

HEALIS ORGANISES WORKSHOP FOR FDA

Pune(Voice News Service):- State Level Advocacy Workshop for the Food Inspectors of FDA

In an effort to boost the efficacy of civic authorities in the campaign against tobacco, the Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health has conducted an advocacy workshop for Food Inspectors from the FDA, aimed at sensitizing these officials with regard to their role in the implementation of the tobacco control laws, and how they can act as conduits for channelizing and implementing the law in their jurisdiction. The workshop also served as a platform for brainstorming on and identifying present and potential obstacles in the implementation of the law, and possible solutions designed to circumvent them.

Speaking on the development, Dr. P.C. Gupta, Director, Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health said, "It has been a year since the law against smoking in public has been passed. Over the past year, this has resulted in substantial progress towards curbing smoking in public places, however, we still have a long way to go. The FDA has played a major role in the implementation of the law, with regard to enforcing the law and penalizing offenders. Through such workshops, we aim to build further capacities for the FDA in this regard, and through sharing of relevant information on the process, we believe that the FDA will be able to enhance its outreach in controlling smoking in public, and play a greater role in the efforts against tobacco in the country." Adding onto this, Mr. Pawar, the Joint Commissioner (Food) and the State Nodal Officer for Tobacco Control Cell, said "The experience with this first State level Advocacy workshop was a brilliant learning experience for the FDA of Maharashtra. It is my belief that such workshops should be conducted at the divisional level as well, as this would definitely help in sharing the experience with Food Inspectors of the FDA across Maharashtra. The workshop helped us in understanding the COTPA laws, as well as recent developments in the law, and the implications thereof. This workshop has given us the opportunity to come together and share our difficulties, experiences and to find suitable practical solutions in the implementation of the law"