

World Health Organisation (WHO): Seventy-Third World Health Assembly (73rd WHA)

Agenda 15.3 Accelerating efforts on Food Safety



Thank you, Chair

India welcomes the agenda of accelerating efforts on food safety. Food safety is vital for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty and hunger and promoting health and well-being.

The sheer magnitude of food safety enforcement is a challenging task. India took an important step towards building a safe food culture by enacting the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. With the objective of ensuring wholesome food to the country's population, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has embarked upon several initiatives to help expand the scope of food safety to include the provision of wholesome and nutritious food to the consumers.

Chair,

India's disease burden is shifting from communicable to non-communicable diseases and the burden of diet-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is on a rise. In order to overcome these challenges, the Eat Right India Movement was launched by FSSAI, with the objectives of improving public health, combating negative nutritional trends and fighting lifestyle diseases. It is a preventive healthcare measure to trigger social and behavioural change among people, using a judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative and empowerment approaches to ensure that our food is good both for the people and the planet. Further, it builds on the collective action of various stakeholders - the government, food businesses, civil society organizations, experts, development agencies and citizens at large. Several benchmarking and

certification schemes to improve food safety and hygiene standards have also been implemented.

Beginning with a modest six principal regulations in 2011, FSSAI has now finalized 19 regulations covering quality and safety parameters of various food products, fortification of foods, Nutraceuticals, specialty foods for specific dietary and medical purposes, and regulations to ensure safe and wholesome food in schools. Over 14000 Standards for Food Products, Additives and Contaminants have been notified. Regulatory provision have been notified prescribing the limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) to be maximum 25% beyond which the Cooking Oil is not suitable for use for cooking, notification regarding mandating the display of calorific value of food items on menu cards at various food service establishments from 2022 has been issued along with regulations providing benchmarks for freedom from trans fats, organic food and front of pack labelling.

Chair,

A new era for food safety and nutrition in the country has been ushered where the food safety body launched several flagship initiatives to transform the food safety and nutrition landscape in India.

India is working on a collaborative framework to foster and promote this sense of responsibility, and empower and engage with all stakeholders to ensure safe and wholesome food for all.

Thank you.