# PACKAGING NEWS

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING

THE SRI LANKA INSTITUTE
OF PACKAGING IS ANNOUNCING
THE 25TH EDITION OF THE
PACKAGING HALL MARK
EVENT IN SOUTH ASIA

THE GLOBAL PLASTICS
AGREEMENT IS A HOT
TOPIC INTERNATIONALLY

MICROPLASTICS AND NANOPLASTICS MAY BE PRESENT IN FOOD



### PACKAGING WEEK



### SLIP CONGRESS

The Annual Packaging Congress 2024, held at SBMEC - BMICH in Colombo, brought together industry leaders and innovators under the theme "Packaging for a Better World."

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging Holds 49th Annual General Meeting in Conjunction with Lankapak 2024.



# SEPLANCA INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING PACKAGING Delargid folkware for Packaging and Institute of Packaging

### **LANKAPAK 2024**

Lankapak 2024, Sri Lanka's premier exhibition for packaging, processing, printing, plastics, and paper, was a remarkable success, drawing industry leaders and innovators from around the globe

### EPR WORKSHOP

The "Extended Producer Responsibility Law" better known as the EPR law would be implemented soon in SriLanka



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Esteemed Members,

As we approach the close of another transformative year, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Immediate Past President, Deputy President, Council of Management, Governing Body, and all our members for their steadfast dedication. Your contributions, along with the commitment of our office bearers, enabled us to successfully host major events in 2023/2024—such as the Lanka Star Judging Competition, Shades of Packaging dinner dance, Packaging Week, EPR Workshop, the Diploma in Packaging Technology, and the LankaPak Exhibition. I am pleased to announce that these key events are scheduled for the coming year, and I look forward to your invaluable support once again. Additionally, the Packaging Congress will be held alongside the LankaPak Exhibition, and we're proud to offer the Certificate Course in Packaging Technology (conducted biennially), which is endorsed by both the Ministry of Industries and the World Packaging Organization.

This year has brought its own set of challenges and new opportunities, particularly around the evolving requirements for plastic use. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiative, introduced by the Central Environmental Authority, is a pioneering move that shifts responsibility to companies for post-consumer collection of PET bottles and packaging. As single-use plastic bans increase, we are embracing a pivotal shift toward eco-conscious packaging solutions. In the EPR Workshop, members and industry leaders explored actionable strategies for meeting these regulations effectively, with discussions around innovative recycling practices and sustainable material alternatives.

The Packaging Week was another standout event, celebrating creativity, sustainability, and innovation across our industry. From interactive seminars on smart packaging to sessions highlighting breakthroughs in biodegradable materials, the event underscored our industry's drive toward responsible solutions that balance environmental goals with profitability.

However, ongoing challenges remain, particularly due to periodic regulations restricting certain packaging materials. High exchange rates, tariffs, and production costs have exacerbated these impacts, making it increasingly difficult for stakeholders to compete, particularly against imports of finished products. In response, we have been actively refining the regulatory framework by engaging in extensive discussions with stakeholders, government officials, and various Chambers and Associations. With support from the Ministry of Industries, Industrial Development Board, and the Central Environmental Authority, our efforts have focused on recommending practical, sustainable alternatives. I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister, Secretary, and officials who have met with us on numerous occasions, pledging their continued support.

As we move forward, we are prioritizing new initiatives aimed at positioning Sri Lanka as a leader in sustainable packaging in the region. I will continue to count on your insights and support as we navigate these challenges together. In closing, my deepest gratitude goes to our members, the editorial committee, and the SLIP secretariat for their contributions to this newsletter.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing our industry, and I look forward to another successful year together.



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### **LANKAPAK 2024**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging is announcing the 25th Edition of the packaging hall mark event in South Asia comprising LANKAPAK 2024' Exhibition, Annual Packaging Congress 25 - 27 October 2024 together with "LANKA STAR AWARDS'. Organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging and CDC Events

### **GLOBAL PLASTIC AGREEMENT**

The Global Plastics Agreement is a hot topic internationally and it is important to be updated on the past resolutions and the upcoming steps. In April, the fourth round of discussions took place in Canada, and the debate evolved to address the entire lifecycle of plastics.

### MICRO PLASTICS IN FOOD

Microplastics and nanoplastics may be present in food, primarily from environmental contamination where foods are grown or raised. There is not sufficient scientific evidence to show that microplastics and nanoplastics from plastic food packaging migrate into foods and beverages.





### **SLIP CONGRESS - PACKAGING FOR A BETTER WORLD**

The Annual Packaging Congress 2024, held at SBMEC - BMICH in Colombo, brought together industry leaders and innovators under the theme "Packaging for a Better World." The event featured a series of thought-provoking sessions focused on essential topics such as industry trends, digital transformation, and innovations in sustainable packaging. Participants engaged in discussions that covered rapid developments in the packaging sector, including smart packaging, eco-friendly materials, and advancements in supply chains. Attendees learned about the practical applications of digital technologies, the future of edible packaging, and strategies to reduce food waste through thoughtful packaging design.



### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging Holds 49th Annual General Meeting in Conjunction with Lankapak 2024. The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP) convened for its 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the inaugural day of Lankapak 2024, marking a pivotal moment in SLIP's nearly five-decade journey within the packaging industry. Members, industry leaders, and stakeholders gathered to reflect on the year's advancements and set new directions for the institute. The AGM included a review of SLIP's ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing packaging standards and promoting sustainability across the sector.



### MEDIA LAUNCH - LANKAPAK 2024 Exhibition, Annual Packaging Congress and Lanka Star Awards

The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging is announcing the 25th Edition of the packaging hall mark event in South Asia comprising LANKAPAK 2024' Exhibition, Annual Packaging Congress 25 - 27 October 2024 together with "LANKA STAR AWARDS'. Organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging and CDC Events, the amplified 25th edition of LANKAPAK is backed by both state and private sector which aims to reach new heights by setting international standards, making it a mega event in Sri Lanka. With its concurrent programs such as the ANNUAL PACKAGING CONGRESS, LANKA 5P, and LANKAPAER EXPO 2024, the event becomes South Asia's premier expo for packaging, processing, printing, and plastic industries taking place at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre.

A significant focus of LANKAPAK 2024 will be on promoting sustainable and eco-friendly packaging solutions. The event will showcase the latest innovations designed to address the challenges of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in the packaging industry. Through cutting-edge technologies and materials, participants will explore how the industry can reduce its environmental footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future. The President of Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging Thusith Wijesinghe says; "We are excited to announce the LankaPak Exhibition, Packaging Congress and Lanka Star Awards. These events celebrate innovation, creativity, and excellence in the packaging industry. The Exhibition will showcase advancements and trends, while the Congress will provide valuable insights and discussions.

The Lanka Star Awards will honor outstanding achievements, with a special focus on the Student Star Contest. These events demonstrate our commitment to advancing the industry and meeting international standards of excellence." The prestigious Sri Lanka Packaging Awards, known as the "Lanka Star Awards," will take place following the expo in November 2024. This event celebrates outstanding achievements in the packaging industry, recognizing those who have excelled in various categories. Established in 1987, the Lanka Star Awards have a long history of honoring excellence in packaging. In 2001, the Institute introduced the Student Star Contest for Excellence in Packaging, aimed at uncovering and acknowledging the creative talents of students in packaging design from universities across the country. The entry categories for the Lanka Star Awards include Consumer Packaging, Packaging Material, Point of Purchase/Sale, Transport, Accessories, Marketing, Food Saving, Innovation, and Sustainable/Eco-Friendly Packaging. Entry submissions for the competition opened in June 2024 and will close end of July 2024.

Awards consist of Gold, Silver, and Bronze, with a Platinum Award for the entrant scoring the highest number of overall awards. The President's Award is given to the participant scoring the highest number of points. Winners of the Lanka Star Awards gain the opportunity to participate in the prestigious World Star and Asia Star Awards, held annually in various mem ber countries. These international awards highlight Sri Lanka's advancements in the packaging industry, showcasing its progress in meeting international standards over the past four decades.









Signning of MOU between Sri lanka Institute of packaging and CDC Tours and Travels pvt ltd

(The Event Organiser for Lanak Pack 2024 and packaging Congress 2024)

### PRESENTATIONS OF SPONSORS FOR LANKA PACK 2024 EXHIBITION

Lanka Star 2024 and Packaging Congress 2024 at BMICH

### Sponsors for Lankapak 2024:

Polydime Plastic Industries Pvt. Ltd. [Principal Sponsor], Trans Continental Packaging [Gold Sponsor], Krishna Tissues Pvt. Ltd. [Gold Sponsor]





**Principal Sponsor** 



Platinum Sponsor



**Gold Sponsor** 

Silver Sponsor

### **Sponsors for Lanka Star Awards 2024:**

Platinum Sponsor – DIC Lanka Pvt Ltd, Silver Sponsor – Fonterra Brands Ltd (Anchor)

### **LANKAPAK 2024 - DRIVING INNOVATION IN PACKAGING**

Lankapak 2024, Sri Lanka's premier exhibition for packaging, processing, printing, plastics, and paper, was a remarkable success, drawing industry leaders and innovators from around the globe. This year's event showcased the latest advancements and trends, providing a platform for exhibitors to display their cutting-edge technologies and solutions. Over the course of the exhibition, attendees engaged in insightful discussions, forged valuable connections, and explored a diverse range of products and services. The event featured interactive sessions, live demonstrations, and expert panels, offering a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for all participants. From sustainable packaging solutions to state-of-the-art printing techniques, Lankapak 2024 highlighted the industry's commitment to innovation and sustainability. The enthusiasm and collaboration among stakeholders reaffirmed the pivotal role of this exhibition in shaping the future of the packaging industry in Sri Lanka.



### **EPR WORKSHOP**

The "Extended Producer Responsibility Law", better known as the EPR law would be implemented soon in SriLanka. It state clearly that the law would initially apply to PET and HIPS based plastic packaging and will follow with other variants of plastic. There was widespread speculation by all stake holders in the packaging industry that covers Raw Material Suppliers, Converters, Brand Owners as to how this would pen out and what would be the way forward.



The 49th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging will be held on Friday, 25th October 2024 at 6:00 PM at the VIP Room, BMICH.

Kindly confirm your attendance with Secretariat of SLIP.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY 2ND BATCH 2024

Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging, in Collaboration with Ministry of Industries, Launches Second Batch of Certificate Course in Packaging Technology. The Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging, in partnership with the Ministry of Industries, proudly announces the commencement of the second batch of its highly successful Certificate Course in Packaging Technology. Building on the success of the inaugural program, this initiative aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of industry professionals, contributing to the growth and innovation in Sri Lanka's packaging sector. This specialized certificate course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of modern packaging technologies, materials, and best practices in sustainable packaging. It caters to both newcomers to the field and seasoned professionals seeking to upskill, ensuring a broader understanding of industry trends, regulatory requirements, and advancements in packaging solutions. A key objective of this course is to support the packaging industry in Sri Lanka by fostering a skilled workforce capable of addressing the challenges of a rapidly evolving global marketplace. With topics ranging from packaging design and material selection to environmental considerations, the course offers an in-depth approach to the entire lifecycle of packaging. The collaboration between the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging and the Ministry of Industries underscores the government's commitment to advancing local industries and ensuring that professionals in the packaging sector are equipped with the latest knowledge and technical expertise. This initiative also reflects a collective drive to promote sustainable practices within the industry and elevate Sri Lanka's packaging standards to international levels. Participants in the second batch will have access to expert lectures, hands-on training, and exposure to realworld case studies, providing them with practical insights and experience. Upon completion of the course, graduates will receive a certificate endorsed by both the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging and the Ministry of Industries, symbolizing a recognized credential in the field.

The Institute and the Ministry are excited to continue this valuable collaboration and remain committed to driving progress and innovation in the Sri Lankan packaging industry.





### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE GLOBAL PLASTICS AGREEMENT: PAST DISCUSSIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS.





By Liliam Benzi-WPO

The Global Plastics Agreement is a hot topic internationally and it is important to be updated on the past resolutions and the upcoming steps. In April, the fourth round of discussions took place in Canada, and the debate evolved to address the entire lifecycle of plastics. Despite being an agreement still immature in some aspects, the fact is that the discussions are advancing. To provide some context, this Agreement, formally known as the Global Plastics Treaty, is an international initiative promoted by the United Nations (UN) aimed at creating a legally binding treaty involving all UN member countries to reduce the production and consumption of plastics, promote a circular economy, and improve waste management. Interestingly, the fourth meeting faced a significant challenge: waste management, rather than simply condemning plastic. To understand and openly discuss what this challenge means in practice and its impacts, some specialists recently shared important insights about the last meeting, in Canada, and what to expect from the next meeting scheduled for November 25 to December 1, 2024, in Busan, Republic of Korea. They believe that the next round of negotiations will be crucial for finalizing the Agreement's text based on a lifecycle approach, from production to disposal. The experts also noted that previous negotiations, including the fourth session in Ottawa, were important steps for advancing the text of the instrument and establishing the necessary intersessional work to prepare for INC-5. It is worth noting that urban solid waste disposal is a common problem in many countries and, therefore, the Agreement's main focus should really be on waste management, involving all stakeholders. In other words, the Agreement is an opportunity to leverage plastic disposal, reintegrating it into the chain as a valuable raw material. Several countries, including Brazil, strongly supports the existence of the Global Plastics Agreement and advocates for plastic waste to become a raw material. For this to happen, the chain must be economically viable, which depends on consistent demand and extended producer responsibility (EPR). It is also important to understand that mechanical recycling, although crucial, has its limitations. Therefore, investment in chemical recycling is necessary, allowing for a longer cycle of plastic materials, transforming them into molecules that can be reused as if they were virgin materials, even for food contact. Thus, the devel opment of new technologies by the chemical industry is essential.

Inclusion of waste pickers, a fundamental pillar. Another important voice in this debate are the waste pickers. They are seen as key players in the recovery of plastic waste and should be adequately remunerated for their work. Everyone agrees: "The fair inclusion of waste pickers is essential. They are part of the value chain and should be compensated for the environmental services they provide." Equally important is designing plastic products based on science, aiming to ensure minimal environmental impact without losing functionality.

The transformation of design is also crucial for the Agreement to rethink the entire plastic production chain. The industry, in turn, plays a vital role in providing knowledge and developing new technologies. The participation of all actors – government, industry, civil society, waste pickers/cooperatives – is crucial for the success of the Agreement, which has the potential to transform waste management in the world, promoting a circular economy that minimizes resource waste and maximizes efficiency and sustainability.

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE GLOBAL PLASTICS AGREEMENT: PAST DISCUSSIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS.

As discussed in Canada, the main points of the Agreement are:

- 1. Improvement of waste management, including the collection, recycling, and proper treatment of plastics to prevent them from becoming "lost" in various ecosystems.
- 2. Innovation and Circular Economy, promoting practices that involve reuse, recycling, and revaluation of plastic products, and including the development of new technologies and more sustainable materials.
- 3. 3. EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) to ensure that producers take responsibility for the waste generated by their products throughout their entire lifecycle.
- 4. Engagement and Education through incentives for public awareness and education about the impacts of waste on the environment, as well as the sustainable practices that can be adopted by consumers.

The time is ripe for significant advances towards a more circular economy. It is hoped that the next round of negotiations, INC5, will result in a treaty for plastics and waste in general. It is expected that after the next negotiations, the Agreement should be transformed into specific decrees and regulations that will affect the entire value chain positively. Remembering that the need for a Global Agreement arose from the need to harmonize global efforts toward waste reduction, providing a common legal framework that can be adapted to the realities of each country, but that maintains a level of commitment and coordinated action at an international level. Its implementation will not be easy and will face various challenges.

However, the treaty will also offer significant opportunities for innovation, development of new sustainable technologies, and the creation of new jobs and business opportunities. We can conclude that the Global Plastics Agreement is an important collaborative effort to mitigate environmental impacts and promote a more sustainable future.

Nestl(Courtesy of Nestlé) September 3, 2024

As part of Nestlé's continuous efforts towards more sustainable packaging solutions, the company is launching paper-based innovations across major brands.



### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE GLOBAL PLASTICS AGREEMENT: PAST DISCUSSIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS.



Recently, Nestlé introduced paperboard canisters for its Vital Proteins brand in the United States. This packaging material and design change results in a 90% plastic reduction from previous packaging. Developed by experts at the R&D center for Nestlé Health Science in Bridgewater, New Jersey, in collaboration with external partners, the new canister has a proprietary coverlid that is rigid and tight. It allows for easy opening and closing of the canisters, while being leak and spill-proof, as well as durable for everyday usage.

Additionally, Nestlé's global R&D network is working alongside external partners and suppliers to develop the next generation of high barrier paper packaging solutions across product categories.

Gerhard Niederreiter, Head of Nestlé's "When developing paper packaging, we elements such as oxygen, temperature products, Nestlé's paper packaging jouries and KitKat and is now advancing to quire higher barrier protection."

In the United Kingdom, Nestlé recently Nescafé. This refill paper packaging solu Nescafé jars at home without having to Institute of Packaging Sciences, explains: consider each product's sensitivity to external and moisture. Starting with less sensitive ney started in confectionery including Smart product categories such as coffee which reintroduced a high-barrier paper refill pack for tion allows consumers to replenish their glass compromise on product freshness or quality. This reduces packaging weight by 97 percent and the paper packaging can be recycled in the local paper waste stream. In addition, the Nescafé Cappuccino range in Europe now has new packaging featuring a paper-body instead of the previous

In addition, the Nescafé Cappuccino range in Europe now has new packaging featuring a paper-body instead of the previous plastic can. It is fully recyclable in the paper waste stream across Europe, where this packaging format is available in differ ent product varieties.

Axel Touzet, Head of the Coffee Business Unit for Nestlé, says: "Coffee is particularly sensitive to oxygen and humidity. This is why redesigning packaging for this product category requires additional efforts to ensure we can safeguard product fresh ness and quality with science-based and sustainable solutions."

### HOW CAN WE REIMAGINE THE FUTURE OF PACKAGING?

Governments are already introducing plastic taxes and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations to incentivize sustainable practices and hold businesses accountable for the lifecycle impacts of their products. These measures are designed to start internalizing the environmental costs associated with the production, use and disposal of packaging, taking responsibility away from consumers and municipalities.

These two types of regulation will encourage the adoption of less harmful alternative materials such as bioplastics and stimulate businesses to embrace circular solutions to minimize waste and keep finite resources in circulation. They will force companies to reimagine their product packaging, supply chain and waste management strategies. EPR rules require companies to design products for durability, reparability and recyclability and meet performance targets related to waste reduction, recycling rates and environmental impact mitigation.

Companies will be required to report against the targets for their jurisdiction and will be monitored for compliance. Failure to comply may result in penalties, fines or other sanctions. Plastic taxes, on the other hand, are financial measures implemented by governments to discourage the use of plastic products and encourage the use of more sustainable alternatives. Taxes can take different forms and can be applied to different stages of the plastic product lifecycle. In order to comply with these new regulations, it is clear companies will need to take their data collection, analysis and exchange capabilities to the next level. Companies Are Currently Unprepared According to a recent survey conducted by SAP in Italy, Portugal and Spain, most businesses (74% of respondents) are aware of upcoming packaging regulation, however the majority (68% of respondents) still need to make 'moderate' to 'significant' changes in order to comply. While most businesses intend to increase the use of recycled materials, and the ability to recycle packaging, very few are tracking data for compliance reporting.

This is perhaps unsurprising when individual countries are charting their own course to address the challenges presented by plastic waste. The result is a baffling landscape of policies which vary in scope, stringency and focus which makes determining strategy difficult for companies that span various jurisdictions. Such companies may welcome the much-anticipated global treaty to end plastic pollution which is due to be agreed later this year. The UN Plastics Treaty could be instrumental in eliminating some of the complexity and regional inconsistencies.

Unwrapping Opportunity While new regulation may pose operational, financial and reporting challenges, it also offers opportunities for companies like Vytal to innovate, unlock efficiencies, build stronger relationships with customers and differentiate themselves from their competitors. Vytal provides reusable food and drink containers. Through the use of RFID technology on each item they supply, companies can track every movement of every item.

This granular level of tracking brings value chain players closer together and provides an opportunity for companies to build customer relationships thanks to QR codes linking them to games, competitions, surveys and other experiences.

"Leveraging data can not only help businesses access efficiencies and minimize costs but also create value where it didn't exist before,"

said Tim Breker, Founder of Vytal.

# PORA INNERS 2024

#### 1. CONSUMER PACKAGING

Pharmaceutical, Healthcare, Cosmetics Pharmaceutical, Healthcare, Cosmetics

**Industrial Product** 

Household

Beverages (Liquids)

Beverages in Powder, Granule Form (Tea, Coffee, Etc)

Eaden Tomato Sauce Spouted 375 G Hair Gel PBL Clear Laminated Tube

Cinnamon 60 Capsules Carton

None Woven Grow bag

Victoria's Secret Undergarment E-commerce Pouch

750 ml Old Durbar Black Empty Glass Bottle

Zesta - The Story of Ceylon Tea

**Mabroc Premium Ceylon Collection** 

**ALFT Packaging Company (Pvt) Ltd** 

Jayasinghe Industries

Print USA (Pvt) Ltd

Polydime International (Pvt) Ltd

JF & I Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

**PGP Glass Ceylon PLC** 

JF & I Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

Aitken Spence Printing & Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

#### 2. PACKAGING MATERIAL

Packaging Material - Flexible Packaging Material - Paper & Board

Polydime International (Pvt) Ltd

Aitken Spence Printing & Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

#### 3. POINT OF PURCHASE/ SALE

Point of Purchase/ Sale - Display Packaging Point of Purchase/ Sale - Display Unit

Harrow - Ceylon Choice Gift Collection Sanitary Napkins Dispensable Unit

Aitken Spence Printing & Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

Crimson CS (Pvt) Ltd

#### 4. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation - Flexible bulk containers/ bags

Red Papaya Die Cut Carton

Shrink Film with 25% Recycle Content

Star Packaging (Pvt) Ltd Polydime International (Pvt) Ltd

#### **5. ACCESSORIES**

(Labels, Caps and Closures, Decorative attachments, Inserts, etc.)

Accessories - Printed Labels and Tags,

Tea bag pouches (pasted/shrink wrapper)

Accessories - Closing Devices of a package Accessories - Inserts and additional parts/components Dilmah Elixir of Ceylon Tea

**Spout Attached Printed Laminated Pouch** 

Jetwin Box (30ML \*120)

Aitken Spence Printing & Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

Selmo (Pvt) Ltd

Star Packaging (Pvt) Ltd

#### 6. MARKETING

Marketing

Hot Chocolate Drink Mix 400 g

Fonterra Brands Lanka (Pvt) Ltd

#### 7. FOOD SAVING

Food Saving

Eaden Tomato Sauce Spouted 375G

**ALFT Packaging Company (Pvt) Ltd** 

#### 8. INNOVATION

Innovation

Minimal Plastic Usage, Preserving and Enhancing Pouch Bursting Resistance in String Hopper Flour with Graphene incorporated PE films

J. F. Packaging Ltd

#### 9. SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

Sustainable Packaging

Agriculture waste based compostable packaging

Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology

### LANKA STAR JUDGING COMPETITION 2024

### **PANEL OF JUDGES**

The Lanka Star Judging Competition 2024 was a resounding success, thanks to the expertise and dedication of our esteemed panel of judges. With their keen eye for innovation and commitment to industry standards, the judges evaluated entries that set new benchmarks in packaging excellence and sustainability. Their thoughtful deliberations and insights ensured that the best in creative and impactful packaging solutions were recognized. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each judge for their invaluable contributions to this year's competition and to advancing excellence in the packaging industry.









### MICROPLASTICS AND NANOPLASTICS IN FOODS

### **Key Points:**

Some evidence suggests that microplastics and nanoplastics are entering the food supply, primarily through the environment. Current scientific evidence does not demonstrate that levels of micro plastics or nanoplastics detected in foods pose a risk to human health. The FDA continues to monitor the research on microplastics and nano plastics in foods and is taking steps to advance the science and ensure our food remains safe. Plastics are used in a wide array of consumer and industrial products including toys, household appliances, cosmetics, medical applications, automotive parts, textiles, packaging, and building and construction materials. Limited amounts of plastics are recycled or incinerated, leaving most plastic waste to accumulate in landfills and the environment. Plastic pollution can be found throughout the environment from land to streams and inland waterways to the coast and the ocean. Most plastics do not biodegrade and instead break down from weathering in the environment over time into small particles called microplastics and nanoplastics.

Microplastics and nanoplastics may be present in food, primarily from environmental contamination where foods are grown or raised. There is not sufficient scientific evidence to show that microplastics and nanoplastics from plastic food packaging migrate into foods and beverages. People may be exposed to microplastics and nanoplastics through the air, food, and absorption through the skin from the use of personal care products. Microplastics and nanoplastics are found in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and colors, as well as varying polymer types, states of degradation, and presence of chemical additives included in plastics during the manufacturing process. Microplastics are very small pieces of plastic that are typically considered less than five millimeters in size in at least one dimension. Microplastics can be manufactured to be that size, such as resin pellets used for plastic production, or degraded to that size from larger plastics discarded into the environment. Nanoplastics are even smaller, typically considered to be less than one µm, or micron, in size. For reference, the diameter of a human hair is about 70 microns. The FDA provides these descriptions of size for reference; however, there are currently no standard definitions for the size of microplastics or nanoplastics. This complex variety of characteristics makes the unique identification and assessment of their potential im pacts challenging.

The presence of environmentally derived microplastics and nanoplastics in food alone does not indicate a risk and does not violate FDA regulations unless it creates a health concern. While many studies have reported the presence of microplastics in several foods, including salt, seafood, sugar, beer, bottled water, honey, milk, and tea, current scientific evidence does not demonstrate that the levels of microplastics or nano plastics detected in foods pose a risk to human health. Additionally, because there are no standardized methods for how to detect, quantify, or characterize microplastics and nano plastics, many of the scientific studies have used methods of variable, questionable, and/or limited accuracy and specificity. The FDA continues to monitor the research on microplastics and nano plastics. If the FDA determines, based on scientific evidence, that microplastics or nano plastics in food, including packaged food and beverages, adversely affect human health, the FDA can take regulatory action to protect public health.

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# Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging

