

Frequently asked Questions

Regarding EOI of Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

1. What is Scientific Committee/Panels?

"Scientific Committee" means the Scientific Committee constituted by the Food Authority under section 14 of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

"Scientific Panel" means the Scientific Panel established by the Food Authority under section 13 of the Act.

4. How many Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels does the Authority have?

FSSAI under the provision of section 14(1) and 13(1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 has constituted a Scientific Committee and 16 Scientific Panels comprising of independent scientific experts for providing scientific opinion on various issues.

I. Scientific Committee (01)

II. Scientific Panels (16)

- (i) Panel for functional foods, nutraceuticals, dietetic products and other similar products
- (ii) Panel for method of sampling and analysis
- (iii) Panel for food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
- (iv) Panel for contaminants in the food chain
- (v) Panel for biological hazards
- (vi) Panel for pesticides and antibiotic residues
- (vii) Panel for labelling and claims/Advertisements
- (viii) Panel for genetically modified organisms and foods
- (ix) Panel for fish and fisheries products.
- (x) Panel for Milk & Milk Products*
- (xi) Panel for Meat & Meat Products, including poultry*
- (xii) Panel for Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their products (including Bakery) *

(xiii) Panel for Fruits & Vegetables and their products (including dried fruits and nuts salt, spices and condiments) *

(xiv) Panel for Oils & Fats*

(xv) Panel for Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners Sugar & Honey*

(xvi) Panel for Water (including flavoured water) & Beverages (alcoholic non-alcoholic)

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*constituted on 3rd July, 2015. Scientific Committee/ Panels from Sr. No. i to ix are due for reconstitution.

2. What is the objective of setting up the Scientific Committee/Panels?

The objective of setting up the Scientific Committee/Panels is that the best available scientific expertise within the country shall be utilized for framing food safety standards and providing scientific opinions to Food Authority.

3. What is qualification for the member of Scientific Committee/Panels?

Though it is not specified in the regulation but high level of qualification along with extensive work in the area of food is expected.

4. What is the tenure of member of the Scientific Committee/Panels?

As per section 15 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 the members of the Scientific Committee/Panels are appointed by the Food Authority, for a period of three years, the tenure is renewable. But no member is appointed to the same Panel for more than two consecutive terms.

5. Can Industry representatives included in the Scientific Committee/ Panels?

No.

6. What happens to the candidates who are shortlisted and but not selected as members of Scientific committee/ Panels?

The shortlisted candidates who are not selected shall be proposed to be included on a reserve list.

7. Whether Scientific Committee/ Panels member participate on behalf of any institutions?

No. Scientists in these Scientific Committee/ Panels are represented as individual Scientists on the basis of their own expertise and they do not represent any Institution/Organizations.

8. What is the provision for reimbursement of expenses?

Travel and subsistence allowance by members of the Scientific Committee/Panels in connection with meetings relating to the Scientific Committee or Scientific Panels as the case may be, shall be reimbursed by the Food Authority.

9. Is there any provision of honorarium to members of Scientific Committee/ Panels?

Members of the Scientific Committee/Panels and shall be entitled to a payment of two thousand rupees for each day of meeting attended by him along with the travel and lodging expenses as per approved rates.

10. Do the members of Scientific Committee/ Panels have to declare any conflict of interest before the meeting?

Yes, the members of the Scientific Committee/ Panels undertake to act independently of any external influence make a Declaration concerning confidentiality, Declaration of Commitment, Annual Declaration of Interests and Specific declaration of interest indicating either the absence of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence or any direct or indirect interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

The members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Working Groups and external experts, at each meeting make a specific declaration of Interests in which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda.

11. How EOI can be submitted and last date to submit online application for Scientific Committee/Panels?.

It has to submit online at <http://www.formservices.in/index.php/form-for-empanellment>.

23rd May 2016 i.e. 45 days from the publication of advertisement in the news papers (9th April, 2016).

12. How the member of Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panel will be selected?

As defined in the guidelines available at http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Proc_SC_SP_08_03_16.pdf .