

Call for Expression of Interest for Membership on the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels of the Food Authority

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 with the mandate for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

2. The Authority is primarily responsible for laying down science-based standards for different categories of food products/items, ingredients, additives, preservatives, contaminants, etc. The process of development of a standard is driven by the principle of food safety and involves risk assessment. It involves deliberations by the Scientific Panels (SPs) constituted for product categories and laying down the standard(s); which are validated by the Scientific Committee (SC) and finally approved by the Food Authority before the process of issue of draft notification(s) of the Standards/ Regulation is initiated for inviting public comments, followed by a final notification.

3. The Authority is in the process of reconstituting its SC and SPs and looking for suitable individual experts as members for the SC and following SPs:

- i. Biological Hazards;
- ii. Contaminants in Food Chain;
- iii. Fish and Fisheries Product;
- iv. Food additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food;
- v. Functional foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other Similar Products;
- vi. Nutrition and Fortification;
- vii. Genetically Modified Organisms and Foods;
- viii. Labelling and claims/Advertisements;
- ix. Packaging;
- x. Method of Sampling and Analysis;
- xi. Pesticides Residues;
- xii. Antibiotic Residues;
- xiii. Cereals, Pulses & Legume and their Products (Including Bakery);
- xiv. Fruits & Vegetables and their Products (Including Dried Fruits and Nuts);
- xv. Spices and Culinary Herbs;
- xvi. Meat and Meat Products including Poultry;
- xvii. Milk and Milk Products;
- xviii. Oils and Fats;
- xix. Sweets, Confectionery, Sweeteners, Sugars and Honey;
- xx. Water (including flavoured water) and Beverages (non -alcoholic);
- xxi. Alcoholic Beverages.

4. The SC and SPs comprise the professionals/scientists/subject experts, who have acquired knowledge, experience and expertise in the specific domain. Such members may be on the faculty/staff/rolls of Universities, Academic and Research Institutions, retired individuals recognized for their outstanding knowledge/expertise in the subject area. However, it may not be feasible to nominate such candidates who are in employment of any Industry, as it may be perceived as conflict of interest.

5. The Food Authority follows a transparent, objective and rigorous selection procedure for short-listing the most suitable and outstanding individuals who can contribute significantly to the SC and SPs of the Authority and provide independent scientific opinion in arriving to its decisions. The evaluation and selection of the experts will be done by the Authority on the basis of clearly defined selection criteria. The experts may go through the procedure for selection available at <https://fssai.gov.in/scientificpanels/files/guidelines.pdf> before applying and particularly familiarize themselves with the conflict of interest provisions.

6. Members selected on the SC and SPs would need to undertake periodic visits to New Delhi where the meetings are normally held and a commitment to devote time and resources for the deliberations in the meetings. Membership would be given in their individual capacities and not as representative of the organization, if any, for which they may be working. Such members are required to avoid conflicts of interest. The Food Authority meets the travel and lodging expenses of members as per approved rates, in addition to a token sitting fee as applicable.

7. Accordingly, this is a call for inviting Expression of Interest from the Subject experts/scientists/professionals with outstanding records/achievements to their credit in the field of food science and subjects relevant to the Scientific Panels, for nomination as members of the SC and SPs for a maximum period of three years. Existing members of the SC and SPs are also eligible to apply. The members of the SC and SPs are to be appointed in accordance with section 14 and 13 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

How to Apply?

8. Interested experts are invited to submit their applications online at <https://fssai.gov.in/scientificpanels/>.

9. The last date of submission of applications is 15th July, 2019.

10. In case of any query, please contact **Shri Kumar Anil, Advisor (Standards)**, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhavan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002 (**Email: advisor@fssai.gov.in, Phone No. 011-23217833**).

11. Scientists/Professionals/ Experts are encouraged to forward the above details to the suitable candidates so that there is maximum dissemination of information and wider participation by the Scientific Community.

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