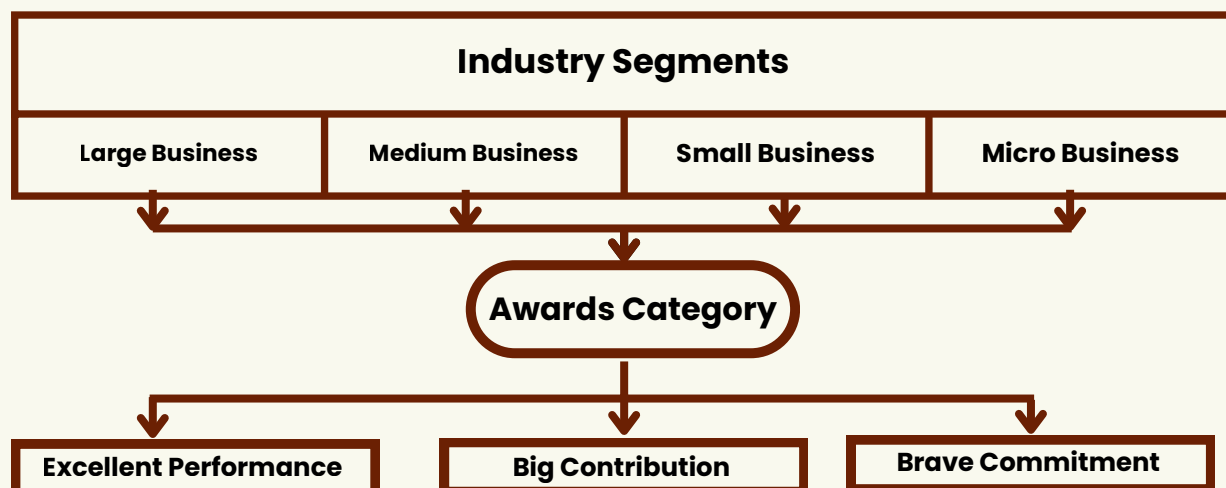
Ultimately, supporting science-based approaches to food processing is not merely an industry concern—it is in the **national interest, impacting farmers, consumers, entrepreneurs, and the country's economic growth**.

AIFPA FOOD SAFETY AWARDS

NEED FOR A FOOD SAFETY AWARD

In order to encourage the adoption of **food safety practices in India** and to acknowledge exemplary models, the **All India Food Processors' Association (AIFPA)**, along with its stakeholders and knowledge partners, is introducing the **Food Safety Awards** for the **food processing sector, including eateries and canteens engaged in food production and culinary services**.

The award aims to recognize **organizations that have demonstrated excellence and made significant contributions to the field of food safety systems**. The awards will be conferred for the year 2026 to an organization for its ground breaking advancement in food safety or in recognition of its longstanding commitment to enhancing food safety systems.



Visit us at awards.aifpa.net for more info

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9.00 – 10.00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME TEA	
10.00 – 12.00 INAUGURAL SESSION	
WELCOME OF GUESTS AND LIGHTING OF LAMP	
Welcome Address	Dr. Raghav Jadli, President, AIFPA & Business Managing Director, Jadli Foods (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Theme Address	Dr. Subodh Jindal, Immediate Past President, AIFPA & Managing Director, Excelsior Food & Chem. Industries
Keynote Address	Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Kundli
Special Address	Ms. Chandrani Gupta, IES, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Association, Govt. of India
Context Setting and Presentation of AIFPA AAHAR Awards (AAA) to Winners	
Special Address	Shri Abhishek Dev, IAS, Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
Inaugural Address	Dr. Neeraj Kharwal, IAS, Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)
Vote of Thanks	Dr. A.K. Tyagi, Vice President, AIFPA & Executive Director, Haldiram Group of Companies
11.30 AM – 12.40 PM SESSION I – PANEL DISCUSSION : UNSCIENTIFIC NARRATIVES FOR PROCESSED FOODS NOT IN NATIONAL INTEREST	
Session Chairman	Dr. J.P. Dongare, Deputy Agricultural Marketing Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India
Session Moderator	Dr. Prabodh Halde, West Zone Chairman, AIFPA & Head-Technical Regulatory Affairs, Marico Ltd.
Panelist of the Session: Topic of Discussion: “Unscientific Narratives for Processed Foods Not in National Interest”	i.Dr. Sudhanshu, Secretary, APEDA ii.Mr. Volker Klima, Head of Agriculture & Food Division, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi iii.Mr. Venket Prahlad, S.N.P Associates iv.Dr. Vineet Shyam, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. v.Mr. K.K. Joshi, T&FRAC Chairman, AIFPA & Head – Regulatory Affairs, ITC Ltd. vi.Ms. Aditi Tyagi, Consultant, Governance and Reforms Division, NITI Aayog
Question and Answer Session	
12:40 PM – 1:30 PM SESSION II – AIFPA FOOD SAFETY AWARDS – 2025	
Award Address	Dr. Raghav Jadli, President, AIFPA & Business Managing Director, Jadli Foods (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Context setting and Jury Introduction	Shri Kajal Debnath, North Zone Chairman, AIFPA & Chief Regulatory Officer, DFM Foods Pvt. Ltd.
Distribution of Food Safety Awards	
Keynote Address	Mr. Rajit Punhani, IAS, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Fecilitation of Jury	
Vote of thanks & Closing Remarks	Shri Kajal Debnath, North Zone Chairman, AIFPA & Chief Regulatory Officer, DFM Foods Pvt. Ltd.
13.30 ONWARDS	NETWORKING LUNCH

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206, Aurobindo Place, Aurobindo Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016, India

+91-11-41550860 aifpa@aifpa.net www.aifpa.net

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