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India participates in 86th session of Executive Committee of Codex

The 86th session's agenda covers several critical issues such as Enhancing Food Safety Standards

By **Shraddha Warde** | July 5, 2024



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In a significant step towards strengthening global food safety standards, G Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is attending the 86th session of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission's Executive Committee. The prestigious event is being held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome from July 1 to 5, 2024.

The Role of CODEX Alimentarius Commission

The CODEX Alimentarius Commission, established in 1963 by the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), develops harmonized international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice. These standards aim to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in food trade. The commission's work is vital for global food safety, providing a reference for international food trade disputes and fostering public confidence in the safety and quality of food.

India’s Active Participation

India's participation in the CODEX Alimentarius Commission underscores its commitment to contributing to global food safety standards. As a country with a diverse food culture and significant agricultural production, India's involvement is crucial in shaping international policies that affect global food security and safety.

G Kamala Vardhana Rao, with his extensive experience and leadership in food safety, represents India's interests and perspectives at this important forum. His participation is expected to highlight India's advancements in food safety regulations, innovations in food technology, and initiatives to improve food quality and hygiene.

Key Discussion Points

The 86th session's agenda covers several critical issues such as Enhancing Food Safety Standards: Discussing new and emerging food safety risks and the adoption of measures to

mitigate these risks, Strengthening International Collaboration: Promoting cooperation between member countries to harmonize food standards and improving food safety globally, Innovations in Food Technology: Exploring advancements in food technology and their implications for food safety and standards, Sustainable Food Systems: Addressing the need for sustainable practices in food production and distribution to ensure long-term food security.

Implications for India

Rao's participation in the executive committee session will likely have several positive implications for India:

Enhanced Food Safety: Adoption of international best practices will improve India's food safety standards, benefiting consumers and boosting public health.

Global Trade Opportunities: Aligning India's food standards with international norms will facilitate smoother and more extensive trade relations, opening new markets for Indian food products.

Knowledge Exchange: Sharing India's experiences and learning from other countries will foster innovation and improvement in India's food safety mechanisms.

Conclusion

Rao's involvement in the 86th session of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission's Executive Committee signifies a robust step towards global food safety collaboration. It reflects India's proactive stance in contributing to and shaping international food safety standards, ensuring that the food we consume is safe, nutritious, and of high quality. This participation not only strengthens India's position in the global food safety arena but also promises to bring back valuable insights and practices that will benefit the Indian food industry and consumers alike.

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