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FSSAI launches IFRA to supply surplus food to needy

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By **Guest** | October 17, 2017



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These partners showcased their existing models of food recovery and showcased an integrated web-based platform that is being developed.

"This web-based platform, released on a pilot level, allows interested donors, individuals and volunteers to register themselves to be a part of this initiative," the FSSAI said in a statement.

After the pilot study, the main platform and mobile applications will be accessible for the registered people to donate food.

Food recovery agencies will ensure proper distribution after reasonable due diligence. The donors will be able to track all the data, information and the status of the food they will donate through their personal logins.

"This platform will also provide guidance to citizens, food businesses and various food recovery agencies on prevention of food loss and food waste and safe recovery of surplus food," the statement said.

In India, multiple food recovery agencies are already functional in various cities.

Together, 12 such organisations including No Food Waste, Feeding India, Indian Food Banking Network, Roti Bank, Annakshetra, Giveaway India, Robin Hood Army etc., feed on an average over a lakh people per day in more than 70 cities.

"Alliance of these food recovery models with uniform implementation process will enable smoother pan India coverage," the statement said.

FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal stressed on the need of an integrated approach of food recovery networks across India to combat food waste issues

He said this initiative is an effort to recover surplus food that is lost and wasted at various stages in India every year.

"Through this initiative several food recovery agencies will be able to work uniformly towards one common goal of saving food and distributing it to the needy so that India is able to eradicate hunger problems," Agarwal said.

He mentioned about the draft regulation of surplus food recovery and food distributions that has been already formulated.

FSSAI also reviewed the progress on Food Fortification so far, shared the experiences and key leanings and convened various stakeholders to discuss the way forward.

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