

2019

Food Safety Training for Public Health Inspectors and Food Inspectors

With the fanatical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFSTSL planned and conducted a series of two-day in-service residential training program on food safety for PHIs and food inspectors (FIs) from 05th to 20th January 2019. Representing all administrative areas of Medical Officers of Health (MOH), 515 PHIs and FIs were trained offering six, two-day training programs both in Sinhala and Tamil mediums at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Colombo and In-service Training Institute, Department of Agriculture, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya. Dr. Eresha Mendis, Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne, Dr. Niranjana Rajapakse and Mr. Harsha Abeywardana, served as the trainers of Sinhala medium and Mr. Kathirkamu Rasakanthan and Ms. Sarusha Santhiravel conducted the training in Tamil medium. The Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine collaborated with the IFSTSL in selecting the trainees and organizing the training programs.

Conference on 'Food Safety Hot Topics in Sri Lanka: What's done and what's to be done'

A full day food safety conference on 'Food Safety Hot Topics in Sri Lanka: What's done and what's to be done' was organized by Dr Sujeewa Gunaratne on behalf of IFSTSL on 5th April 2019 at The Dome, Global Towers Hotel, Colombo 6. The conference was kindly sponsored by Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Pvt) Ltd.

The Chief Guest of the conference was Mr Ravi Jayawardena, CEO of Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Pvt) Ltd. Dr L T Gamlath, Deputy Director General (EOH & Food Safety) presented on Registration of food premises regulations: Lets commit to 'No Touch'. Dr Renuka Jayatissa, Head, Nutrition Division (MRI) spoke on Colour coding of food: a global review of colour coding as an effective consumer behavior change mechanism. Dr Gamini Rajanayake, Colombo City Analyst discussed the topic 'Food Adulteration in Sri Lanka: statistics, detection, prevention'. Prof. T S G Fonseka, Emeritus Professor of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka discussed the topic 'Nematode parasites in imported canned fish: the facts, global perspective and local regulatory mechanism. Dr Niranjana Rajapakse, Head, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Peradeniya presented on Street food of Sri Lanka: its role in food safety issues, and current control measures. Dr Sujeewa Gunaratne, President IFSTSL presented on Zero sugar beverages: the need, perceptions and future. Ms Anjalee Omalka, Joint Secretary of IFSTSL acted as compere of the event, and Ms Sandhya Fernando and Ms Vasanthi Senaratne supported the administrative and promotional activities. The program was attended by more than one hundred industry representatives.

Blue highlighted –already in website

Seminar on ‘Food Safety Awareness” for SLITHM students

A half a day food safety awareness seminar was organized by Ms.Anjalee Omalka on behalf of IFSTSL on 1st of November 2019 at Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management-Colombo 03.The objective of the seminar was to discuss important current food safety topics including colour coding regulations, labelling requirements food regulations and their revisions, food adulteration and food borne illnesses. Dr.Sujeewa Gunaratne, Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs, also President IFSTSL presented on food regulations. She provided guidance to participants based on her experience. Ms. Anjalee Omalka Joint Secretary IFSTSL and also a Lecturer of SLITHM presented on food borne illnesses and food adulteration. The program was attended by more than sixty students and they successfully utilized the opportunity.