

**Press Release**

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**Dr Gopi Ghosh**, Assistant FAO Representative, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations delivering the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session of the **5<sup>th</sup> Food Safety and Quality Summit, "India the Food Factory of the World – Food Safety Challenges and Opportunities"** elaborated the ASEAN model of Food Safety measures to facilitate better market access, where five priority sectors to improve Food Safety had been identified. Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand had taken lead roles in further developing them at the Ministerial level. Based on the above, he suggested that India should also adopt a similar approach for the SAARC countries to improve its prevailing food standards and align them to world levels. With clear targets and Vision, he extended FAO's support in this development effort.

Suggesting a transition to a systems approach from the end-product inspection regime of food safety regulations, Dr Ghosh highlighted that traceability was one of the major issues that need to be addressed in devising a comprehensive food control system by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The other issues which need attention include suitable infrastructure for food production like cold chains, data research and information sharing. Developing the capability of Assessors in the regulatory framework was yet another important issue highlighted by him besides suggesting the elimination of multiple regulatory efforts on the same issue.

**Mr Piruz Khambatta**, Chairman, CII National Task Force on Food Safety & Quality in his welcome remarks enumerated the various development and capability building work being done by CII Institute of Quality. Reiterating the need to focus on Quality, he welcomed the formation of the Food Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in the development of Food Standards and stated that Food Processing had the potential to transform rural India just as Information Technology has transformed urban India.

**Mr Raymond Michael Ellard**, Director - Audit & Compliance Division, Food Safety Authority of Ireland in his Special Address related the Irish experience on food safety and quality in converting Ireland into a "Food Island" where 75% of its food produced was exported, making food quality essential to the survival of his country's economy. This had effectively improved consumer protection and confidence, traceability and better food management.

**Mr Amit Chatterjee**, Managing Director, Sartorius India Group highlighted India's vast potential in food processing, called for the leveraging of the existing natural advantages in the areas of quality, safety and innovation.

**Mr Uttam Chatterjee**, Chairman, CII Expert Group on Food Safety and Quality in his concluding remarks called for a zero tolerance on deviations in Food Safety norms. He enumerated the mass awareness plans of CII-IQ through the mass electronic media and the launch of the CII National Award for Food Safety based on the CII Food Safety Maturity Model from 2010.

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