

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Maintaining Food safety and standards in India is the responsibility of FSSAI, an autonomous statutory body administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is functional as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Key points like the functions of FSSAI, composition of the body, challenges, and initiatives have all been discussed further below in this article. Candidates preparing for the upcoming [IAS Exam](#) must know all these features of the organisation for the GS II and III papers of UPSC.

What is FSSAI?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was set up in 2008 for the proper monitoring of food hygiene and quality in India. It was sanctioned from 2011 and ever since has been responsible for managing the food safety in our country.

The organisation has been set up as per the FSS Act 2006, until which different acts and laws were being administered under the various ministries of Government.

What is FSS Act 2006?

The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 states:

“An Act to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India 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 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

Until this law was passed, the following acts were being followed to manage the food security in the country:

- Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
- Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
- Fruit Products Order, 1955
- Meat Food Products Order, 1973

A few other acts were also implemented. But the Government passed the FSS Act in 2006, which was an amalgamation of all the terms and regulations mentioned in the above acts combined together.

Civil Service Exam aspirants can learn more about the [National Food Security Act, 2013](#) at the given link.

To know more about the [Food Security in India](#), candidates can visit the linked article.

Composition of FSSAI

If we talk about the composition of board members leading the organisation from front, the structure of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India comprises:

- Chairman - Appointed by the Central Government
- 22 other members, of which one-third must be women

Apart from this, a strong team of scientists and researchers for the testing of food quality. Separate committees and panels are also formed with experts from scientific backgrounds.

Functions of FSSAI

Following functions are performed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India:

- **Setting Rules and Guidelines** - FSSAI sets up rules and guidelines which need to be followed by all food manufacturing companies, keeping in consideration hygiene and food safety
- **Granting License** - To pursue any food related business, the owner needs to get a certificate and license with the permission of FSSAI
- **Test the Standard of Food** - the standard and quality of food manufactured by all companies registered under FSSAI, is done by the organisation themselves
- **Regular Audits** - Proper inspection is done for food producing and manufacturing companies to ensure the standards are at par the guidelines
- **Spreading Food Safety Awareness** - It is the responsibility of FSSAI to spread awareness and inform the citizens about the importance of safe and hygienic food consumption
- **Maintain Records and Data** - FSSAI also has the responsibility to maintain proper records and data of all the registered organisations. Any violation of rules prescribed by FSSAI can lead to the termination of license
- **Keeping the Government Updated** - Any food safety related threat must be informed to the Government authorities for further action. Also, assist them in framing food standard policies

Important Initiatives by FSSAI

Many important initiatives have also been taken by FSSAI keeping in mind food safety and standards. Following are few of these important initiatives:

1. **Eat Right India** - The aim is not just to provide food to one and all, but to provide quality food to everyone. With this initiative, FSSAI intends to make good quality food accessible to every citizen of the country
2. **Clean Street Food** - This involves training the street food vendors and making them aware of the violations as per the FSS Act 2006. This will also help in social and economic upliftment of street food vendors
3. **Diet4Life** - This is another initiative taken by FSSAI, to spread awareness about metabolic disorders.

4. **Save Food, Share Food, Share Joy** - Encouraging people to avoid food wastage and promote food donation. Through this, FSSAI intends to connect food collecting agencies with the food producing companies and share the food with the ones in need

Apart from this, the first-ever World Food Safety Day was celebrated on June 6, 2019 by FSSAI, acknowledging the contribution of states, food businesses and individuals in maintaining food safety.

Challenges for FSSAI

There are certain challenges which are to be overcome by FSSAI:

- Proper laboratories for testing the quality of food need to be organised by the Organisation
- Arranging qualified manpower to test and approve the standards of food being manufactured
- Re-evaluating the regulations and terms as per international standards
- Gaining funds to get advanced technologies
- Ensuring proper licensing of every food manufacturing individual or business

Once the Government of India and FSSAI overcome these shortcomings, the organisation is capable of regulating and maintaining the food safety standards in all parts of the country.

To know more about the [Challenges in Achieving Food Security in India](#), candidates can visit the linked article.

UPSC aspirants can visit BYJU'S for any further information, exam updates and study material.