

Action Plan
of
Food Safety and Quality Year 2008-09

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Importance of food safety and quality

- Food safety is increasingly becoming public health issue
- Consumers must be protected against food and food production processes which are hazardous to health or life
- Risk analysis concept as a holistic approach is to provide safe food to the consumer's world over
- Awareness and training is also a major factor for maintaining quality and safety of foods
- Global trends are to adopt HACCP, GMP, GHP, GAP to ensure safer food supply chain

Continued...

- India is one of the largest food providers in the world
- But its share is only 1.6% of the world food trade
- All developed countries are setting stringent safety standards
- Emerging need to comply with these standards
- Governments all over the world are intensifying their efforts to improve food safety and quality for domestic and international markets

Food Safety and Standards Act,2006

- Government of India has promulgated a Food Safety and Standards Act , 2006 to ensure food safety and provide safe food to the consumers
- Food safety and Standards Authority of India under the provisions of the Act will lay down science based standards for all articles of food
- Adequate representation has been given to Government, industry associations, consumers, farmers, technical experts, retailers etc in the Food Authority
- Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer have since been appointed

Upgradation of Hygiene and Quality of Street Food

- 10,000 street vendors across the nation would be identified and steps taken up to upgrade the Safety and Quality of Food.
- Identification of 10 food streets with ethnic cuisine
- Support for creation of infrastructure such as drainage, water supply, lighting, etc., to maintain hygienic and safe conditions of food preparations.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI

Implementation of HACCP / ISO22000 Systems

- Identification of units through national and regional industry associations
- 10,000 units would be targeted
- Certification within a period of 18 months.
- Preparation of a protocol based on best international and trade standards
- Conducting checks against the prepared protocol in HACCP certified units.
- Grading of companies into Platinum, Gold and Silver categories.

**Responsibilities: Ministries/Organisations: MFPI/FICCI/QCI/APEDA/
Industry Associations**

Benchmarking of food testing labs

- Identification of 50 food testing laboratories for benchmarking against best practices
- A plan of action for their upgradation will be drawn
- Steps to be initiated to bring them up to best practices level within 2 years

**Responsibilities: Ministries/Organisations: MFPI/FICCI/QCI/APEDA/BIS/
States /Industry Associations**

Modernization of Abattoirs

- Identification of 10 abattoirs for modernization or setting up new abattoirs in a public private partnership mode.
- Linking with cold chain and retail network so as to ensure quality and safety of processed meat.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / BIS/ States

Adoption of GAP

- Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for improving traceability, hygiene and safety of food items.
- 10,000 farmers would be identified (approximately 500 in each State)
- certification of GAP or for organic food.
- Viable projects would be created so that the agri-horticultural produce from these farms are marketed and higher returns accrue to the farmers.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : DAC / ICAR/ APEDA / States / MFPI

Gender Sensitivity

- Gender Sensitivity Programme for food processing units
- Minimum facilities to be provided
- Certification process to be developed and compliance awarded

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI

Awards for innovation in Food Safety and Quality

- To draw a programme to identify innovative food products / practices
- Winners will be identified through rigorous process and would be rewarded in an event to be organized at the end of the year.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI

Updating Food Laws & Regulations

- Review of current food safety standards under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in consultation with stakeholders
- Review of Fruit Products Order and Meat & Meat Food Products Order
- Internationally benchmarked regulatory systems to be prepared for consideration of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

Responsibilities : Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / BIS/ Industry Associations)

Studies and Surveys

- A micro level study and survey to estimate the level of wastages under various crops and the steps required to eliminate them.
- A study to estimate the level of pesticide and other residues in food products as well as to estimate the nutritional contents of diet in various parts of the country.
- A study to prepare an action plan for a rapid response system for identification and responding to safety issues in the food processing sector.
- A directory of exporters of agricultural processed food for distribution.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / QCI/ APEDA

Studies and Surveys

Continued....

- An international portal to assist investors in the food processing sector by FICCI.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : FICCI

- Development of standards for the street food sector by BIS.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : BIS

- A study to identify the standards prescribed under Codex Alimentarius which are relevant to Indian markets, and identification of gap with existing local standards and action points.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / APEDA / FICCI)

Awareness programmes in Food Safety and Quality

- Brochure on the food safety issues faced by a housewife and safe practices required in the kitchen

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / QCI

- Introduction of Food safety issues into the school curriculum.
- Development of Proper teaching material

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / QCI

- A book on Indian cuisine and its relation to cultural aspects in collaboration with private corporates.
- Identification and reward of best few books in the area of cuisine and food

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / QCI

Awareness programmes in Food Safety and Quality

Continued

- Identification of Food clusters for HACCP and quality upgradation through CII and FICCI.
- At least 3 organic food clusters will be identified and the farmers linked to sustainable market outlets.

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / FICCI

- Holding short duration workshops and seminars at various places in the country on food safety and quality issues

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / QCI

- Launch of postage stamp to commemorate the Food Safety and Quality Year 2008-2009

Responsibilities: Ministries / Organisations : MFPI / Ministry of Communications

Partnering Ministries/Organisations in this initiatives

- **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- **Department of Commerce**
- **Department of Agriculture and Cooperation**
- **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
- **Indian Council of Agriculture Research**
- **Department of Consumer Affairs**
- **State Governments/ UTs**
- **Industry Associations like FICCI, CII**
- **Consumer Organisations**
- **Government / Autonomous agencies engaged in promotion of quality and safety of food (APEDA, BIS, QCI etc.)**

Mid Term Review

- **Mid term of progress of various initiatives**
- **Mid Term course correction , wherever required**
- **Another national event at the end of the year**
- **Progress made during the past 12 months will be reviewed and consolidated.**

Way Forward ...

The Year of Food Safety and Quality is set to impact :

- upgradation of standards
- coordinated efforts of government agencies, private sector organizations and other stakeholders
- usher in new initiatives of food safety and quality in the future with increased awareness and resultant economic and social benefits
- MFPI will carry out a year long campaign to reach out to all the stakeholders and consumers on food safety and quality initiatives

Thank You