

Action Program for Food Fortification

(based on the recommendations of regional conferences)

The Committee on Food Fortification which met in New Delhi in July 1999 had recommended that regional conferences should be organized to understand regional problems and to motivate industry in the regions to undertake fortification of processed foods. Accordingly, four conferences were held in Bangalore, Pune, Calcutta and Lucknow. The recommendations made by the participants at these conferences have been consolidated and the following action program presented for consideration of the Committee on Food Fortification.

I. Consumer Awareness

A two stage awareness program should be undertaken. Stage I will include media presentation on benefits of processed fortified foods, in English and Hindi. Stage II will carry forward the program in regional languages.

Responsible Agency : Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) and State Governments

II. Fortified Foods in Nutrition Programs

In all Nutrition Programs it must be ensured that at least 10 per cent of the expenditure is on fortified foods in the food package provided to the target groups.

Responsible Agency : Ministry of Human Resource Development

III. Inter-ministerial Group

An inter-ministerial Group chaired by the Secretary MFPI should be set up. The other Ministries to be included will be Ministry of Health, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Responsible Agency : DFPI

IV. PDS

In public distribution system fortified atta packaged in low cost material should be distributed in place of wheat

Responsible Agency : Department of Public Distribution System, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

V. Dialogue with State Governments

MFPI and ILSI-India should have dialogue with State Governments for (a) setting up a department at the State level for food processing industries or at least identifying the agency that will deal with the issue (b) accord priority to food processing and food fortification

Responsible Agency : DFPI & ILSI-INDIA

VI. Fortification of Salt

(a) NIN should under take research on fortification of semi-refined salt with iodine/iron with the objective of reducing cost of fortified salt.

(b) NIN should be asked to finalise the technology for double fortification of salt and complete community tests within one year.

Responsible Agency : DFPI & ILSI-INDIA

VII. Model Stage

Karnataka should be helped to become the model State for implementation of food fortification program. A brain storming Session should be organised with senior officials from Karnataka Government, as soon as possible.

Responsible Agency : DFPI & ILSI-INDIA

VIII. Fortification of Rice and Oils

Considering the food habits in the Southern Region it is important that special attention is paid to fortification of rice.

Fortification of palm oil and rice bran oil in addition to other edible oils should be undertaken as vehicles to deliver vit A to the consumer.

Responsible Agency ;; DFPI, Rice Millers Association, Oil Industry (Association)

IX. Upgradation of Laboratories

A one per cent cess should be imposed on all organised food industries to create a fund for upgrading Government laboratories to conform to international norms of good laboratory practices (glp)

Responsible Agency : Ministry of Health (MoH) & Ministry of Finance (MoF).

X. Clarification in PFA

Clarification should be sought from the Ministry of Health about micronutrients which are not specified as permissible additives in PFA.

Responsible Agency : DFPI & MoH

XI. Interaction with SMEs

- (a) There are clusters of small and medium industries engaged in food processing. MFPI and ILSI-INDIA should organise group meetings to explore possibilities of fortification
- (b) A regional meeting should be organised in North East part of the country which has its own special problems.

Responsible Agency : DFPI & ILSI-INDIA

XII. Favourable tax treatment

Fortified foods should be charged a lower excise duty/sales tax as a promotional measure for a period of five years.

Responsible Agency : DFPI, MoF & State Governments.