

ESA Statement on the intention of the FSSAI to increase control on Spice Manufacturing site

The European Spice Association shares the recent concerns raised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and supports the intention of the FSSAI's plan to mandate testing for each batch of spices.

The European Spice sector ensures the import of safe and sustainable spices through strict due diligence and huge investments in equipments and analysis.

Till now the vast majority of efforts was borne by the European operators, but to secure the imports of safe products it is necessary that the Authorities of the exporting countries adopt stricter measures, and the EU helps the European companies to utilise their equipment by setting ad-hoc requirements for the products intended for further processing.

The European Spice Association e.V. (ESA) acts as the umbrella association for the European spice industry, bringing together a diverse group of experts to promote the use of pure, safe, and authentic herbs and spices. ESA strives to ensure these products meet consumer quality and safety expectations.

Following recent recalls of Indian spice brands in Far East countries due to pesticide residues, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is reportedly considering increased control and audit on manufacturers suspected of food fraud.

ESA shares the concerns of Indian authorities, condemns any practices that violate legal standards, and supports efforts to clamp down on illegal activities.

The European spice industry is dedicated to ensuring the import of safe and sustainable spices into the EU. To uphold these standards, ESA-affiliated companies implement strict practices, invest significantly in advanced equipment, analyses, and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, and conduct due diligence beyond legal requirements.

To this end, ESA:

- Supports FSSAI's intention to require more stringent controls on Indian export companies
- Condemns fraud and any actions by operators that do not comply with legal requirements
- Encourages international collaboration to enhance food safety standards
- Promotes continuous education and training within the industry to uphold best practices
- Advocates for transparency and traceability throughout the supply chain to ensure consumer trust.