

AFST(I)/CEC(3)/2019

11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Dear Fellow AFSTI-Members,

Warm greetings to you all!

With your support and goodwill, I am glad to serve as Honorary Secretary of Association of Food Scientists & Technologists, India (AFSTI) 2019. Over the years, I have observed that although our association is spread across the country, there is need to build a strong institutional network involving all members of AFSTI and the office bearers of different chapters. I strongly believe, that for an association /chapter to be active we must conduct certain activities at chapter level at least twice a year such as quiz, rally, debate, seminars, lectures, workshops etc. HQ has already initiated one such activity by partially sponsoring the 'World Food Day' Celebrations conducted at Chapter level which falls on 16<sup>th</sup> October every year. Many chapters also celebrate 'Nutritional week' (Sept 1<sup>st</sup> week) and in addition, we also can conduct certain programs on Science Day (28<sup>th</sup> February) and /or Technology day (11<sup>th</sup> May), which falls with sufficient gaps within a year. If the chapters take at least two programs per year, I strongly believe that chapter will be vibrant and we get better participation and interaction in annual festivals of our profession i.e. ICoFST/IFCON. Last year, over 20 chapters coordinated for 'Eat right' Program initiated by FSSAI and we received award from FSSAI acknowledging our efforts. We should partner in such Government initiatives/activities related to food, to make our association vibrant.

As you are all aware, last year we conducted e-voting for the first time with yearlong efforts of website committee and CEC. The implementation of e-voting in AFSTI doing constitutional amendment was a milestone achievement for AFSTI. Prior to conduct of elections, office had to toil hard to update the membership database. Although details of many members were updated, the efforts will be continued in the year ahead to establish the necessary connect between the members and the association while updating the membership database.

I would like to lay special thrust on establishing stronger association with chapters and members willing to contribute in meeting the aims of association for making AFSTI, a vibrant professional body conscious on all issues related to food & food professionals. I acknowledge the contributions of previous office bearers and will work for the future growth of our association with your support. Filing of consolidated audited accounts of HQ and Chapters is made mandatory by Income Tax Department, hence I request to submit the audited statement of accounts duly signed by the Chartered Accountant and continue their recognition. If you have any suggestion, please do let us know, so we will further improve our working.

The office bearers of the association keep changing as per AFST(I) constitutional provision, it was felt that there is need to have a self-running system. In this direction, we have initiated to get our association ISO-9001 certified and hope with the dynamic team we will be able to

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achieve the goal very soon. I am happy to share that, AFSTi website link is also available on IFT website (www.ift.org) under the allied organization category wherein different International associations have their weblinks. We will be continuing our efforts to make our website vibrant with additional features in the time ahead. As you know, AFSTI runs two publications, i.e. JFST and IFI-Mag; and announcement of the third journal, i.e. Journal of Grain Science & Technology was made recently. Hopefully we will be able to bring the first issue of the journal this year.

The AFSTI is growing in strength every year, at present we have 2824 Life Members and 1270 other members including Student Members. During the last one year, total 1891 members have joined us (746 Life Members and 1145 other members). A really overwhelming response to the Diamond jubilee offer of discounted membership drive in 2018 and further requests from food professional for extending the same has made AFSTI-CEC to extend the offer further in view of the likely pan-India growth of the association. I appeal to chapters to popularize the offer starting from 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for a period of three months and support in achieving the target of 5000 life members by 2020.

Sincerely yours,

Dadasaheb D. Wadikar  
Hon Secretary