Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure

Quality and Food Safety have become competitive edge in the global market for food products. For the all-round development of the food processing sector in the country. Apart from this, in the interest of consumer safety and public health, there is a need to ensure that the quality food products manufactured and sold in the market meet the stringent parameters prescribed by the food safety regulator. Keeping in view the aforesaid objectives, government has been extending financial assistance under the scheme under the following component:

➢ Setting Up/Up-gradation of Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories

In the interest of consumer safety and public health, there is a need for testing food products in order to ensure that it complies with domestic standards as well as international standards for exports. There is also a need for testing of all imported food products to ensure that they are of the requisite standard and food products not permitted for manufacture domestically are not allowed to come in from foreign markets. Apart from this, the level of contaminants, additives, and pesticide residues in food items is required to be monitored regularly. Therefore, a network of food testing and analysis laboratories is required to support the surveillance system of food regulator, timely analysis of samples and ensure compliance of international and domestic standards on food in case of exports as well as imports.

Under the scheme, Central/ State Government and their organizations/ Government universities (including deemed universities) and all other implementing agencies/private sector organizations/universities (including deemed universities) are eligible to receive financial assistance for setting up of food testing laboratories.

➢ HACCP/ ISO Standards/Food Safety/Quality Management Systems

HACCP, ISO Standards are necessary condition for improving the overall quality of food safety & hygiene in the country and also to increase India's share in global food trade. The main objective of the scheme is to motivate the food processing industry for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 9000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP. This will enable adherence food processors to the stringent quality and hygiene norms thereby protecting the health of consumers, enhance product acceptance by buyers, both domestic & overseas and keep Indian industry technologically abreast of international best practices.

Central/ State Government Organization, IITs, Universities and private sector in the field of food processing sector are eligible for assistance under the scheme for implementation of HACCP/ ISO Standards / Food safety/ Quality Safety Management Systems.

Grant-in-aid is given in the form of re-imbursement of expenditure towards implementation of HACCP/ ISO Standards/ Food safety/ Quality Management Systems @ 50% in general area and @ 75% in NE Region and difficult areas of eligible project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 17 lakh and 22 lakh respectively. With a view to clear the pending proposals, the Ministry has not been accepting fresh application as a temporary measure.

Quality Council of India has launched two Certification schemes namely "IndiaGHP" and "IndiaHACCP" based on globally accepted Codex Standards for adoption by food manufacturers and supply chain operators.These schemes will help India food chain related industry to demonstrate compliance to global standards without having to go for costly and time consuming foreign

certifications as many countries have mandated Haxaed Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) for high risk sectors like meat, fish, dairy etc. and most developed countries have also mandated Good Hygienic Practices(GHP) across all food sectors. The details of the schemes are available on QCI website

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