



Date – 8 June 2022

World food safety day



- Every year 7 June is observed as World Food Safety Day.

Highlights of World Food Safety Day:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day by member states in collaboration with other relevant organizations.
- It was celebrated for the first time in the year 2019 under “The Future of Food Safety” to strengthen the commitment to enhance food security made in 2019 by the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum.

Target:

- To attract attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contribute to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

2022 Theme:

- Safer food, better health.

Need:

Foodborne Illnesses:

- Unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies with an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children, conflict-affected populations and migrants.

Foodborne disease burden:

- An estimated 420000 people worldwide die each year from eating contaminated food and children under the age of 5 have a 40% burden of foodborne illness with 125 000 deaths each year.

Related Initiatives:

Global:

- The Codex Alimentaris or “Food Code” is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentaris Commission.
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization.
- At present the number of members of this commission is 189 and India is a member of this commission.

India:

State Food Security Index:

- FSSAI has developed State Food Security Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of states on five parameters of food security.
- The parameters include human resources and institutional arrangements, compliance, food testing – infrastructure and monitoring, training and capacity building and consumer empowerment.

Eat Right India Movement:

- It is an initiative of the Government of India and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to transform the food system of the country to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
- Eat Right India is aligned to the National Health Policy 2017 with a focus on flagship programs such as Ayushman Bharat, Poshan Abhiyaan, Anemia Mukht Bharat and Swachh Bharat Mission.

Eat Right Awards:

- FSSAI has instituted the 'Eat Right Awards' to recognize the contribution of food companies and individuals in helping citizens make safe and healthy food choices, which will help improve their health and well-being.

Eat Right Fair:

- Organized by FSSAI, it is an activity to motivate citizens to eat right. It is organized to make citizens aware about the health and nutritional benefits of different types of food.

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Rubber industry



- According to the All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), the \$2 billion non-tire rubber sector has set a target of doubling its exports by the year 2025.
- The share of rubber products in the global market is currently around \$212 billion, which is expected to increase by the year 2025.

- The government should ensure that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) get the benefits of internationalization under the terms of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- Since MSMEs are very important for India's economy and commerce, India should incorporate FTA provisions to address the specific concerns, demands and constraints that MSMEs may face while doing business in foreign markets.

All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA):

- The All India Rubber Industry Association (AIRIA) is a not-for-profit body for facilitating rubber industry and trade with the objectives of protecting and promoting the interests of the industry.

Key Features of Rubber:

- Natural rubber is a polymer of isoprene, which is an organic compound.
- Rubber is a cohesive elastic solid material derived from the latex of trees found in tropical regions, the most important of which is *Hevea brasiliensis*.
- These provide economic benefits for about 32 years after the rubber trees are planted.

Source:

- Natural rubber is derived from various sources, the most common being the mercury rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*). It produces latex for many years with its full development.
- Congo rubber is produced from the vines of the *Landolphia* class. These vines could not be grown in the fields, resulting in large-scale exploitation of wild plants in the Congo.
- Dandelion milk also contains latex which can be used for the production of rubber.

Favorable environment for rubber tree:

Soil:

- These trees grow in soil with good drainage system and weather friendly.
- Laterite, alluvial, sedimentary and non-laterite red soils are best for the growth of these trees.

Rainfall and Temperature:

- At least 100 rainy days a year with evenly distributed rainfall and a temperature range of about 20 to 34°C provide favorable conditions for the growth of the *Hevea* rubber tree.
- About 80% humidity, 2000 hours of sunlight and the absence of strong winds are also essential for best results.

Use:

- Rubber is used for a variety of purposes from erasing pencil marks to manufacturing tyres, tubes and a large number of industrial products.
- Natural rubber is preferred over synthetic rubber due to its high tensile strength and vibration resistant properties along with tear resistance.
- This quality makes it more important for the construction and automobile industries.

- The growth of the automobile market in the countries is anticipated to increase the demand for natural rubber production.
- Growth in demand for latex products, such as catheters, gloves and belts, is also one of the factors that could drive the growth of the rubber market.

Production and Distribution:

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOStat) for the year 2019, Thailand is the largest producer of rubber in the world, followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, India and China.

Present Status of Rubber Production in India:

- According to FAOStat 2019, India is the fourth largest producer and consumer of rubber in the world.

Consumption:

- Most of the rubber consumption is in the transport sector, followed by the footwear industry.

Export:

- The quantity of natural rubber exported from India during the financial year 2020 was more than 12 thousand metric tonnes. Major countries that import natural rubber from India include Germany, Brazil, USA and Italy.
- Export products include automotive tires and tubes, footwear, medical goods, coats and aprons.

Distribution:

- The first rubber plantation in India was established in the year 1895 on the hill slopes of Kerala.
- Although the cultivation of rubber on a commercial scale was started in the year 1902.
- Kerala is the largest producer of natural rubber in India.
- **Major Regions:** Kottayam, Kollam, Ernakulam, Kozhikode all districts of this state produce rubber.

Tamil Nadu:

- Nilgiris, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore and Salem are the main rubber producing districts of Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka:

- Chikmagalur and Kodagu are the main producing districts.
- Tripura, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar, Goa etc. are some other rubber producing states.

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