



Food Safety Vital For Growth: India Food Forum 2017

Mumbai, 1stst February 2017: Food safety has become a prime concern of consumers. This has forced the manufacturers to ensure compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure food safety. Speaking at the panel discussion on 'Food Safety' at India Food Forum 2017 at BKC, **Omprakash Arora, Head of Quality, Nestlé South Asia** said, "Consumer's trust is the most essential requirement for success of any product. Furthermore, when it comes to food items, safety can not be compromised at any cost. All products are conceptualized and manufactured around safety. Quality control checks and balances for vendors and suppliers are also monitored strictly." **Atul Joshi, Chief General Manager, Quality and Legal Compliances, Patanjali** said, "Focus on execution of safety compliances can ensure safety of the final food product reaching the consumers. If there is gap in understanding between the management and executioner, the safety gets affected badly."

According to **Dr Vinod Dhanuka, Head R&D, Reliance Retail**, "Maintaining safety standards during transportation and storage of food items must be ensured so that the consumers get fresh and safe products. The people involved in packaging and transportation of food items, must be continuously trained in good and ethical practices."

Dr Nilesh Amritkar, MD, Envirocare Food Lab said, "Time has come to rethink the concept of safety, integrity and sustainable food industry. At present there is a lack of adequate infrastructure to conduct safety tests on various food items." Unnecessary analysis of food items can cripple. The regulations need to be inculcated by the industry, without complete dependence on FSSI, he added. "Indian food industry needs to adopt stringent safety standards to ensure that end consumers get good quality food products. Safety standards should be designed keeping in mind the needs for next 100 years, instead of short term criteria," Dr Amritkar said.

Dr Bhaskar, FSSI said, "We as regulators are trying to have multi pronged strategies to create awareness on food safety and hygiene. We don't want to enforce everything. Stakeholders should become more responsible when it comes to food safety." **Venkatesha Prasanna, Head Quality, FCL (Future Group)** said, "Sourcing, product quality and supply need to be strictly monitored to ensure safety of food products sold in market."

Dr Prabodh Halde, President, AFST, Mumbai & Head Technical Regulatory, Marico, said, "Industry needs to be in sync with the regulators. We have to be open for new regulations coming in."

About India Food Forum:

The India Food Forum was formed in the year 2008 under the chairmanship of the then Food Processing Minister with India's leading manufacturers, marketers and retailers of food, grocery and FMCG products joining in to take up a series of support initiatives for the Indian food retail business. The forum's sole purpose has been to connect all key



stakeholders of food & grocery retail and HoReCa businesses with their respective potential partners to collaborate for profitable growth, collectively work towards new category development, boost consumption, share global best practices, benchmark new standards, and serve customers efficiently. Comprising a 360-degree format of conference, exhibition, networking and industry awards, India Food Forum is unarguably India's most exciting and forward looking knowledge sharing venue for food, grocery and FMCG brands, distributors, marketers, grocery retailers and foodservice companies.

About Images Group:

Recognized by the international retail community through its B2B Magazines, business conferences, exhibitions, research publications, and digital media, the IMAGES GROUP is India's largest retail intelligence organization that is trusted as the catalyst for profitable growth of modern retail through knowledge platform leadership. A strong portfolio of business publications has served since 1992 to inform, advise and inspire leaders and decision makers of the retail industry.

For further queries contact ITW Playworx@

Namrata Aswani @ 09920710261

Sushil Panigrahi @ 09930634197

Neha Badlani @ 09821052694