

Monthly FAEA Report (08/26/2020)

Highlights:

BFSA: The food safety regulations drafted by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority are shared with all stakeholders, regulators, private sectors, academia and civil society for comments and feedback. It is also uploaded in BFSA webpage.

BSTI: Revised national standard of milk powder (BDS 860) is going to repeal existing milk Powders and Cream powder standard BDS CAC 207:2008 which was adopted from codex standard.

AHP: Quality Control Laboratory for Livestock Inputs and its Food Products is expected to be well equipped testing harmful toxins, contaminants, heavy metals, and microorganisms in meat and meat products, feed and feed additives, ingredients for local consumption and international trade as well.

DAE: The DAE is participating on an Expert Working Group on Regional Harmonization for the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Modified Plants organized by the Agriculture & Food Systems Institute, USA

Codex: BSTI and BFSA both the organizations are interested to attend in the 43rd Session (CAC43) of codex meeting from Bangladesh.

Monthly Developments:

Food Safety

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA):

Ministry of Food has advised the Director General of Food and Bangladesh Food Safety Authority to work together to identify the needs of both organizations and construct the proposed six modern food testing laboratories in different locations (Chottogram, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet) around the country accordingly. Besides it was emphasized to get the feasibility study completed for the referral food testing lab for BFSA consideration, layout, machineries, equipment, utility and human resources. BFSA is going to hire a consultant to complete the feasibility study and draft the entire project proposal. These laboratories will analyze all kinds of food and agro products including FAEA's products of interest for toxins including natural toxin, contaminants, drug residues, antibiotics, heavy metals, microbiological parameters for both pathogenic and non-pathogenic, etc.

BFSA has organized an inter-ministerial meeting in the month of August to finalize the draft regulation on obligations of food business operators. In addition, two of the drafted regulations on product recall & withdrawal and Hotel & Restaurant food Hygiene are shared with all stakeholders and also posted on the BFSA's webpage for receiving public comments. These regulations are expected to impact imported products from FAEA members.

Newly recruited food safety officers are on board now. THE Authority is now providing basic foundation training program for all recruited staffs. BFSA needs support to provide food safety technical training for their staff

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI):

With reference to the last month report, it was stated that 04 national standards were adopted by BSTI for food and agricultural products category.

BDS ISO 4833-1:2020 and BDS ISO 4833-2:2020 are directly adopted from ISO and both standards jointly repealed existing BDS ISO 4833:2009.

BDS 1778:2020 and BDS 1979:2020 both are adopted as national standards for Aloe Vera Drinks and dried Herbal Jute Leaves respectively. However, these two standards are not related to the products represented by FAEA members.

National standard of milk powder (BDS 860) is under revision to harmonize with the safety parameters as regulations published by BFSA. The revised BDS 860 standard is going to repeal existing national standard for Milk Powders and Cream powder standard BDS CAC 207:2008 which was directly adopted from codex standard.

Animal Health and Production:

The Quality Control Laboratory for Livestock Inputs and its Food Products is still under development. The laboratory is expected to be well equipped to test harmful toxins, contaminants, heavy metals, and microorganisms in meat and meat products, feed and feed additives, ingredients for local consumption and international trade as well. These labs will only test/analyze meat, eggs, animal feed and feed ingredients. Packaged milk and milk products fall under the jurisdiction of BSTI and are regulated jointly by DLS, City corporation, Directorate of consumer right protection, BFSA, etc.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE):

No significance changes are reported in the regulation and policies of DAE (Department of Agriculture Extension) and PQW (Plant Quarantine Wing).

Codex Standards

BSTI and BFSA are both interested in attending the 43rd Session (CAC43) of codex meeting scheduled on 24-26 September and 12 and 19 October 2020. However, BSTI is the officially designated codex contact point for Bangladesh.

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