

# Business Standard

Dated: 26-09-2016

Page No:

## India committed to adhering to international food safety standards: J P Nadda

[India](#) is committed to adhering to international food safety standards, said J.P.Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, at the inauguration of the 20th Session of the WHO/FAO Coordinating Committee of [Asia](#) (CCASIA), here today.

He further added that there is a need for CCASIA to focus on standardization of foods/cuisines of Asian origin and popularize them internationally and facilitate their global trade.

Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare also graced the occasion.

Nadda said that the CCAsia should work on the communication strategy and standardisation of processes, which shall be the contribution to Codex.

"There is an urgent need for enhancing awareness about the work of Codex in different countries and amongst key stakeholders. The benefits of the work done by Codex Alimentarius could be further spread among all countries, especially in the developing countries that comprise almost 70% of the world population," he added.

Nadda further said, "There is a felt need for more coordinated action in the region on food standard related areas."

Nadda underscored the need for the Codex member countries to pool their resources and provide support to least developed countries in the region.

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He further mentioned that Codex has developed important standards and guidelines for different categories of food, [national](#) standards need to be harmonised with those of Codex to achieve an appropriate level of human health protection and fair practices in international trade.

"We, in India, have already embarked on this harmonization process," he said.

Nadda again urged the Codex member countries to make Codex standard setting inclusive and continue to work collectively in this endeavor.

Kulaste, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare said that it is imperative to lay down standards for food so that the food safety is ensured and the difficulties in trade of safe food are eliminated. Appreciating the work done by Codex Shri Faggan Singh further stated that the standards developed by Codex are accepted worldwide as these are science based and developed in an inclusive and transparent manner. "In essence, the Codex Alimentarius has reached every continent, and its contribution to the protection of public health and fair trade practices is immeasurable," Shri Faggan Singh added.

Also present at the function were members of the food sector fraternity including the science community, industry and industry associations, consumer and citizen organizations, international organizations and foreign missions, experts and government officials from Central ministries and States and other key stakeholders.

Shyam Khadka, Representative of the FAO in India, Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director, Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI, Shri Sanjay Dave, Chairperson Coordinating Committee of [Asia](#) (CCASIA) and Ms. Anamaria Bruno, Senior Food Standards Officer, Codex Secretariat were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

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