

## Communication 64/2023

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### **Strengthening Indo-German partnership for better food safety**

#### Indian delegation visits the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

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Alternative protein sources from insects, new genomic techniques and the work of the National Reference Laboratories: These and other topics were the focus of the scientific exchange between the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Indian National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in Berlin on 1 December 2023.

The Indo-German cooperation has been in place since 2015 and is now to be further intensified and joint research projects will be implemented.

The FSSAI reports to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is responsible for regulating and monitoring food safety in India. In addition to establishing standards and guidelines in the area of food safety, this also includes providing scientific advice to the Indian central government and the states.

In 2015, the FSSAI and the BfR signed a cooperation agreement with the intention of a close mutual exchange of scientific and technical expertise at expert level. Numerous joint workshops and events have already taken place in recent years.

In addition to the transfer of knowledge, the agenda for the visit on 1 December 2023 also included discussions on future collaborations. In particular, cooperation is to be intensified in the area of novel foods.

Among other things, the BfR presented its annual BfR Summer Academy, which has so far been attended by 15 scientists from India – most of them from the FSSAI itself. The active participation of Indian scientists will continue to be an important point of cooperation in the future.

In addition, both sides had an intensive exchange on the National Reference Laboratories (NRL) during the meeting. In particular, the tasks and work of the NRL for bacterial toxins, mycotoxins and dioxins in food were discussed.

**Further information on the BfR website on Indo-German cooperation:**

Press release "Working with India to improve food safety"

[https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/press\\_information/2015/33/working\\_with\\_india\\_to\\_improve\\_food\\_safety-197105.html](https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/press_information/2015/33/working_with_india_to_improve_food_safety-197105.html)

## About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the German States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemicals and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

*This text version is a translation of the original German text which is the only legally binding version.*

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