

FSSAI Strengthens the Food Testing Infrastructure in the Country

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has rolled out a major scheme for strengthening of Food Testing Infrastructure in the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 482-crore, in the light of the recent observations by Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai regarding the urgent need to upgrade Food Testing Laboratories in India.

The Empowered Committee constituted for implementing this scheme held its first Meeting on November 2, 2016 in New Delhi, which was chaired by Chairperson, FSSAI. Representatives from various Ministries such as Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Export Inspection Council, NABL and seven States/UTs were present. Proposals from 7 States/UTs, namely, Goa, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab were considered for strengthening their food Testing infrastructure. Two proposals, from Chandigarh (Punjab) and Calicut (Kerala), were approved in principle. The other States were requested to revise and resubmit their proposals according to the scheme guidelines with mentorship support from FSSAI. The Committee also approved the proposal for strengthening the Referral Food Laboratory at Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) through provision of state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Introduction of these equipment facilities would significantly enhance the testing capability of CFTRI for adulteration of honey and pesticide and antibiotic residues in food samples.

Under this scheme, 45 State/UT Food Testing labs (at least one in each State/UT with a provision of two labs in larger states) and 14 Referral Food Testing labs will be upgraded to enable them to obtain NABL accreditation. 62 Mobile Testing labs will also be established across all States/UTs. There are currently 4 Mobile food Testing labs in Punjab, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which will serve as a model for these Mobile Testing labs.

Capacity building of the Food Testing labs is also an important component of this scheme. In addition, a School Food and Hygiene Programme has been envisaged under which basic Food Testing labs will be set up in 1500 schools/colleges across the country to promote a culture of safe and wholesome food.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Sr. Research Officer at surbhi@phdcci.in with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Warm regards,

Dr. S P Sharma
Chief Economist & Director-Research

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area
August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016
Ph.: + 91-11-26863801-04, 49545454 Ext (135)
Fax: +91- 26855450, 49545451
Email: spsharma@phdcci.in
Website: www.phdcci.in

Transforming India Together We can & We Will

PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016

Tel: +91-11-26863801-04, 49545454, Fax: 91-11-26855450, Email : research@phdcci.in, Website : www.phdcci.in

