



# FOOD PRO



## News Letter of All India Food Processors' Association (Established in 1943)

April, 2011

### From the Desk of Sh. Piruz Khambatta, President, AIFPA

Dear member,

Seasons Greetings and very happy holi to you and your family.

As earlier communicated to you even before the Union Budget we were in touch with concerned authorities regarding the need to ensure continued tax exemption for our sector. Luckily, the Excise Duty on our products imposed in the Union Budget for 2011-12 is only 1% but even this should not be there and the whole sector should be restored back to complete exemption for which we have written letters at highest level to:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh
2. Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukerjee
3. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Shri Sharad Pawar
4. Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shri Harish Rawat
5. Leaders of Opposition
6. Concerned Secretaries and Joint Secretaries
7. Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs

Not only that, I have specially flown to Delhi to meet the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Food Processing Industries and Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries. Both of them have agreed to take up our case with Hon'ble Finance Minister. We have also met opposition leaders, Shri Arun Jetley and Ms. Sushma Swaraj. We have sought appointment with Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee and whenever we get it we will make strong representation to him also.

We have issued a press release through a professional PR Agency as per the copy enclosed which has got wide coverage in national media. You are also requested to pass it on to all media and all concerned people you know so that the message of exempting our sector from Excise Duty is spread across the country.

In my meeting with the Hon'ble Ministers and opposition leaders, I have always highlighted that food processing is part of agriculture and there is no point taxing value addition which food processing delivers and emphasized the fact that only food processing can lead to inclusive growth in the country.

I would also like to mention that your Association has made various representations on food regulatory issues and has also taken special interest on the rules affecting SMEs.

I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions as always.

### Up-Coming Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of AIFPA at 5.00 P.M. on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Calcutta Swimming Club, No. 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700001 (Tel:- 033-2248 2894/95).**

Alongwith the above E.C. Meeting, a Session on "Food Processing for Inclusive Growth" has also been planned at **5.45 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011** at the same venue.

For information, contact:- **Executive Secretary, AIFPA, Tel:- 011-26510860/26518848**

### PackPlus South 2011, 1-4 July 2011, HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad

The Exhibition will see the coming together of ten niche shows evolving into a mega event that encompasses all the segments related to packaging, processing and supply chain.

For more information, contact:-

**Print-Packaging.com Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai**

**Tel:- 022-27812093/27812619,27812657, Fax:- 022-27812578, E-mail:- info@packplus.in**

## AIFPA Activities during February & March 2011

1. **4<sup>th</sup> Feb:** A meeting was held in the office of M/s Global Agri Business, New Delhi, regarding discussions on the notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India on Plastics (Manufacture, Usage and Waste Management) Rules, 2009. the meeting was attended by Sh. N.M. Kejriwal, sh. Gokul Patnaik, Sh. Pavan Sharma, Sh. Kaushik from Pepsico and Sh. D.V. Malhan (Executive Secretary) and discussed the strategies to get the necessary amendment incorporated for the benefits of food processors.
2. **11<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Dr. K.L. Gaba, Chairman, Technical and Food Regulatory Affairs Committee, AIFPA, attended the meeting of BIS Sectional Committee FAD 15 on Food Hygiene, Safety, management & other system.
3. **11<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Sh. K.L. Radhakrishnan, Chief Editor and Ms. Jyoti Soni, Technical Executive, AIFPA, attended the meeting of BIS Sectional Committee, FAD 23 on Biotechnology for Food and Agriculture.
4. **17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Sh. K.L. Radhakrishnan attended the meeting convened by Ministry of Food Processing Industries regarding meeting of the Shadow Committee on Codex Committee on Food Additives and provided necessary inputs to the Ministry.
5. **17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Sh. D.V. Malhan (Executive Secretary), AIFPA met Sh. Harish Rawat at his residence and appraised him for the activities of the AIFPA. Mr. Malhan made two requests to the Hon'ble Minister, i.e. one on inauguration of the forthcoming Seminar on "Food Ingredients and Additives-Opportunities & Challenges" being organized by AIFPA on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, coinciding with AAHAR, 2011. Second, a request for grant of appointment to the Senior Members of the Association for a meeting. In this regard, request letters were handed over to his APS, Mr. Gautam as per the advise of the Hon'ble Minister.
6. **17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** On the request of APEDA, the Association participated in the meeting convened by APEDA for finalization of their tenders for the appointment of event manager for the designing and construction of APEDA-MOFPI PAVILLION at AAHAR, 2011 to be held from 10<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, at Pragati Maidan , New Delhi. Sh. D.V. Malhan, Executive Secretary represented the Association in these meetings.
7. **18<sup>th</sup> Feb:** India Trade Promotion organization convened meeting of its Co-Associates to finalize the last minute preparation of AAHAR, 2011. Sh. Shankar Sharma (Executive Admin & Acc.) of the AIFPA attended the meeting.
8. **18<sup>th</sup> Feb:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sent their "Citizen Charter" to the Association for necessary inputs though the 'The Preliminary Meeting' of the Food Authority have been taken place on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 but the copy of the "Citizen Charter" is circulated to most of the members of AIFPA and food industries/also hosted at the website of the association ([www.aifpa.net](http://www.aifpa.net)) for their information for necessary inputs.
9. **22<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** FICCI invited AIFPA to the dinner hosted by them to honour the members of Central Advisory Committee of The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on the occasion of their meeting on that day. The dinner was attended by Sh. D.V. Malhan (Executive Secretary) on behalf of AIFPA.
10. **25<sup>th</sup> Feb:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) convened the meeting on Recall Procedures to be a part of the food safety and regulation. The meeting was attended by Ms. Jyoti Soni (Technical Executive), AIFPA.
11. **4<sup>th</sup> March:** Sh. N.M. Kejriwal, Chairman, Permanent Standing Committee, AIFPA, Dr. K.L.Gaba, Chairman, (TFRAC) and Sh. D.V. Malhan (Executive Secretary), AIFPA met Dr. P.I. Suvarathan, Chairman, FSSAI in his office and requested for incorporating necessary amendments in the Food Safety & standards Rules (Regulation), 2010. The Chairperson of Food Authority assured to incorporate the same as per the written representation submitted by AIFPA.
12. **10<sup>th</sup> March:** Sh. Piruz Khambatta, President, AIFPA, Dr. S. Jindal, Chairman, Taxation Committee, AIFPA met Sh. Arun Jetley, Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha and appraised him about the levy of 1% excise duty on various types of processed foods including perishable fruits and vegetables and requested him for the withdrawal of the same during he discussion in the Parliament on BUDGET (2011-12).
13. **11<sup>th</sup> March:** The first meeting of the **Executive Committee of AIFPA** was held in the conference room of M/s Global Agri Business, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by a large number of members. The minutes of the meeting shall be published soon.
14. **11<sup>th</sup> March:** **All India Food Processors' Association** with the support of **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** and **ITPO** organized a Seminar on "**Food Ingredients and Additives-Opportunities & Challenges**" on **11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, coinciding with AAHAR, 2011.
15. **15<sup>th</sup> March:** Dr. S. Jindal, Chairman, Taxation Committee, Sh. P.L.Kaul, Past President, Sh. D.V. Malhan, Executive Secretary, AIFPA met Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha and appraised her about the levy of 1% excise duty on various types of processed foods including perishable fruits and vegetables and requested her for the withdrawal of the same during he discussion in the Parliament on BUDGET (2011-12).

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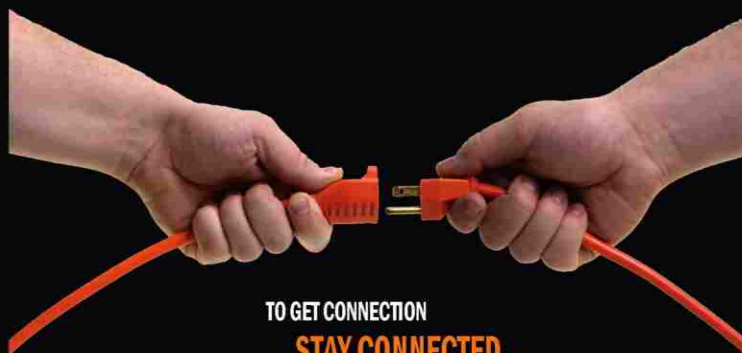
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16. **17<sup>th</sup> March:** A delegation from DEASUNG CORPORATION, Seoul, Korea, consisting of the following, visited the office of Association and discussed the wide range areas of interest in the food processing: Lee Jae Hoon (Shone); Hoon Chan, NA (Andrew); Sanggyu Kim; Kevin Han; Min, Hwang (Daniel)  
It was informed by the delegation that their company is interested in expanding business with Indian Companies. Their present interests are in the following area:
- India's corn starch & sweetener market situation
  - India's MSG & Nucleotides use and market situation
  - India's processed product (final food product) market information
  - Introduce appropriate partner companies who are interested in foreign investment or strategic alliance with **Daesang Corporation**.

By this E-Newsletter the members/food processors are informed that in case they have interest, they can contact their team leader Mr. Sanggyu Kim, Director, India Project, Mobile: 82-10-6210-7597, Tel: 82-2-2657-5385-6, Fax: 82-2-2657-5333, E-mail: balojia@hanmail.net, website: www.edaesang.com

17. **19<sup>th</sup> March:** Mr. Gerardo Pataconi, Chief, UNIDO, Vienna, Austria visited the office of Association to present UNIDO'S work in the field of agribusiness development focusing on cluster, supplier development and business linkages buyers/suppliers, as well as our support to upgrade and network food processor also by complying with technical regulations and market requirements in terms of food safety and sustainability.

## Regulatory & Food Safety Issues

### SC notice on use of plastic for packing food items

The Supreme Court has on 30th March 2011 sought response from the Centre on why there should not be a complete ban on the use of plastics in the country which at present is limited to tobacco products.

"The Plastics Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, notified by the MoEF ( ministry of environment and forests) on February 4, 2011, are discriminatory, arbitrary and capricious," claimed the Delhi Study Group, the petitioner who challenged the government rules of banning use of plastics only in gutkha, tobacco and pan masala and not all items, especially, food.

The petitioners said that the "Rules have been issued only against the tobacco products, but plastic materials used for packaging in other items have been deliberately left out which is violative of Articles 14 (fundamental right to equality) and 21 (fundamental right to life and liberty) of the Constitution of India."

"Our contention is that the rule should cover all food items, like all packaged bhujias from The Haldiram's, Bikaners and others. Packing them in plastic is as hazardous as packing tobacco. Milk, which is produced and sold in printed pouches, is also harmful for health. It could be replaced by glass bottles as was done a few years earlier. Today, 130 lakh tonnes of plastic is being used every month for packing milk, which should be immediately stopped."

A bench of Justice G S Singhvi and Justice A K Ganguly issued notice to the Centre on a PIL seeking the court's direction to impose a complete ban on the use of plastics.

***The above issue has serious repercussions on food processors and needs urgent attention.***

### Demand for stricter norms for junk food



A demand to set strict norms and guidelines on production and advertisement of junk food was made in the Rajya Sabha. Raising the issue through a Special Mention, B S Gnanadesikan (Cong) said junk food was leading to obesity and other health-related problems among youngsters.

He said the World Health Organisation had also recommended that strong steps should be taken to monitor production of junk food.

In January this year, in a series of recommendations aimed at promoting a healthy diet and cutting child obesity, the WHO had said that junk foods should not be sold in schools and playgrounds. The non-binding recommendations would be put to a high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases during September's UN General Assembly meeting in New York, the WHO officials said.

### Govt. to bring in an Act to control milk mafias



The Maharashtra Government has planned a stringent Act to arrest the mafia's growth in the state, home minister R R Patil said in the legislative council. A Bill would be tabled in the legislature during the monsoon session, but if needed, the government would first issue an ordinance, Patil informed.

Satej Patil, minister of state, Food and Drugs Administration, said the government would make it mandatory for the milk co-operatives to use tamper-proof packets to prevent adulteration. The home department would also hold workshops for the police on how to detect adulteration.

Raising the issue of food, milk, oil and kerosene adulteration, the opposition leader in the council, Pandurang Phundkar, said over the last decade the mafia had infiltrated the government and in the recent months it had become so blatant that officials were being openly killed.

## Govt. will study nutritional content of foods from different regions



The vast array of Indian food habits would soon be compiled and analysed for nutritional content by the government. The compilation would be done through a study by the National Institute of Nutrition, Indian Council of Medical Research, Hyderabad, health ministry official said.

The aim of the study would be to establish a database of Indian food composition which would help in upscaling nutrition activities at the national, community and household level. Food items from six regions of the country viz north, south, east, west, central and north eastern India would be analyzed. This would also facilitate accurate interpretation of nutritional intervention strategies being implemented in the country.

As of now, an amount of Rs 25 crore has been approved for the study which is expected to be completed by July 2016. In the first of the four phases, the study would cover around 240 key foods identified to cover 90% of the rural diet.

## Pesticides banned abroad are being used in India: Pawar

As many as 67 pesticides that have either been banned or severely restricted by some countries have been allowed for use on crops in India, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar has admitted in the Rajya Sabha. He said 27 pesticides, including calcium cyanide, had been banned for manufacture, import and use in India. Nicotin sulfate and Captafol had been banned for use in the country but their manufacture was allowed for export, he said, adding four pesticide formulations had been banned for export, manufacture and use while even others had been withdrawn. Some 13 pesticides including Endosulfan had been allowed with restricted use.



“However, there are 67 pesticides allowed for use in India which have been either banned or severely restricted by some countries,” Pawar said. When asked why these pesticides were being allowed for use in India, he said some countries had banned use of these pesticides, but others like Brazil and Australia continue to use them. “We take all precautions (in allowing the use of pesticides). Certain countries have banned them but certain countries have allowed their use. We have taken the opinion of the scientific community and considered interest of the farming community in allowing their use,” he added.

## Govt. to check the nutritional balance of the food served in anganwadi

The norms for supplementary nutrition were earlier revised by the Government of India in 2008-09. As per the revised norms, Rs 4 per beneficiary, per day, was prescribed for children between 6 and 72 months, Rs 6 per beneficiary, per day, for severely malnourished children between 6 and 72 months and Rs 5 per beneficiary, per day, for pregnant and nursing mothers, informed Ms Krishna Tirath, minister of state (independent charge) for women and child development, in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.



During the conference of the State Ministers in-charge of women and child development, held on January 28, 2011, at New Delhi, several states/UTs expressed the need for enhanced rate and for indexation of the cost of supplementary food norms with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The government proposed to strengthen and restructure the ICDS. This would, inter alia, include indexation of cost with the CPI, special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 3 years for care during pregnancy and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, strong institutional convergence with National Rural Health Mission and Total Sanitation Campaign, particularly at the district and village levels and development of models for providing flexibility at local levels for community participation.

Further enhancement has been announced by the finance minister in the Budget proposal of 2011-12, increasing the honoraria of anganwadi workers and anganwadi helpers from Rs 1500 to Rs 3000 per month and Rs 750 to Rs 1500 per month, respectively. This would come into effect from April 2011.

### The information available at the website of the Association

#### 1. From the Desk of President, AIFPA:

- (i) Budget Proposals for 2011-12 including SOS Messages to PM, FM and other Govt. Depts. regarding Budget 2011-12.
- (ii) Suggestions to the FSSAI on the draft Notification GSR 39(E) dated 19/1/2011 regarding Food Safety & Standards Rules-2011.
- (iii) Suggestions to the Ministry of Environment and Forest on the draft Notification No S.O. 2400(E) and S.O. 249(E) dated 4th February 2011.

2. “Manuals of Methods of Analysis”, Act and Orders related to processed foods including Directory of Members of AIFPA are available from the office of this Association.

## Intelligent laser fruit sorter Primus Gemini - two-in-one sorter



Enhanced laser sorting technology, improved defect detection and heightened accuracy are benefits claimed by Best for its new berry sorting machine.

The Belgium-based company said the improved mechanical set up of its Primus Gemini system means that berries can be sorted and graded on a single run instead of the more usual two to detect discoloured and soft products.

Taking blueberries as an example, Best said they previously needed to be sorted in two separate machines.

“Because of this double sorting step, the berry was dropped down the sorters twice, resulting in a higher risk of bruising,” a company spokesman told FoodProductionDaily.com. “Another disadvantage was the fact that often one machine was used for both detection steps, resulting in a higher false reject load and the machine not being able to handle all defects, when the incoming product was machine picked and thus had a higher amount of defects.”

But the new sorter helps blueberry producers to first sort fruit on colour to reject the off spec products and on the same run, it inspects the blueberries again, removing the structural defects using laser technology. The spokesman added: “Both sorting steps are integrated in one single sorter. This allows the processors to limit the risk of damaging and separate both reject streams, which now can be used for different purposes, where before they were frequently lost.”

**Maximises yield:** The system even allows producers to pick and sort lower quality berries that were previously left on plants because they had too many defects and needed to be gathered manually. Improved inspection capabilities and boosted accuracy means that reject streams can now be kept apart and yields improved by reducing false rejects, added Best.

The new model retains the gentle-handling characteristic of its predecessor thanks to a thin and round belt. Dropping and rolling of fruit is also cut, which helps ensure that more produce keeps the so-called 'white bloom'. The system can also be equipped with different belts depending on the fruit being sorted, said the Belgian firm.

Further features include an easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI), so that operators can easily increase or decrease sensitivities on red, green or soft and even take frame grabs for optimal sorting results.

The system is versatile and can sort cherries, cranberries and IQF raspberries, as well as blueberries. Unveiled in January 2011, Best said first orders are due for delivery by mid-March, said the company.

## Bee venom honey maker stung by FSA ruling

A producer of honey with added bee venom has described the Food Standards Agency (FSA's) rejection of UK - and by extension EU - licensing for his product under the novel foods regulation as “hard to rationalise”.

The unusual honey is made in New Zealand by Nelson Honey & Marketing, and the bee venom is 'milked' from insects and added to Manuka honey in minute doses of 20 µg/g (parts per million): the firm markets the product in that country within its NectarEase range of honeys, balms and food supplements as an anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial ingredient “especially beneficial for sufferers of arthritic pain”.



But a FSA spokesman told FoodManufacture.co.uk that its Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes' (ACNFP) that initial opinion on the product in July 2010 under Article 3(1) of Regulation 258/97 subsequently endorsed by other EU member states before a final rejection in December 2010 was based on “serious concerns” about the product's allergenicity.

**Allergic reaction risk:** The spokesman said this included the risk of immediate and serious allergic reactions to the known toxin, including anaphylaxis, in individuals who are unknowingly allergic to bee venom, when consuming the novel ingredient: the panel estimated that venom levels were likely to be “at least 12 times higher” than when it naturally occurred in some standard honeys.

Another risk the ACNFP raised was the potential for low doses of bee venom to sensitise some “genetically susceptible” individuals so that they suffer serious allergic responses on later exposure to bee venom, for example via bee stings.