

ALL CHANGE IN INDIA

Mr Pawan Agarwal, CEO of the Food Safety Standards Authority of India and initiator of the Resource Centre on Health Supplements (ReCHaN), is moving position in Indian government to Secretary of Consumer Affairs in the related Ministry.

His successor will be the current Senior Deputy Director General of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR). ICMR established in 2018 Tolerable Upper Limits (TUL) for some vitamins and minerals in order to allow a possible review of the current maximum levels for VMs in food fortification and supplements.

In addition, all the Indian scientific panels that advise the FSSAI have been reformed, with many new faces in the areas impacting supplements. IADSA has been working this month on a plan for ReCHaN that can be presented to the new leadership in FSSAI. This will address priority regulatory issues and the value of supplementation in Indian society.

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

2020 is a significant year for IADSA in Codex. However, it is understandably not clear at this stage which meetings will still be held and which must be pushed back to later in the year or even next year due to the potential risks posed by the coronavirus. This should become clearer over the coming months. Preparation for all meetings continues, with the Codex Committee on additives in China now moved from March to June.

ASEAN

After more than 15 years of work, 32 meetings of the government Product Working Group, and 36 meetings of the Scientific Committee, ASEAN is close to agreement on the future framework for health supplements. While this will be a significant milestone, it will also require a new phase of activity to work towards accurate and appropriate implementation of the harmonised measures across the 10 Member States. IADSA is therefore working with the regional association AAHSA on ensuring that the key elements are in place to support the work of national associations and companies to achieve success in this phase and also demonstrate to policy makers the value of supplementation to their economic success.

BOOSTING ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY?

Dr Adam Drewnowski, a professor of epidemiology and one of the world's foremost experts on public health and nutrition, was commissioned by IADSA in 2019 to conduct a review of the scientific literature on the possible link between productivity in the workplace and supplementation. This followed a request from high level government officials for IADSA to address this issue given the increasing need for people to work longer before retirement. In December, his findings were published by the journal Nutrition Reviews. (A summary can be found in the IADSA Members' Area Learning Corner).

While the findings show there is a lack of data in this area, the paper opens a discussion on a possible role for supplementation in increasing workplace productivity. It also provides guidance on how to establish evidence for this link. IADSA hopes that this article will stimulate further research that will help governments understand and appreciate how nutrition and supplementation can help support their working population.



Dr Adam Drewnowski



COMING SOON

The first Mind the Gap of 2020 will soon be issued, along with e-cards. Please keep your eyes open!

