

19th Food Safety Quality and Regulatory Summit

Smart and Environment friendly Solutions for Future Ready Food Systems

1000 - 1700 Hrs (IST) | 0630 – 1330 Hrs (CET), 25th February 2025, New Delhi

Speakers

Mr G. Kamala Vardhana Rao

IAS CEO FSSAI



Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, IAS is a senior officer of the Indian Administrative Service with 32 years of diverse experience at key positions in the Government. He is currently Secretary to Government of India, holding the post of CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a statutory body established under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao has also served as Director General in Ministry of Tourism and Chairman & Managing Director of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). He served as Secretary, Revenue and Principal Secretary, Tourism and Public Work Department, Government of Kerala. Mr. Rao also served as Chairman, Indian Tobacco Board, Ministry of Commerce, GOI.

Dr Betül Vazgecer

Vice Chairperson

Codex Alimentarius Commission

Betül Vazgeçer embarked on her professional journey as a food engineer, further enhancing



her expertise through master's and doctoral studies on food microbiology and foodborne pathogens. Following her academic endeavours, she joined the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. With her experience of 30 years in food safety and 20 years in the Turkish Codex Contact Point Team, she played an important role in shaping both national and international food safety legislation on contaminants, pesticides, microbiology, baby foods, labelling and veterinary drugs among others. She also led international multidisciplinary projects aimed at strengthening Codex structures.

Dr Nimish Shah

General Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Hindustan Unilever Limited

Dr Nimish Shah is presently working with HUL as GM Regulatory Affairs. Across 2020-21 he



founded the Toilet Board Coalition's India chapter and, through its accelerator program, helped shape a vibrant sanitation-led entrepreneurial ecosystem in India. Later, he joined the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials, a global standards development body, as their India MD, where he led transformation of the business, strengthened its brand equity & enhanced its external recognition significantly. He also helped set up the Global Sanitation Centre of Excellence at IIT-Palakkad.

Nimish has a Ph.D. in Microbiology and over the past 3 decades developed extensive networks across industry bodies, academia, & NGOs and has contributed to regulations across cosmetics, foods, hygiene, naturals, water, and sanitation. He is chairs CII food safety expert committee.

Nimish is a passionate practitioner of sustainable living. He is a strong believer in India's growth story and its wealth of talent, and he is always ready to mentor young professionals. He has authored a book "Clean India for Healthy India".

Mr Piruz Khambatta

Chairman, CII Food Safety Awards Committee &

Chairman & Managing Director

Rasna International

Piruz Khambatta: After completing his Degree in Biochemistry and Bachelor Degree in Law Mr. Khambatta has attended several Management courses at Wharton School, Philadelphia,



IIM Calcutta etc. and he has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Entrepreneurship by Newport University, USA. Currently from the day of taking over as MD in 1997 he has ensured that Rasna becomes a Make in India brand and ensures that whatever we do follows the philosophy of an Indian brand that too with an idea of ensuring inclusive growth with the rural initiatives. Not only that by ensuring that establishment of 9 factories spread across the country Rasna group is giving huge employment directly and indirectly to thousands, which helps him make the common man's affordable drinks available in 1.8 million

outlets with more than 90% market share in our category and presence in more than 53 countries. He is recipient of various awards for his company and at personal level including, Dadabhai Naorji Award, WZCC Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur 2021, Mother Teresa Award for Corporate Citizen 2022. He is Founder Trustee and Chairman of the CSR arms of

his Company Areez Khambatta Benevolent Trust and Rasna Foundation giving yeoman services in the field of Education and Health care of needy underprivileged poor people.

He also finds time to be associated with various Industry Organization such as Confederation of Indian Industries, All India Food Processors' Association. He is Hon.Consul General South Korea, Gujarat, Ambassador Make In India, Director in NIFTEM National Institute of Technology Entrepreneur Marketing etc to name a few, Past Chairman – CII Western Region, He is Chairman - Atmanirbhar Bharat Benevolent Foundation, Chairman - CII National Committee on Special Abilities, Past Chairman – CII Gujarat Council, Past President – All India Food Processors Association, Member MICA-EDC Advisory Council member Advisory Council, IIT Gandhinagar, Member Advisory Council Vibrant Gujarat, Government of Gujarat, a bi-annual event being organized by Government of Gujarat to attract foreign investments in India and potential collaboration with foreign companies, Member Food Processing Education Council, Government of India, Chairman CII National, Chairman - CII Task Force on Affirmative Action, to name a few.

Dr. Kiran Bhilegaonkar

Director, IVRI ICAR

Dr. Kiran Bhilegaonkar is a graduate in veterinary sciences and has completed master's and PhD in Veterinary Public Health. He is currently working as a Principal Scientist and Head of Pune Regional Centre of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India.



He has about 35 years of research and teaching experience in the areas of food safety and zoonotic diseases and has guided 30 PhD and master's students. He has published about 140 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, 6 books, 15 book Chapters, 2 patents. He was an Editor of Journal of Veterinary Public Health from 2008-2023. His research areas include rapid detection, risk assessment and

risk management of foodborne pathogens as well as epidemiology and diagnosis of viral zoonotic diseases. In recent years, he has been actively working for the sustainable livelihood security of tribal and resource poor farmers through animal husbandry interventions.

He has been actively contributing since 2008 to national and international food safety consultations as a chairman/member of scientific panels, expert committees, task force groups of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Dr. Bhilegaonkar is a Member of the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF) since 2011, Experts' Roster of FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Microbiological Risk Assessment (2023-2027), Member, ISO TC 34/SC 9 Committee International Organization for Standardization on Microbiology, Member, FAO/WHO JEMRA on Viruses in Foods (2023), a Fellow of the Indian Association of Veterinary Public Health Specialists (IAVPHS), and an Associate of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India.

Dr S.K Panda

Advisor, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India



Dr Satyen Kumar Panda is Principal scientist Quality assurance & Management Division at the ICAR-Central Fishery Research Institute. He has contributed immensely to the area of fisheries through 53 peer reviewed publications in international journals, books, monographs, conference proceedings and technical reports. He is a member, FSSAI scientific Panel on Fish and Fishery products, member of BIS consultative committee, besides other international scientific

committees. Dr Panda has over 20 years of research and teaching experience, designed training and regular courses in fisheries and marine biology. He has been instrumental in spearheading capacity development programmes in the area of fish microbiology, processing and interventions for extending shelf life and quality.

Joanne Ho, Ph.D

*APAC Food & Environment Market Development Manager
Waters Corporation*



Joanne is the APAC Food & Environmental Market Development Manager at Waters Corporation for over 5 years. She works with a diversified team across the globe to translate business strategies into effective regional marketing plans and partner alongside analytical scientists and organizations to understand current regulations and provides solution to solve problems that matter most in food and environmental applications.

Joanne is an active member of AOAC SEA Section Capacity Building and Training of Young Scientists Working Group. Since 2022, she also took up responsibilities as the Strategic Engagement Manager in AOAC SEA Section, part of the team that won the AOAC International Section of the Year Award in 2024.

Bijoy Peter

*General Manager - Technical Services
GS1 India*



Bijoy has been associated with GS1 India since 2013, driving the adoption and implementation of global supply chain standards across industries such as Retail, FMCG, Healthcare, Agriculture, Defense, and technical sectors. With over 20 years of experience, he has developed deep expertise in delivering registry services (products & locations), product

master data management, traceability solutions using blockchain and conventional technologies, and consulting barcoding and RFID implementations.

He has played a pivotal role in advancing traceability and product master data management best practices, enhancing operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and data driven visibility in supply chain across industry verticals.

Dr. Padmakar Wagh

*Associate Director: Applications
Waters Corporation*



Dr. Padmakar has been working in his present role for the last 8 years. He has been responsible for managing Waters laboratories and technical support across India. His laboratories have been actively involved in developing various applications for Food QC, Safety and authenticity. Dr. Padmakar has been with Waters since last 20 years and before Waters he worked in various multinational pharmaceutical companies in analytical Research and development area. He has a PhD degree in Chromatography and is passionate about solving analytical

challenges. Dr. Padmakar is also one of the founder members of a charitable hospital who serves the needy in the rural areas of India

Dr. Badal Dewangan

*Joint Director & Head, R & D and Consultancy Department
Indian Institute of Packaging*



Dr. Badal Dewangan has been associated with the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Mumbai as Joint Director since September 2016 and has been heading the R&D and Consultancy Department since November 2020. Dr. Dewangan holds a B.Tech. in Polymer Technology from Amravati University, Maharashtra, and an M.Tech. and Ph.D. in Polymer Engineering & Technology from UDCT, Mumbai (now ICT, Mumbai).

As Head of R&D and Consultancy, Dr. Dewangan oversees key government-sponsored projects with organizations like the Spices Board, GAIL, APEDA, and FSSAI. He has led the development of nine packaging specifications for bulk packaging of spices. Additionally, he has spearheaded the creation of 11 more packaging specifications for the Spices Board and consumer, transport and bulk packaging specifications of 21 GI-tagged and organically grown agricultural products for APEDA, which are currently under validation. He also completed a monograph for the Food-O-Copoeia Safer & Sustainable Group, sponsored by FSSAI.

Dr. Dewangan specializes in sustainable packaging, tailor-made polymers, polymer nanocomposites, polymer blends, modification of biodegradable materials, and customized packaging solutions.

Mr Mani Vajipey

Co-Founder & CEO

Banyan Nation & Member,

India Plastic Pact Initiative



Mani Vajipey is the Co-Founder and CEO of Banyan Nation, a globally acclaimed technology-driven plastics recycling company headquartered in Hyderabad, India. A Columbia Business School alumnus, he started India's first world-class HDPE plastic recycling company with a patented technology that is one of the most respected in the world.

Under his leadership, Banyan Nation has emerged as a pioneer in the circular economy, recycling over 2 billion bottles to date. Top FMCG brands like Unilever, Shell, Reckitt, and Godrej are some of the names that trust Banyan Nation with their recycling efforts.

Since its inception in 2013, Banyan Nation has recycled over 100,000 tonnes of plastic and mapped over 15,000 kabadiwalas into the formal value chain, showcasing a scalable and sustainable model for waste management

Mr. Manish Jain

MD, Cilicant



Mr. Manish Jain has over three decades of experience in active packaging chemistry. He founded Cilicant in the year 2011 with a vision of providing safe and effective solutions to pharmaceutical and food processing industries with respect to preserving the efficacy and increasing the shelf life of the products.

His leadership, strategic approach and an eye for product quality took Cilicant to a global level and therefore is considered amongst the top manufacturers in active pharma packaging.

Dr Kavita Bhatnagar

Chief Executive Officer

Kanegrade Ingredients & Flavors Pvt Ltd.



Dr. Kavita Bhatnagar is a business leader, food scientist, nutritionist, Flavourist and author at the intersection of sensory science, food technology, and consumer behaviour. As the CEO of Kanegrade India, she leads a company specializing in taste management, natural flavours, and ingredient innovation, shaping the sensory experiences of food and beverage products.

A Harvard Business School alumna with 20 years of industry experience, Dr. Bhatnagar brings a multidisciplinary approach—blending scientific rigor, business strategy, and behavioural insights—to create products that align with evolving consumer expectations. Her expertise spans flavour innovation, food formulation, and the psychology of eating.

She is also the bestselling author of *The Power of Imperfect Eating*, a book that reframes how we think about food choices. A LinkedIn Top R&D Voice, she is widely recognized for her contributions to food innovation, research, and industry thought leadership.

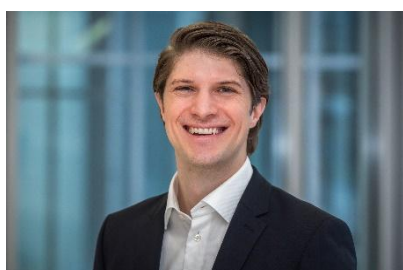
Mr. Tom Whitehead

Intellegens



Tom is Head of Machine Learning at Intellegens, leading the Science Team. He has a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Cambridge and extensive experience of practical applications of machine learning in industry. Tom's team works closely with R&D teams in the materials, chemicals, and manufacturing sectors to understand their product and process development problems and to apply the Intellegens technology to accelerate innovation. He is also active in the development of new machine learning methodologies to address high-value data analysis bottlenecks.

Dr. Reinhard Zschoche



Global Product Manager

Isobionics and BASF

Dr. Reinhard Zschoche is the Global Product Manager for the Specialty Aroma Ingredients produced at Isobionics and

BASF. He has 15 years of experience working at the interface between biotechnology and chemistry. Between 2021 and 2024, he was responsible for Biotechnology Innovation and New Business Development at BASF Aroma Ingredients. Dr. Zschoche joined BASF in 2016 as a lab team leader in Biocatalysis Research where he worked on biocatalytic syntheses and enzyme engineering projects. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from ETH Zurich.

Dr. S P VASIREDDI

Executive Chairman and founder



VIMTA LABS

Dr. Vasireddi is the Executive Chairman and founder of VIMTA LABS. He founded VIMTA in 1984. He is a member of the Governing Board of NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories NABL, India). He is an Industry Expert member in the Central Advisory Committee of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, (FSSAI), Government of India, New Delhi (Since 2010). Given his extensive experience and success in food and pharma contract research and testing industry, he has served on several national level scientific and advisory Boards.
