

**Shikha Sharma**  
National President, Food & Nutrition Council

13/01/2021

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman,  
Honorable Finance Minister,  
Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Subject: Seeking for sector-specific financial concessions, incentives and policies

Respected Madam,

I am honored to introduce myself as the National President of the Food and Nutrition Council. The Food and Nutrition Council is a national platform which aims at enabling adequate participation of women in the food industry. Our main goals are to encourage and establish appropriate nutrition practices and healthy lifestyle, improve nutritional status of the community; and emphasize on self-development and empowerment of women. Our council represents women from various fields of the food industry. I am glad to introduce my fellow council members:

1. Mrs. Radha Kolli- Vice President, Food and Nutrition Council
2. Ms. Vandana Shastry- Council Member, Certified Master Trainer, Mentor, Coach and Counsellor.
3. Dr. Archana Diwan- Council Member, Founder of Family Dental Care and Cupohlicious
4. Ms. Gauri Goyal- Council Member, Director of Chandni Paste and Dehydration Pvt. Ltd. and Proprietor from ADDY's Foods
5. Ms. Kalpana Ravi- Council Member, Director of XS Energy & Materials Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore
6. Ms. Meenu Ahashani Saravanan- Council Member, Founder and CEO of Samudrikas Designer Studio
7. Ms. Kriti Rastogi- Council Member, Team Leader in Sales and Business Strategy and Placement at Prudent Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.
8. Ms. Nashia Rana- Council Member, Clinical Embryologist (IVF), and Lawyer
9. Ms. Neha Chajjer- Council Member and Cofounder of Teabox
10. Ms. Nikita Hirawat- Council Member
11. Ms. Pragya Bhansali Surana- Council Member, CEO of Pragya's Kitchen and Partner at Mahauto Exports, Delhi
12. Ms. Shalini Kaushik- Council Member and Director of Kanti Lab Services Pvt. Ltd.
13. Ms. Shilpa Jain- Council Member and Grooming expert
14. Ms. Shilpi Goel- Council Member and Chairperson of Little Nurture School, Greater Noida.
15. Ms. Shreshtha Goyal- Council Member, Owner of Panama Pharmaceuticals, Indore and Founder of WIA Women Entrepreneurs Group and Adventurous women group
16. Ms. Roopa Deshraj- Council Member and Interior designer
17. Ms. Shubha Sriram- Council Member, Model and Brand ambassador of South Ruchis restaurants, Bangalore and REACH FOR CAUSE
18. Ms. Shwetha Kolli- Council Member

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19. Ms. Rashmi Shetty- Council Member, State Secretary of the Women Empowerment Cell under the International Human Rights Association, Career and mental health counselor, Handwriting analyst, Art therapist and ISO 9001:2015 quality lead auditor.
20. Ms. Vibha Gupta- Council Member and Creative professional
21. Dr. Sushma Khandelwal- Council Member and Professor at SAM Ayurvedic College and hospital
22. Ms. Roolaxmi Goyal- Council Member and MD, International, Authorised Main Dealers for Yamaha Motors India Pvt. Ltd.
23. Ms. Najma Khan- Council Member, Director India of VITO AG Germany, Director of AAVEG Technology Pvt. Ltd. (AAVEG Food Machines) and Representative of Kohloff Hygiene, Germany.
24. Ms. Anita Mittal- Council Member, Director of Mittal Fruit Products (India) and Rasam Foods.
25. Dr. Rachna S Joshi- Council Member and Corporate QAD Head of Balaji Wafers Pvt. Ltd.

The National Food Council would like to propose the following recommendations to the Ministry of Finance, with respect to the upcoming budget:

1. Higher depreciation rates for food testing machines or accelerated depreciation rates of 60-80%.
2. Capital subsidy from Government for introducing latest Food technologies- so as to enable early adoption and accessibility to the public which is up to 35% of the project cost.
3. Incentives for tie-ups between Food testing labs/industries with National institutes of eminence like CFTRI, NIN (National Institute of Nutrition), etc. This will facilitate early adoption of technologies developed in these institutes and covers 1.5 times of the investment/expenditure done.
4. Investment subsidies and production linked incentives for the Packaging industries to adopt latest technologies on packaging, increasing the shelf life of the products etc. which amounts to 1.5 times of the investment/expenditure borne by the food industry.
5. Incentives or relief in taxation to promote women entrepreneurs in the food industry.

We look forward to your cooperation and attention to the requests that have been made, from our end.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Mrs. Shikha Sharma  
National President, Food and Nutrition Council  
Managing Partner, Kanti Sweets