

News From The World of Spices

Intersectoral co-operation key to achieve goal of food safety : Sharma

Bhanu Pratap Sharma, secretary (health & family welfare), Government of India, and chairperson, FSSAI, has urged for an intersectoral convergence and enforcement at all levels to achieve the goal of food safety across the food chain. He was speaking at a national consultation organised on

Wednesday to mark the upcoming World Health Day, which would be celebrated on April 7.

Sharma stated, "There is a need for greater awareness and giving correct information to all stakeholders along with intersectoral cooperation."

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FDA Kicks Off the 'Year of the Food Safety Modernization Act'



In front of hundreds of food industry and trade association representatives in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) presented its unified plan to roll out and implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Signed by President Obama in January 2011, FSMA will bring about the most sweeping changes to the U.S. food system in more than 70 years. On the first day of its "FSMA Kick-off Meeting,"

FDA officials gave stakeholders an update on key components of the new law, declaring 2015 "the year of FSMA."

In the afternoon, the agency dedicated a series of listening sessions to gather perspective from everyone in attendance who had something to say — and many did. Concerns came in covering a range of topics.

Importers still need more concrete details about how they'll be evaluated. Domestic food manufacturers want to know how FDA's new inspection system will affect them and how the agency will keep the system consistent for all growers and manufacturers.

But one fact from the meeting was certain — [Continue reading](#)

15% of food samples tested in last fiscal unfit for consumption: FDA

PUNE: Use of artificial colour in spices and dry snacks and artificial ripening of mangoes are among the food safety and quality norm violations recorded in the last financial year.

According to the latest report of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), about 15% of the food samples drawn between April 2014 and March 2015 were either unsafe or

did not comply with the standards set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The officials drew 934 food samples to check if they were fit for consumption and found 27 unsafe and 114 that failed to meet the standard criteria. "We drew samples of edible oil, milk, jaggery, sugar boiled confectionery, chilli powder and o..[Continue reading](#)

Food safety is a must for sustainable development

Food safety is a theme having high priority and relevance among governments, civil society, the private sector and intergovernmental agencies across the globe. Changing consumer preferences, changes in production and distribution methods, evolving trade and travel, shifts in climatic and environmental factors, and growing anti-microbial resistance are some of the factors that increase the probability of occurrence of food hazards and food safety incidents. Unsafe food is a major public health issue and restoring food trust with the...[Continue reading](#)

Food safety must become a Southeast Asian priority – Poonam Singh

How often do we ask ourselves if the food we are eating is safe? Do we know if it is free of bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemicals, other contaminants, additives and adulterants which can cause over 200 diseases ranging from diarrhoea to cancer? Every year diarrhoea caused by contaminated food and water kills 2.2 million people, including 1.9 million children, globally.

Unsafe food and water kills an estimated 700,000 children in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Southeast Asia region every year. Access to safe food remains a challenge in the region. Whether as individuals, families, farmers, contributors to and handlers of the food chain or policy makers, we need to make food safety our priority.

Food safety is critical for public health as foodborne diseases affect people's health and well-being.[Continue reading](#)

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Top Food Safety Officials Weigh in on Key Issues

At the risk of sounding naive, Michael Taylor said Tuesday that he's still feeling "great" about the progress made on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

As Deputy Commissioner for Foods at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Taylor knew he was in front of a tough audience since he said it during a question-and-answer session with a room full of food policy wonks at the 2015 National Food Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

But Taylor wasn't the only head of a food safety agency on stage. He was joined by Brian Ronholm, Deputy Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), as well as moderator Jason Huffman, agriculture and trade editor for POLITICO.

The two men, along with FSIS Deputy Under Secretary Al Almanza (who shares the title with Ronholm), are the highest-ranking food safety officials [Continue reading](#)

Can organic feed the world?



Organic crops generally have lower yields than conventional crops – but that's not the only way to measure their potential to feed the world.

Proponents of organic agriculture say it leads to better soil management, uses fewer pesticides and fertilisers, and is a better protector of biodiversity. However, when it comes to increasing food production for a growing global population, others argue that organic's lower average yields..[Continue reading](#)

Removing barriers to agricultural trade ensures U.S. products can thrive in foreign markets



Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 saw the United States once again make significant gains in the international trade as USDA expanded opportunities for American producers overseas. In FY14 American farmers and ranchers exported a record \$152.5 billion of food and

agricultural goods to consumers worldwide, an \$11.6 billion increase over FY13's figures.

USDA plays a key role in fostering American agricultural exports by opening new markets for our producers and ensuring their products meet foreign requirements for import. As a result of these efforts, U.S. agricultural exports now drive overall U.S. economic growth by supporting nearly 1 million American jobs on and off the farm.

These trade efforts also contribute to a strong rural economy, which is critical to the.. [Continue reading](#)

Make food safety a priority: WHO

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Tuesday urged each nation in the South-East Asia region to make food safety a priority.

It stated that over 700,000 children die in the South-East Asia region every year due to diarrhoea and several other diseases caused by the impure food and water.

"Bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemicals, and other contaminants in our food can cause over 200 diseases ranging from diarrhoea to cancer. New and emerging threats such as climate change and its impact on food production; emerging biological and environmental contamination -- all Apose challenges to the safety of our food," said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, regional director, WHO South-East Asia in a statement. [Continue reading](#)

China Toughens Up Food Safety Laws By Adopting New Amendments



In the wake of several high-profile food safety scandals, China's lawmakers have adopted tougher amendments to bolster the country's existing food safety law. The changes, effective Oct. 1, 2015,

will add 50 new articles, or about half again what the previous law contained. Many of the new amendments address infant formula regulations and the online food market, which has seen rising popularity in China. The changes also set tougher penalties for violations, according to news reports, and are the first changes to the law since it was originally adopted in 2009.

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A Look Back at Food Safety During Obama's First Six Years

Since the Obama administration took over the executive branch more than six years ago, food-borne illnesses from meat, poultry and eggs — products regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — has been falling. In fact, just from fiscal year 2013 to 2014, illnesses from meat and poultry has fallen by 10 percent, according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who was appointed to head USDA when the president took office in 2009.

That's not a coincidence, he said — it's the result of six years of progress at USDA. Vilsack, the former governor of Iowa, made a case for his six-year tenure as the head of USDA during a keynote address in Washington, D.C., this week at the 2015 National Food Policy Conference. Later in the conference, a panel of food safety and food policy experts took to the stage to discuss the administration's record on food safety six years into [Continue reading](#)

Awareness program on food safety held at Srinagar

In connection with Food Safety Day which was celebrated on April 07, an awareness programme on Food Safety Act was organized by wholesale consumer goods association who are the main suppliers of consumer goods at Srinagar and other parts of Valley. All the members of the Association participated in this one day awareness programme.

On the occasion, the experts from Food Safety Wing of Drug and Food Control Organization -

highlighted the importance of food safety measures and stressed upon the wholesale dealers to check the labelling requirements and store goods in hygiene and scientific way to avoid spoilage and contravention of Food Safety and Standards Act.

Assistant Commissioner Food Safety district Srinagar who was present on the occasion explained at length the important provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act. Assistant Commissioner Food Safety district Srinagar who was present on the occasion explained at length the important provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act. The traders were also made aware about prohibition on sale of certain food articles as per Food Safety and Standard Act and how to check addition of harmful colours in spices and condiments and in other dairy consumer items.

A noted Kashmir poet Zarif Ahmad Zarif who also spoke on the occasion requested traders to be honest in their trade practices as food has direct bearing on the human health. [Continue reading](#)

Lessons Learned: Food Safety Summit Revisits 2014 Outbreak

The state of Maryland has only experienced four foodborne illness outbreaks in the past 10 years that sickened 100 people or more. Unfortunately for food safety experts, one of those outbreaks occurred at last year's Food Safety Summit, an annual conference dedicated to food safety solutions. Last year's conference in Baltimore ended with 216 of the 1,300

attendees sickened, predominantly with diarrhea, and some with nausea and vomiting. An investigation by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene eventually found the smoking gun to be a chicken marsala dish, most likely contaminated with *Clostridium perfringens*, which was served at lunch on the second-to-last day of the conference. [Continue reading](#)

Spices Park to boost chilli exports from AP

Farmers can bring in raw chilli and take it home cleaned, powdered and packed, says Sitharaman



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman hold aloft a bundle of chilli after inaugurating the Spices Park at Vankayalpadu village in Guntur district on Monday. — Photo: T. Vijaya Kumar

Export of high quality chilli varieties from Guntur would be given a big boost and a task force would be set up with Central assistance to

grade, process and pack chillies, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said at Yedlapadu in Guntur district on Monday.

The Chief Minister along with Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a Spices Park and a chilli processing unit set up on PPP mode at Mydavolu and Vankayalpadu villages.

“Guntur is famous for its famed varieties of red hot Chilli and the district has tremendous potential in exports of spices. Apart from high quality chilli, farmers produce turmeric, coriander and cotton.

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