

FSSAI to popularise Rapid Food Testing Devices and Kits to redefine Food Safety in 2020

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), country's Food Regulator, will be popularising the Rapid Food Testing Devices and Kits equipped with advanced technologies to redefine Food Safety in the country. The Food Regulator had made a quick progress towards the use of advanced technologies for food testing in the past year by introducing new rapid food testing devices/kits for detection of food-borne pathogens and toxins. These devices ensure "faster, better, cheaper real-time testing of food. These are expected to become an integral part of quality assurance/quality control programs in the food industry and also for regulatory and surveillance purposes in 2020.

FSSAI had finalized the regulations for approval of rapid testing devices, kits and methods to strengthen the food testing ecosystem in the country last year. FSSAI has so far approved 30 rapid food testing kits/devices under these regulations.

FSSAI is also providing these kits/devices to the State Governments for use by field officers and get quicker & validated results for tests conducted on different food products such as milk and edible oils, amongst others. Steps have been initiated to make these available on government eProcurement marketplace (GeM) portal so that further procurements can be made by Governments, local bodies on their own. FSSAI has already invested over INR 5 crore on this so far.

According to FSSAI, at least 10 states in India are not equipped to ensure food safety, because of scarcity of staff and food testing laboratory infrastructure. Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Telengana and Uttarakhand are the worst performing states on food safety.