Subject: Two days Workshop on Development of Educational framework for Human Resource in Food Safety Sector on 03-4th November, 2011 at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, 4th Floor, Conference Hall, New Delhi - 110002 — reg.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has the mandate to lay down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Authority has to discharge its regulatory functions to promote general awareness as to food safety, food safety standards and initiate all the work for the development of the skill of the human resources engaged in Food Chain to achieve the food safety.

In order to identify the need of the food safety sector, mechanism to develop industry courses for food safety and other food business personnel, the Food Authority is organising a two days workshop in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University for Development of Educational framework for Human Resource in Food Safety Sector. The main focus of the workshop will be on meeting the human resource requirement of the food safety sector for the next 10 years so as to ensure the availability of safe & wholesome food to the consumer.

The workshop will be for two days where all these issues will be discussed threadbear and recommendations will be finalised. You are requested to attend this important workshop and contribute to deliberation or depute person with thorough background knowledge of the subject whose participation will enrich the discussion. The participants travelling to Delhi from other cities will be reimbursed TA/DA by FSSAI as per their entitlements and extant policy of FSSAI in this regard.

Yours sincerely

(S. B. Dongre)
FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (FSSAI) 
&
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY


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<td>10:00-10:15 hours</td>
<td>Introduction by the participants</td>
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<td>10:15-10:30 hours</td>
<td>Inaugural address by Sh. V.N. Gaur on the need for educational programmes for different stakeholders in food safety sector</td>
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<td>10:30-10:45 hours</td>
<td>Presentation on the agenda and draft educational framework</td>
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<td>10:45-12:00 hours</td>
<td>Inputs and discussion on the agenda items by the experts</td>
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<td>12:00-12:30 hours</td>
<td>Finalization of the types of educational programmes needed for different categories of food safety professionals</td>
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<td>12:30-13:00 hours</td>
<td>Identification of different groups and members of the group</td>
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<td>13:00-14:00 hours</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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| 14:00-17:00 hours | Group activity to develop curriculum for different groups of food professionals and modalities of accreditation  
  - Framework, Level, Type and duration of programme  
  - Curriculum design and broad content to be covered  
  - Modalities for implementation of the programme  
  - Competency assessment and certification  
  - Accreditation of training institutions and professionals |

**DAY 2 (04-11-2011)**

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<th>Time</th>
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| 10:00-12:00 hours | Presentation by different groups indicating the following:  
  - Level, Type and duration of programme  
  - Curriculum design and broad content to be covered  
  - Modalities for implementation of the programme  
  - Competency assessment and certification  
  - Accreditation of training institutions and professionals |
| 12:00-13:00 hours | Finalization of the recommendations                                      |
| 13:00-14:00 hours | Lunch                                                                    |
THEME DOCUMENT

The importance of Food Safety and Quality Management is continuously increasing at the national and International level due to various reasons viz. implementation of FSS Act 2006, globalization of food trade, harmonization of national standards with the Codex, legal changes on national and international levels, etc. The Food Safety and Standards Act passed in the Parliament in 2006 came into force from 5th August 2011. For implementing the act, there is a need for human resource at various levels involving different stakeholders in the food chain from farm to fork (from manufacturer to consumer) which includes Regulators (Designated Officers, Adjudicating Officers and Food Safety Officers), Food Auditors, Food Quality Analysts (Microbiology/Chemical), Food Handlers (Manufacturer, Wholesaler, Retailers etc.) and even Consumers (Children and Housewives) also. The Act calls for an enabling environment for its successful implementation and movement towards a science based approach to assure safety and the quality of food.

Food safety is the responsibility of everyone in the food chain. Ideally, an average of 10 Food Safety Officers (FSO) are required in each district and therefore for 626 districts, about 6260 FSOS are required. The implementation of the Act shall also require a large number of food auditors at various levels to validate the adherence to the Food Safety Management System (FSMS) principles by millions of food business operators operating at different levels. Similarly, under the act, the existing food testing laboratories in the country will also be upgraded to NABL standards and a large number of new laboratories will come up in public & private sectors which will result in a huge demand for the food quality analysts with expertise in food safety evaluation, and they ought to be competent enough to analyze the chemical, microbiological and physical parameters of food product composition and put the science based approach on fast track. Under the new law, the food business operators (small or big) are held responsible for the supply of safe food to the consumers and hence, the country shall be requiring a large number of food processors/food handlers/managers/supervisors for handholding the food business operators who are competent enough to fulfil the requirements of the Act in providing safe food. Further, the Act also empowers the consumers to take food samples and get it tested which in turn creates a need for creating awareness among the consumers and housewives about the food safety issues. The development of human resource for the food safety sector has become a necessity.

In short, in future there will be a requirement of large number of qualified personnel with different skill sets for different industries, labs, auditing agencies/auditors, regulators and each one of them split vertically in terms of ground level personnel/supervisors and managers.
To meet this requirement of the various stakeholders in different parts of the country, it is necessary that courses are planned in a coordinated manner by the Universities, technical and other educational institutions etc. that meet requirement of the number of Food Safety personnel and ensure faster absorption of the product of these courses. Besides the informal and distance education methodology the approach should cover other innovative media like internet learning, which can be utilised to maximise the reach of this initiative. The proposed workshop is intended to bring all the stakeholders of the same platform with the following objectives:-

- Identify the skills sets require for different stakeholders like manufacturers, producers, caterers, cold chain operators, retail chain operators etc., auditing agencies, food safety auditors, regulators, lab personnel etc. Within a particular sector how many levels of courses need to be taken up like certificate courses, diploma and degrees or any other innovative certification of knowledge to reach basic knowledge of respective sector to the lowest level of workers/users.
- Mechanism to define syllabi for different courses.
- Mechanism for continued interaction between all stakeholders to make the curricula, dynamic and acceptable to the prospective employers.
- Steps to be taken to operationlise these courses in different universities, institutions, colleges etc.