

# "FSSA offers easy access, harmonises with global needs"

**How will the new FSSA have an edge over the Fruit Products Order (FPO)?**

The new FSSA is more connected to food processing, which is common than FPO. The FPO is a complex order that lays down specifications and quality control requirements on production and marketing of the following food products - fruit juice, pulp concentrate, squashes, cordials, crush, fruit syrups, nectar, aerated water containing fruit juice or pulp and ready-to-serve beverages fruit nectar, canned mango pulp (natural & sweetened), and sweetened aerated waters with no fruit juice or fruit pulp or containing less than 10 per cent of fruit juice or pulp sweetened aerated water with 10 per cent or more of fruit juice or fruit pulp barley waters (lemon, orange, grape fruits etc) synthetic syrup, ginger cocktail, ginger beer, ginger ale and sharbats.

Second, it offers a convenient and easy access and harmonises more with international requirements and more updated one. It is any-time better than FPO as today it has made things simpler.

**What, according to you, the impact of FSSA on the industry?**

The streamlining to one law facilitates the new FSSA upgrade for a clear system to attain the international platform.

The use of ingredients and labelling has been well defined. These would be some of the impacts that could be seen on the industry.

**What additions and exclusions would you like to suggest to the FSSA regarding specifications and quality control requirement for products and marketing of processed fruits, vinegar, sweetener and aerated water?**

Fruits are natural, we cannot control in terms of nature, so it would have



Tricom Fruit Products Ltd is engaged in processing of mangoes, pomegranates, guavas, papayas, bananas, and gooseberries (Amla) in the form of puree, puree concentrate and frozen clear juice concentrate. The company processes fruits in its facility located about 70 km from Pune. It adheres to globally-certified quality practices and has adopted international grade packaging standards. P V NAIK, MD, Tricom Fruits, talks about the company in general, and the impact of the new FSSA on the fruit processing sector in the country in particular, in conversation with ARCHANA AROOR

been better for the industry if the specifications have a

broader range otherwise it would hamper the raw mate-

rials which is being supplied it would reject. What we are

manufacturing in terms of bulk concentrate or in bulk packs which are anyways going to be in retail where they are again in a position to ease the bulk. Second, the procedure for receiving the samples to the customers involves a complex nature. It has to be sought out in a faster manner to get a better clearance system.

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# "The only challenge is pollution control norms for water"

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**Does the new FSSAI encourage food business operators to have specific systems in place of quality control?**

Yes, it does. It is useful. It does encourage food business

operators to have specific systems in place of quality control as the FSSAI is corresponding to international requirements and that the goods are easy to supply in the global markets if followed strictly.

Meanwhile, government can consider lab upgrade and that they can opt for additional investments in lab for the upgrade of quality control equipment as currently it is lacking and that they could

also provide some grants for such initiatives - additional investments in terms of compliance.

**As a company, what are the regulatory challenges that**

**you are facing?**

As a company what I feel is that the main and the only challenge at present to be focussed is on the pollution control norms for water:

The way in which the liquid water is being treated is complex and others compared to that, the food processing sector has less pollution unlike in the chemical industry so the pollution control norms could also be different and simpler.

Second, there are varying duties on food products which could be streamlined. The industry also possesses the difficulty in claiming duty repays and that the procedure can be simpler.

The transportation of raw materials is expensive, problems of power supply are leading to an increase in the production cost and these could also be checked by the government, in today's scenario.

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