

2018

1. Newsletter: First issue of the 7th volume of the newsletter was published in April 2018.
2. Article on Seminar on Food Safety & Healthy Food: A look beyond State Regulatory Framework held on 6th April 2018 was published in Daily FT paper 10th April, the seminar was also reported on ART TV news, Sunday Leader and Sunday Observer.
3. An article on Seminar on Food Safety & Healthy Food: A look beyond State Regulatory Framework held on 6th April 2018 also appeared in OPA journal volume 34 No.1 page 27-28.
4. Article on Seminar on technical training for Laboratory Technicians May 17 2018, conducted by Emeritus Prof Upali Samarajeewa was published in newspaper.
5. Article on 'Why Food Science' written by President IFSTSL to create awareness of IFSTSL was published in Sunday Observer on 16th September 2018.

Seminar on “Food safety and healthy food: a look beyond state regulatory framework”

A seminar on “Food safety and healthy food: a look beyond state regulatory framework” was successfully held on the 6th of April 2018 at the Global Towers Hotel, Colombo. Dr. L T Gamlath, DDG (EOH/ Food Safety) addressed the audience on ‘The impactful role of food regulations in food safety and healthy food’. Mr. Arun Mishra, EVP Regulatory Affairs, Indian Sub-Continent, GSK Consumer Healthcare made a presentation on ‘Food Safety: Good Regulatory Review Practices’.

The panel session was conducted by Dr. Eresha Mendis, Senior Lecturer, Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Peradeniya, as well as editor of IFSTSL. Dr. Bhanuja Wijetilaka, Consultant Community Specialist (Nutrition Division of Ministry of Health) addressed on ‘Nutritional challenges in achieving national goals for NCDs, Dr. S Dhanapala, (Director EOH/ food safety), addressed on ‘Recent progresses in food regulations’ and Dr. R. Jayatissa, (Head/ Nutrition Division MRI, medical nutritionist) addressed on ‘Food vs Borderline products: classification, claims, and communication limitations’ during the panel session. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne, president IFSTSL. The seminar was sponsored by GSK Consumer Healthcare Sri Lanka with a sponsorship of LKR 500,000/-

Training program for laboratory technical officers

Training program for laboratory technical officers was conducted on 17th May 2018 at the Global Towers Hotel, Colombo. The full day training program was conducted by Emeritus Professor Upali Samarajeewa (International Consultant on Laboratory Accreditation). There were 30 participants from different platforms including private and public sector and universities. Participants were very satisfied with the program.

IFSTSL represented at 8th International conference on food safety and regulatory measures, Barcelona, 11th and 12th June.

President Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne represented the IFSTSL at the 8th International Conference on Food Safety and Regulatory measures, held in Barcelona, Spain from 11th to 12th June 2018. She presented a paper on Challenges in Consumer Behaviour Change based on Colour Coding System for Beverages as

a NCD Control Mechanism in Sri Lanka, which was well accepted among the participants. Dr Gunaratne also had the opportunity to co-chair a session in the conference.

Industry Seminar

The industry seminar on the topic 'Food Regulatory System in Sri Lanka: implications for local and export food trade' was successfully held on the 3rd August 2018 at 1.30 pm at the Ruby Hall, BMICH, Colombo, in parallel with Pro Food-Pro Pack-Ag Biz International Food Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition. The Institute organized this seminar focusing on developing a dialogue with the concerned parties on national regulatory system in Sri Lanka with a view to understand its implications on local and export food trade. There were 76 participants for the seminar.

Dr. Eresha Mendis was the chief organizer of the seminar and co-ordinated by Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne and Ms. Choshani Dalukdeniya.

Inter University Food Science Quiz 2018

The second Inter University Food Science Quiz 2018 was held on 05th August 2018 at the Mihilaka Medura, BMICH, Colombo parallel with Pro Food-Pro Pack-Ag Biz International Food Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition.

The quiz was held among the teams of students reading for degrees in Food Science and Technology. Five teams representing; University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Rajarata University of Sri Lanka participated.

University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Wayamba University of Sri Lanka were selected to the final oral quiz. Quiz master Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne together with the support of judges Mr. Cyril Wickramaratne and Mrs. Rafeek and time manager Mrs Kishori Senaratne conducted the quiz. University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the Challenge trophy for the year 2018. Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne organized the quiz, supported by IFSTSL Exco and secretariat staff.

Seminar for Food Science Undergraduates

The first seminar for undergraduates on 'Industry Expectations and career aspirations for food science graduates' was held on the 3rd August 2018 from 08.30 am to 12.00 noon at the Ruby Hall, BMICH, Colombo, in parallel with Pro Food-Pro Pack-Ag Biz International Food Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition.

Undergraduates studying Food Science & Technology from University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka represented the seminar. Three speakers. Mr. Dhammika Gunesekera, Mr. Lasantha Rathnayaka and Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne representing the industry addressed the undergraduates. There were 81 university participants. It was organized by Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne with the assistance of Ms. Choshani Dalukdeniya.

Advisory Committee of EDB

Dr Sujeewa Gunaratne represented the EDB Advisory committee on Food at the EDB. In this capacity she was able to support the food industry on behalf of the IFSTSL, on requirements of research needs, information required by industries on food science specific subjects etc.

Act of Parliament to incorporate IFSTSL

The draft of Act was received by the legal draftsman and was sent to the attorney general office. The legal draftsman has requested definitions for certain terms, and some were provided.

IFSTSL Newsletter

Two newsletters were published. The 7th volume of the IFSTSL newsletter was published in April 2018 and the 8th volume published in September 2018. Dr. Eresha Mendis served as the editor and coordinated the release of the newsletter.