

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY
NATIONAL WEBINAR AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION

07 June 2024

World Food Safety Day is organized jointly by FAO/WHO/UN annually on June 07 after its initiation in 2019 to emphasize the significance of food safety in achieving sustainable development goals, especially those related to health, hunger, and sustainable agriculture. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that every year, 600 million people become sick from consuming tainted food, leading to 420,000 fatalities. This year's theme for World Food Safety Day, declared by FAO, is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected," It emphasises how crucial it is to be ready for food safety accidents, regardless of how minor or serious they may be, according to WHO. World Food Safety Day raises awareness of food safety issues, teaches people how to prevent illness through food safety, and encourages people to adopt more food-safe practices.

World Food Safety Day was organized on June 07, 2024, by the Post-Harvest Technology section of FRHPHM Division at ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai. The National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) sponsored the program. The events included a hybrid mode National Webinar on "Pertinent Issues in Food Safety & Hygiene" by Dr. Indrani Karunasagar, Director-Projects & DST-TEC, Nitte University, Mangalore and an educational exhibition cum demo on food safety issues, detection of adulterants and contaminants in foods and safe food practices. In the webinar, Dr. Indrani Karunasagar emphasized the significance of food safety, including seafood, common contaminants present in foods, and ways to avoid such contamination. She also elaborated on different types of food-borne illnesses, as well as case studies and epidemiological details. Over 150 registered participants attended the webinar. This was followed by the educational exhibition, which was inaugurated by the Director & Vice-Chancellor, Dr. C.N. Ravishankar, in the presence of Dr. N.P. Sahu, Joint Director. More than 250 visitors attended the exhibition cum demo, which included posters on common food-borne illnesses, outbreaks associated with food-borne diseases, unsafe foods to be avoided, chemical contaminants in foods, safety of food-processing methods and packaging materials, and good hygienic practices to be followed to prevent contamination and food-borne disease outbreaks. The

demonstration of simple tests for detecting adulterants in everyday foods such as milk, ghee, honey, and artificially ripened fruits and the models that displayed unsafe street foods were arranged. The exhibition was attended by students, scientific, technical, administrative staff, and the public. Dr. B.B. Nayak, Head (FRHPHM Division), Dr. Sanath Kumar, Principal Scientist, and Dr. Manjusha L., Senior Scientist, coordinated the Food Safety Day events at ICAR-CIFE.