



# An official quarterly newsletter of **American Association of Food Scientists for Indian Subcontinent**

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## **Please Join us!**

American Association of Food Scientists for Indian Subcontinent (AAFSIS) is a volunteer organization of food scientists around the globe, who are interested in the upliftment of countries in the Indian subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, and Nepal), especially in terms of food sustainability. We are in the process of registering the organization as a non-profit organization and recognized by IFT (Institute of Food Technologies). AAFSIS is working with various governmental organizations, educational institutions, and prominent scientists/researchers to bring about the change. Are you interested in this noble cause, please join us. Together we can make this world a better place. For more information about being a member and how can you contribute, please contact us at [aafsis@gmail.com](mailto:aafsis@gmail.com). Remember, there is no membership fee for joining.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of AAFIS**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AAFSIS (American Association of Food Scientists for Indian Subcontinent) was held from July 30<sup>th</sup> to Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 in Chicago. The Meeting opened with the business meeting followed by a Banquet at Indian Garden restaurant. Honorable Mr. Ashok Kumar Atri, Indian counsel general, was the guest of honor along with Ms. Pavan Sharma (Registered Dietician). Over 70 members and non members attended the banquet. Mr. Atri briefed the attendees about the opportunities for the Food

Scientists in India in the sector of Food Processing as well as Agricultural industry. Ms. Pavan Sharma shed some light on the "impact of Indian diet- Traditional v/s Modern".

A symposium was organized by AAFSIS in conjunction with IFT (Institute of Food Technologists) on 1<sup>st</sup> August titled: "Foods from the Indian subcontinent that inherently promotes wellness and reduces disease risk". The symposium was very well attended and five distinguished scholars from respective field spoke on subjects varying from heart healthy foods from Indian subcontinent to diet design for disease prevention, and the role of traditional cereal grains and spices for health.

## **Membership challenge!**

Members of AAFSIS are challenged to recruit new members! AAFSIS has an opportunity to grow and be one of the leading professional associations of Food industry professionals of Indian subcontinent on par with other similar professional organizations. As a voluntary organization, success/failure of the organization wholly depends on active participation of members. Our active participation is the only way to ensure success of this initiative. Current executive board and the members are doing an excellent job in bringing the organization to the next level. If all our members bring another 10 members, then we will have a tremendous man power and can achieve lot more. Therefore, please invite your friends to take part in our activities. To send us the list of potential members, please contact us at [aafsis@gmail.com](mailto:aafsis@gmail.com). Thank you☺.

## Meet the Executive board

During the last IFT Annual meeting in Chicago, IL, members of the executive board for the year 2007-2008 were elected.

The executive committee members for the 2007-2008 are:

Arti Bedi (Land O'Lakes Inc) – President

Neera Thulsian (IAM International Inc) – President elect

Syed Rizvi (Cornell University) – past president

Parthi Muthukumarasamy (Canadian meat council) – Secretary

Chitra Panchapakesan (Masterfoods USA) - Treasurer

Vijay Pasupuleti (SAI International), Vinod Chaudhary, Kathiravan Krishnamurthy (Alabama A&M University), and Harmit Singh (California State University) - Members

Ramkishan Rao (USDA-CSREES) - Councilor

Prakash Dhoka (Industrial metal powders) - India liaison

Mani Kumar Badvela (Illinois Institute of Technology) - Student liaison.

Please join us in welcoming our newly elected executive board. With the new leadership, we hope to achieve new horizons and bringing the organization to the next level. Please show your support to the executive board.



From Left to right: Prakash Dhoka, Vijay Pasupuleti, Syed Rizvi, Ashok Kumar Atri (Indian Counsel general), Arti Bedi, Neera Thulsian, Harmit Singh, Kathiravan Krishnamurthy, and Parthiban Muthukumarasamy.

## What are we doing?

The members of AAFSIS decided on four key objectives to accomplish in this year during our last business meeting. **The four key objectives are:**

1. Registering AAFSIS as a non-profit organization
2. Publishing AAFSIS newsletter every quarterly
3. Inviting and hosting a delegation from India for the next IFT Annual Meeting

4. Planning and organizing more than one symposium for the next IFT Annual Meeting

We are also working on inviting an Indian Delegation consisting of members of US AKI, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department Secretaries, Industrialists and Food Scientists to the next IFT meeting in New Orleans (June 28-July 2, 2008). The Executive Committee along with the nominated members will contact IFT as well as the Indian Government for arranging the visit.

## IFT 2008

AAFSIS is proposing to organize a 90 minute symposium on the “Role of Indian Subcontinent in Driving Growth and Sustainability in Food Industry” during IFT Annual meeting and Food Expo to be held in New Orleans, LA from June 28 to July 1, 2008. Our proposed symposium is in line with the theme of next year’s scientific program “Driving growth and sustainability through innovation”. Four eminent speakers will be invited to speak on the following topics.

- Food ingredients
- Food processing
- Food packaging
- Food safety and quality

## In the news!

A KPMG-FICCI report on the state of the food processing and agri business sector has projected an estimated 9-12% growth for this segment in the near future. Of this, fruit and vegetable processing, currently only around a meagre 2%, is expected to shoot up to 10% by 2010 and to 25% by 2025. Overall value addition in food products is projected to grow from the current 8% to a phenomenal 35% by end 2025. The FP sector, the report maintains, has the potential to attract 2.7 billion Euro in investments by 2015. (Source: The Economic times, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007).

India has the potential to raise its share in the USD 30 billion global market of organic products given its wealth of natural resources, experts said. Agriculture Ministry is aiming an area of 5 million hectare under organic cultivation by 2012, the current area stood at 5.38 lakh hectare including the forests. (Source: India times, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007).

India is the largest producer of mangoes in the world, with an estimated annual production of 12 million tons. Total world production is 24 million tons.

The United States began to accept shipments of irradiated mangoes from India, the first U.S. imports of irradiated fruit. Irradiation was approved in 2002 as an effective treatment for all pests in some fruits and vegetables entering the United States. In 2006, irradiation was approved for a wider range of food products, including Indian mangoes, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) press release. (Source: USINFO, Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State; 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007)

## Did you know?

- Just 7 per cent of food in India is currently factory processed.
- U.S.-India trade has been growing at an average rate of almost 20 percent a year since 2002. The United States and India want to double their bilateral trade to approximately \$60 billion by 2008, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) (Source: USINFO).

## US-India KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

On July 18, 2005, President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced the U.S.-India Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Education, Teaching, Research, Service, and Commercial Linkages (AKI). Through public-private partnerships, it will help to facilitate technology transfer, trade, and investment and bolster agricultural research, education, and extension. In pursuing these objectives, a critical component is cooperation on development of effective policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks. These, in turn, will contribute to increased prosperity for farmers and agricultural growth.

Since its inception, the AKI has made notable progress. Both countries created a board comprised of academia, government, and private sector representatives from the United States and India. The board agreed to a three-year work plan that supports the “Evergreen Revolution,” which is based on environmentally sustainable, market-oriented

agriculture. To jump start the Initiative, the United States secured funding of \$8 million in fiscal year 2006, with a total of \$24 million pledged through 2008.

A number of activities have been accomplished in each of the four key areas identified by the board for cooperation:

1. Food processing and marketing
2. Biotechnology
3. Water management
4. University capacity building

(Source: Fact sheet: US-India Knowledge Initiative (November 2006), United States Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service).

AAFSIS can contribute positively to AKI by providing expert guidance and other services.

**Please contribute!**

We request the members to contribute to the newsletter. It is your newsletter, so please send in articles of interest to us. While writing an article, please ensure to include the references. We are looking for general interest articles, which may be of interest to our members, and articles on Indian food industry. Articles can vary in length from couple of paragraphs to two pages (maximum). If you also want to share any newsworthy information with other members, please let us know.

**We are online!**

Visit us online at



Please note that the website is still under construction. Within a short period of time, we will be having a full fledged website.

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## Indian Agriculture

Area and production of Agricultural products  
(Production in million tonnes)

	Production	Rank*
<b>Arable Land (Million ha)</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Irrigated Land (Million ha)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rice, Paddy</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Coarse grains (including maize)</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Milk</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fruits</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Edible Oilseeds</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pulses</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sugarcane</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tea</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cattle (million)</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2</b>

\*India's rank in world production (Source: Marketing reforms and enhancing competitiveness)

**Any questions?**

If you have any questions related to the website please contact the editors Kathiravan Krishnamurthy and Parthi Muthukumarappan at [aafsis@gmail.com](mailto:aafsis@gmail.com)