



FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food



NATIONAL SUMMIT ON FORTIFICATION OF FOOD

ENRICHING FOOD, ENRICHING LIVES

16 - 17 October 2016, Hall No. 5, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Joint Declaration

Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread in India and threaten the health and wellbeing of large sections of our population. The consequences of such deficiencies go well beyond the realm of health, seriously affecting learning potential of our children, productivity of our population and consequently the economic growth and development of our country. Contrary to popular belief, vitamin and mineral deficiencies affect all sections of the society, across all socioeconomic groups, in both rural and urban populations.

Fortification of common foods with vitamins and minerals is an evidence-based, sustainable and cost-effective strategy to deliver key micronutrients to large sections of the people. Food fortification is a realistic and sustainable complementary strategy to food supplementation and dietary diversification to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies. Examples of foods that can be fortified include edible oil, milk, wheat flour, rice, and salt. The success of the salt iodisation programme in India is a major public health triumph, offering valuable lessons and confidence for staple food fortification to eliminate vitamin and mineral deficiencies from our population.

The success of the food fortification programme, particularly in a diverse country like India, demands a sustained and co-ordinated inter-sectoral approach. Fortification needs to be supported by adequate food regulations, quality assurance and monitoring to ensure compliance and desired impact.

In this direction, the key stakeholders;

- Central Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Food Processing Industries and Departments of Food and Public Distribution, School Education & Literacy, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Health Research
- State Governments –Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Women and Child Development, and Department of School Education.
- Development Partners, PATH, TATA TRUSTS, Global Alliance on Improved Nutrition (GAIN), World Food Programme (WFP), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), The Micronutrient Initiative (MI), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security in India
- Food Business Operators and their Associations
- Technical experts from science and research institutions



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- Experts and representatives from other related non-governmental organizations including consumer organizations

we hereby commit to collaborate with food manufacturers, businesses and scientists to utilise efficient technologies in all phases of processing, production, packaging and transportation for promoting safe and nutritious fortified foods and generate awareness regarding its benefits amongst consumers.

In our country, staple foods are mainly produced, procured and consumed in the unorganized sector which is not easily amenable to fortification. It is, therefore, important to identify commodities that are 'Fortifiable', that is those staple foods that go through processing by organised industry. However, our aim is to fortify staple foods like wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil, salt in a given time frame. We would, however, strongly urge and implore the Government to mandate the use of fortified commodities in all its food based schemes including MDM, ICDS & PDS.

Consumer awareness regarding the benefits of fortification is essential for the success of this programme. Through partnerships with development agencies, schools, mass media outlets, social scientists, social workers, civil society and consumer organisations, we propose to conduct extensive and strategic social and behaviour change communication campaigns so that people can take responsibility for their health.

Our discussions regarding fortification of individual staple foods and behavioural change communication strategies for consumer awareness reflect our deep commitment to this important cause. The gist of our discussions is appended to this joint declaration.

We strive to encourage and promote fortification of staple foods as an important and necessary step towards food and nutrition security and building a healthier and developed India.

Signatures of Stakeholders