

**Event Release**

## **ReCHaN - 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholders Forum**

### ***Scientific framework for substantiating Claims in the Health supplements and Nutraceuticals sector is the need of the hour***

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and International Alliance of Dietary/Food Supplement Associations (IADSA) have set up a Resource Centre for Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals (ReCHaN) to help strengthen the Health Supplements & Nutraceuticals sector by driving a science based ecosystem to foster the culture of food safety and quality among manufacturers, businesses, consumers and other stakeholders. Subsequently, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) signed a MoU with ReCHaN on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to support the best practices and enable effective science based Standards and Regulations in the country.

ReCHaN in partnership with FSSAI organised its **1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Forum** focused on “***An Integrated Food Safety ecosystem for the Nutraceuticals & Health Supplement Sector***” on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 (Tuesday) at India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi. A technical presentation on “*Scientific Framework for Substantiation of Health Claims*” was made by **Professor David Richardson**, Visiting faculty - University of Reading (UK). Prof. Richardson emphasised that the Claims should be truthful and meaningful for consumers to reflect the strength of the evidence and biological plausibility of the food and health relationship.

**Mr. Pawan Agarwal**, Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI mentioned that in the area of preventive health care, the Health Supplements and the Nutraceutical sector is going to play a very important role. Currently, with the notification of comprehensive Standards for the sector, the challenge is to ensure its effective implementation. He emphasised that this Resource Centre established by CII and IADSA, over the last one year, has been working efficiently to help establish a robust ecosystem towards maximising the full potential of the Health Supplements and the Nutraceutical sector.

The FSSAI- ReCHaN Guidance documents on Good Manufacturing Practices and Compliance for Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals were released by CEO FSSAI at the forum. While the GMP guidance document is aimed at enabling small and medium enterprises to implement food safety practices during the manufacturing processes, the Compliance Guidance Document provides key regulatory requirements and understanding of Global practices. In addition, ReCHaN will disseminate the two Guidance documents across the country through practical Training modules for Food Business Operators and Regulatory officers. As a part of capacity building initiative ReCHaN will also conduct various workshops and trainings across the country.

**Mr. Ashish Bahuguna**, Chairperson, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, in his interaction on ReCHaN stressed on the need to develop protocols and practices to substantiate claims and bring about clarity on labelling especially in respect of the rapidly growing sector of botanicals, so as to protect the interests of consumers. The Chairperson hoped the Industry would continue to partner with Government and sections of the Civil

society to jointly address current apprehensions and issues faced by the Consumers and Food Business Operators in the Nutraceuticals and Dietary supplements sector.

**Mr Simon Pettman**, Executive Director, IADSA highlighted ReCHaN's approach in promoting the principles of science and global best practices in the area of health supplements & nutraceuticals so as to contribute effectively towards strengthening the ecosystem in the sector.

**Ms. Meetu Kapur, Executive Director, CII**, in her concluding remarks mentioned that this Resource Centre has been set up to facilitate the holistic growth and advancement in Indian Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals sector while fostering a culture of Food safety, Quality and Innovation among Manufacturers, Businesses, Consumers, Regulators and other stakeholders. The Partnership with IADSA and the Guidance of FSSAI would help to meet the challenges to assure a science based approach & build capacities to achieve global excellence.

As part of the deliberations, a panel discussion on "*Scientific Framework for Substantiation of Health Claims*" was conducted with domain experts like **Dr S K Sharma**, Chairperson (FSSAI panel on Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products, Advisor Ayurveda (Retd.), Ministry of AYUSH), **Dr Satish Kulkarni** (Chairman, FSSAI Scientific Panel on Labelling/ Claims and Advertisement and Former Head NDRI), **Dr. Azadar Khan** (Senior Vice President, Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.) and **Prof Richardson** as the panellists. The session was moderated by **Dr J I Lewis** (Scientific Advisor, ReCHaN). The forum attracted a wide participation from National and International speakers and participants from Industry, Academia and Government.