

2020

Blue colour-already in website

Food Safety workshop for Industry

Food safety and Regulations are becoming areas needing greater attention due to the increased demand for processed foods, new technologies used, and waste generated during food production and processing. The IFSTSL conducted a workshop on “Food Safety and Regulation: Kick start 2020” on 29th January 2020. Emeritus Prof.Upali Samarajeewa involved as the resource person of the workshop. The workshop was held at Renuka City Hotel Colombo. A large number of participants participated at the event. Prof.Upali Samarajeewa engaged in an insightful Q & A session with participants. Prof. Niranjala Perera organized the event on behalf of IFSTSL. The event also helped promotion of membership.

Pro Food Related Events IFSTSL was unable to conduct the four events during the Prof Food Pro Pack Ag Biz Exhibition, due to the public health guidelines set by the government against Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country.

Series of webinars

A webinar on “Covid-19 and sustainable food systems; innovations to face the “new normal” organized by IFSTSL on 13th June 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Professor Rangika Halwathura-Commissioner,Sri Lanka Inventors Commision. Prof.Halwathura highlighted research findings on gaps seen on sustainable food systems, and provided examples to participants based on his experience.

The IFSTSL selects a current theme applicable for food industries, for the second webinar of IFSTSL, named “Chemical Hazard along the Food Chain (Farm to Fork)” held on 20th June 2020. Emeritus Prof.Upali Samarajeewa was the speaker of the webinar. Presentation was lined up to discuss various important aspects of chemical hazards in agriculture, food processing and their impact, and efforts to be taken by industries to minimize the impact on the environment. At the end of the webinar Prof. Upali Samarajeewa moderated a Q & A session where the participants clarified several important aspects regarding the presentation made.

A webinar on “Smart Foods for Preventive Healthcare during Covid phase” organized by IFSTSL on 28th June 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Professor Pratima Khandelwal from Banglore,India. Prof.Pratima highlighted importance of consumption of “life force’-natural fruits, vegetables and spices. She provided examples to participants based on her experience. The event also helped to promote IFSTSL as a large number of Indian participants attended the webinar.

A webinar on Food Color Coding (Sugar, Salt and Fat) Regulations organized by IFSTSL on 11th July 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Dr.Sujeewa Gunarathne- the Immediate Past President of IFSTSL. Dr. Sujeewa presented on color coding regulations, labelling requirements food

regulations and their revisions and also she provided guidance to participants based on her experience. Dr.Sujeewa Gunarathne and Prof.Upali Samarajeewa moderated a Q & A session where the participants clarified several important aspects regarding the presentation made. The webinar was attended by more than one hundred and fifteen participants and they successfully utilized the opportunity.

A webinar on “Minimally Processed or Fresh-cut Fruits and Vegetable Products Industry-Overview and Challenges” organized by IFSTSL on 18th July 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. (Ms) Ilmi Hewajulige Additional Director General –R & D at Industrial Technology Institute. The webinar was attended by more than one hundred and thirty participants and they successfully utilized the opportunity.

A webinar on “Plant Proteins –A multifaceted ingredient for food industry”organized by IFSTSL on 18th July 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. Janitha Wanasundara-Research Scientist at Saskatoon Research and Development Centre-Government of Canada. Dr. Janitha presented on types of proteins, uses, nutritional value evaluation for food industry and also she provided guidance to participants based on her experience.

A webinar on Immune Boosting Foods, Science to Myth organized by IFSTSL on 24th October 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Dr.Ananda Chandrasekara-Senior Lecturer.University of Wayamba. The participants successfully utilized the opportunity.

A webinar on “Bioactive foods for a healthier life” organized by IFSTSL on 7th November 2020. The speaker of the webinar was Senior Lecturer ,Professor K.K.D.S Ranaweera,University of Sri Jayawardanapura. The webinar was attended by more than one hundred and thirty participants and they successfully utilized the opportunity.

A Proposal to His Excellency President- Aiming Export Food Industry

A proposal was submitted to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka providing technically sound mechanisms to produce fruits and vegetables of high quality aiming export and also mechanisms to prevent current loss of up to 40% due to poor postharvest handling. The proposed long term and short-term measures would enable the farmers to get a higher price, move the produce to markets with least handling damage, produce compost from waste and avoid the need to further expand land allocations for fruits and vegetables and fertilizer use as what is produced is saved instead of producing more. Mechanism to provide continuous guidance with voluntary resources of the IFSTSL was proposed as a mechanism to continuously upgrade the production and processing systems. The proposal also gives mechanism to start processing of the produce at the collection centers instead of industries located around the capital, providing employment opportunities to rural youth. Implementation of this IFSTSL proposal possess potential to assist the economy of the country affected badly due to COVID 19.IFSTSL

would like to appreciate the prompt support and untiring efforts of Emeritus Prof.Samarajeewa on this regard. .