

**Summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of CII-HUL Initiative on Food Safety Sciences (CHIFSS)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2016 | IHC, New Delhi**

**Present:**

**Dr. J I Lewis**, Chairman, CHIFSS Steering Committee

**Dr. Jasvir Singh**, Co-Chairman, CHIFSS Steering Committee & Head - Scientific Affairs, Regulatory Affairs, Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd

**Dr. Arun Gupta**, Head Medical Affairs & Clinical Research, Dabur India Ltd

**Dr. Deepa Bhajekar**, Director, Dtechnology

**Dr. Nimish Shah**, Director-SEAC, Hindustan Unilever Ltd

**Mr Rajendra Dobriyal**, Regulatory Affairs Director (South Asia), Unilever

**Dr. Shalini Sehgal**, Associate Professor, Department of Food Technology, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, University of Delhi, Sector-2, Phase-I

**Ms Meetu Kapur**, Executive Director, CII-FACE: CII Secretariat

**Dr Indrani Ghose**, Strategic Advisor, CII –FACE Food Safety and Quality: CII Secretariat

**Mr Deepak Mathur**, Senior Consultant, CII-FACE Food Safety and Quality

Ms Meetu Kapur, ED FACE, while welcoming all, stated that India is emerging as the food basket for the globe, need to institutionalize food safety expertise for enhancing the credibility and brand value of Indian food products in the global market and CHIFSS was an appropriate vehicle for achieving this.

Dr Lewis, Chairman, appreciated this joint initiative by CII and HUL of setting up CHIFSS for driving Science based Food Safety.

A presentation (ref PPT 1SC 3Oct16) was jointly made by the Chair, Co- Chair and Ms Meetu Kapur on the Trigger for CHIFSS, Vision, Objectives, Organisation Structure of CHIFSS, Roles of Steering & Scientific Committee, the MOU Signed by FSSAI with CHIFSS and the Interface Steering Committee between FSSAI and CHIFSS and the work plan arising out of the 1<sup>st</sup> Interface Steering Committee.

The key discussion points, between the members made in the backdrop of the presentation are listed below:

Dr Jasvir Singh, while explaining the Vision of CHIFSS, emphasized to evaluate the hazards from risk potential and therefore CHIFSS focus on Individuals, FBOs and Institutions, through network of experts. He opined that while Risk Assessment could be borrowed to a certain extent, the risk management has to be local.. It was important to create a culture of Science based Food Safety through White papers, technical briefs and others based on Risk Analysis.

The 2 Committees set up for CHIFSS are the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. A third co-ordination committee namely the FSSAI- CHIFSS Interface Steering

Committee has also been constituted with Mr Pawan Agarwal, CEO FSSAI as the chair (ref PPT 1SC 3Oct16)

The Role of Scientific Advisory Committee, as agreed:

- Identify Needs and Aspects for Long Term Objectives and Goals
- Provide Guidance on the Work Plan
- Provide hard core Scientific Inputs (e.g. emerging risks, data capturing, tools and techniques, technology, processes)
- Identify New Areas of Intervention and the Way Ahead and help prioritise
- Identify new domain experts and resources in Scientific Advisory Committee and Working Groups

The Role of Steering Committee as agreed:

- Set Directions and Drive the Vision and Objectives of CHIFSS
- Review Suitability and Effectiveness of Objectives and Work Plan in line with National Priorities
- Identify mechanisms of bringing about change by implementing the work plan and monitoring its impact
- Identify mechanisms of interfacing with FSSAI and other Stakeholders on relevant issues
- Develop Policy Papers
- Review of Work of Scientific Advisory Committee
- Promote Dialogue towards Science

The Steering Committee was briefed on the assignments advised by FSSAI at the 1<sup>st</sup> Interface Steering Committee between FSSAI and CHIFSS. The discussion points related to the same are highlighted below.

### **1.FSMS Guidance Documents**

Eight Food Categories were prioritised by interface committee for preparation of FSMS Guidance Documents (Ref ppt) by December 2016. These should be prepared as practitioner's documents with readymade formats and templates to benefit SMEs. However, given the time in hand, an activity chart for 4 documents targeted by December 2016, was discussed during the meeting . These were Jam, Country Liquor, Milk and Dairy Drinks and Bakery. The contents structure was presented. Technical Panels are being formed from the stakeholder industries to review the draft guidance documents before being presented to FSSAI for final approval and adoption. FSSAI would help in organizing translation for the FSMS document in regional languages. A workshop on Country Liquor to understand the FSMS requirement with identified stakeholders like Manufacturers, Excise Lab will be

organised. There are several manuals, data which have already been developed by the industry and academia. We could build on such existing data and documents.

## **2. Develop Blueprint for Risk Management of Specific Food Borne Illness**

A blueprint for risk management of food borne illness needs to be developed identifying the burden and risk ranking (for prioritization). To begin with a planned approach may be taken through the following steps;

- a collation of data on current microbiological failures particularly pathogens needs to be done. Data wherever resident, e.g. industry, public and private laboratories, FSSAI, etc will be requested for providing, without any identification or attribution to source;
- Access information on outbreaks occurring/notified over a specified period (NCDC) alongwith the information regarding its region/type of symptoms/cause/number of persons affected, etc;
- The one information piece missing is the food identified as contributor to food borne illness. **Since the food-outbreak** attribution will take time to develop, allocate resources, implement and collate data, another approach may be taken concurrently, i.e.;
- Identify a list of high risk foods, to be picked up in the market for evaluation of microbiological hazards. Develop a template for reporting analytical results to obtain information in a collated manner, and identify a list of laboratories, generally dedicated to microbiological analysis, including universities and institutes which do such work. A portal for viewing results (of food types only) may be placed on the CHIFFS microsite;
- CHIFFS could look at analysing the data and evaluate software, risk tools to estimate areas of concern, disease burden, setting priorities for mitigation actions etc.

## **3. Develop Sector Specific Training Programs to disseminate FSMS Plans**

- Each food sector has its specific food safety issues, based on the type of foods handled and their processing, which changes from tiny to large manufacturing businesses. Hence sector specific training measures could be made available Online, including FSMS Guidance Documents, Standard Operating Procedures;
- Sector wise meetings for consultations regarding new regulations, compliance advice, implementation issues, dissemination and feedback to assess effectiveness and review of SAC.
- Special efforts required to include the unorganised sector.
- Training modules would be submitted for endorsement by the Sector specific Technical panel of CHIFSS .Timelines proposed: One or two Modules by 2016 December

## **4. Public Lecture Series**

The Steering Committee is to identify national and international speakers over and above those presented (ref PPT 1SC 3Oct16), based on the areas of expertise. The 1<sup>st</sup> in the series

is being planned by Dr Pollasa during October 2016. Three Public Lecture Series could be planned by December 2016 on Food Safety and Nutrition

## **5. Short Video Library**

Examples of interesting topics for composing short videos of Food Safety and Nutrition could be ' Difference between Hazards, Risk Analysis, Risk Assessment, Risk Management, Risk Communication and Food Safety' and others. A list of topics needs to be identified by the SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) and Industries could be requested to contribute. Dr Lewis will share some videos as samples . Videos have been developed by FSSAI as well and hence we need to prevent duplication and re-inventing the wheel.

### **Summarised Action Points**

- a. The distinction between Roles of Steering and Scientific Advisory Committee(SAC) needs to be clear.
- b. Include BIS representative in Scientific Advisory Committee
- c. The SAC should prioritise data collection on Food borne Illness. For this NIN, Laboratories and other relevant bodies should be approached for what data they could share. We should consolidate all available data and then build on those data. We should put up relevant consolidated data on the CHIFSS Website
- d. Let us reach out to FSSAI and capture failure reports on Chemical and Microbiological compliance. A meeting with the industry on this would be helpful
- e. Interfacing of Steering Committee with SAC and FSSAI must be ensured. The Chair and Co Chair of the Steering Committee could be part of the SAC as well
- f. The dissemination and effectiveness of the FSMS Guidance Documents , which should be the practioners' documents should be assessed through a mechanism of impact assessment
- g. Organise a few Public Lecture Series with reputed Scientists and Domain experts on Food Safety and Nutrition.
- h. Submit CHIFSS Projects for funding under various national (DBT/DST Funding)and global schemes
- i. There will be a monthly reporting system within the e-group of CHIFSS Steering Committee. The frequency of meetings was proposed as Quarterly Face to Face/ Video Conference, Monthly emails

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr Indrani Ghose to the Chair, Co- Chair and Members for sparing their precious time and providing their valuable inputs to initiate the directions for taking the objectives of CHIFSS forward.