

Highlights of Nutrition Initiatives of FNB and MWCD during the last two years in the context of achieving Food and Nutrition Security in the country

- **The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Act 1992 and its Amendment Act 2003** has been protected against the repeal by the forthcoming Food Safety and Standards Bill 2005 through concerted efforts of the Ministry.
- The intersectoral coordination with key partners on nutrition namely health and family welfare, food and public distribution, elementary education and literacy etc was upscaled. The Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare was requested by the Hon'ble HRM to review the lifting of the ban on sale of non-iodized. The Minister for Health and Family Welfare had subsequently taken up this matter with the Hon'ble Prime Minister who had very kindly approved the proposal and the **ban has been reinstated on 17th November, 2005**.
- The Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution on the request of the Department of WCD had issued instructions to all State Governments to include **iodized salt under the public distribution system**. The Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy has been requested to utilise only iodized salt in the Mid Day Meal programmes in schools.
- The research trials on **double fortified salt** with both iron and iodine carried out by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad have revealed positive impact. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research have been requested to expedite launching of the **double fortified salt** in the country with a view to address the widespread problem of nutritional anaemia.
- **National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding (NGIYCF)** were developed, printed in Hindi and English languages and released by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development on 6th August, 2004. These guidelines have been widely disseminated in the country. The Chief Secretaries and State Secretaries incharge of Women and Child Development were requested to draw up action plans and mobilise the state machinery for implementation of the guidelines. The **second edition of the NGIYCF has also been released on 17th May, 2006** in the meeting of the Executive Committee of National Nutrition Mission. The guidelines are being translated into regional languages to reach the same to remote corners of the country. The training and nutrition education programmes of FNB lay special emphasis on promoting correct norms of infant and young child feeding.
- An **advertisement campaign** on infant and young child feeding was launched in August 2004.
- **Expert Consultations on important nutritional issues** like infant and young child feeding, micronutrient malnutrition etc were held and decisions communicated to the State Secretaries for implementation. **Nutrition advocacy** of policy makers was also upscaled by providing information on various nutritional issues to Chief Secretaries and State Secretaries incharge of Women and Child Development.
- **Five Regional Consultation Meets on Nutrition for North Eastern, Western, Eastern, Northern and Central States** have been organized during 2005-06 at Shillong, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Bhopal respectively to facilitate greater focus on malnutrition reduction in these States.
- The **Meetings of Executive Committee** of National Nutrition Mission have been held on 3.9.2004 and 17th May, 2006 under the chairpersonship of Minister of State for WCD.
- **Nutrition Education and Awareness Generation** was intensified. Food and Nutrition Board had put up a nutrition exhibition during the **Health Awareness Week for Hon'ble Members of Parliament** at Parliament Annexe, New Delhi in December 2004 and September 2006 for Parliamentarians.
- **Twenty-seven video films on nutrition** under the title '**Poshan aur Rashtra Nirman**' produced in Hindi, English, Bangla and Assamese languages by Food and Nutrition

Board were converted into CDs and provided to State Secretaries incharge of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, and Education, training institutions and FNB field infrastructure. These films have also been telecast by Doordarshan. The films have been dubbed in all North Eastern languages.

- A **30-episode radio sponsored programme on 'Poshan aur Swasthya'** in 12 regional languages and 8 North Eastern languages has been broadcast through AIR and CBS stations at intervals.
- **Wall Calendars on Nutrition for 2005 and 2006** were printed in Hindi and English and widely disseminated in the country. A number of **posters/charts on nutrition** of infants, girl child, pregnant and lactating mothers and iodine deficiency disorders have been printed in 16 regional languages and disseminated widely.
- The Department had collaborated with the States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar for undertaking **Integrated Micronutrient Malnutrition Control projects** with financial assistance from The Micronutrient Initiative. **Wheat flour fortified** with iron and folic acid was successfully distributed through PDS in Darjeeling district of West Bengal. An Evaluation conducted by Child In Need Institute (CINI), Kolkata has revealed the feasibility of distribution of fortified *atta* through PDS, impact of fortified *atta* in decreasing anaemia prevalence, its acceptability by the people and its cost effectiveness as it involved only 2 to 7 paise additional cost per kg of flour. The Government of Gujarat is distributing wheat flour through PDS throughout the State. The Roller Flour Millers Federation of India supported by The M.I. has undertaken fortification of wheat flour in the States of Haryana and Punjab for the open market. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is undertaking a pilot project on fortified wheat flour for distribution through PDS.
- The State Departments of WCD were advised to focus on **eradication of micronutrient deficiencies adopting innovative approaches** under ICDS. Use of **fortified candies** in collaboration The M.I. was one such suggestion. The Evaluation on use of fortified candies for micronutrient deficiency control undertaken by the Community Medicine Department of AIIMS, New Delhi has revealed a significant reduction in prevalence of anaemia and vitamin A deficiency in pre-school children and that it was feasible and acceptable to provide fortified candies through ICDS system.
- Recognizing the importance of micronutrients for optimal growth and development of infants, pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers, **nutritional norms for providing micronutrients** at the level of 50% of the daily Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) through the supplementary feeding under ICDS have been prescribed.

The Department of Elementary Education & Literacy has been advised to provide 50% of the daily Recommended Daily Allowances of different micronutrients to primary school children through Mid Day Meal or alongwith meals in the form of supplements. In addition, nutrition education of school children has also been emphasized.

- Provided **background material and comments** for the meeting held in the Cabinet Secretariat in which a presentation titled "Need to Accelerate Programmes to Overcome Micronutrient Deficiencies" was made by The Micronutrient Initiative to the Cabinet Secretariat. All relevant documents were sent to the Director, Cabinet Secretariat as desired in the meeting. The Cabinet Secretary has decided to review the status of micronutrient malnutrition control programme every two months.
- The Secretary (HFW) was addressed by the Secretary (WCD) on the **issue of vitamin A supplementation programme** in India advocating the need for extending the coverage for children upto five years.
- An **Expert Consultation on Vitamin A** was organised under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD) involving eminent national and international experts on vitamin A on 10.5.2006. The disaggregated prevalence of vitamin A deficiency in children under-5

years, sub-clinical deficiency of vitamin A in children and the need to revive the original programme for children upto 5 years was deliberated and recommended in the meeting.

- An **Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee on Micronutrient Malnutrition Control** has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD) to review the existing interventions and identify strategies for addressing micronutrient malnutrition in a holistic manner. The first meeting of the IMCC was held on 30.5.2006.
- Second meeting of the **Executive Committee of National Nutrition Mission (NNM)** was held on 17.5.2006 under the chairpersonship of Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (IC), WCD to deliberate on the issues requiring attention of the NNM.
- A **Working Group on Integrating Nutrition with Health for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-2012)** has been constituted in the Ministry by the Planning Commission under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD), the **first meeting** of which was held on 14th July, 2006 at 11.00 a.m. Four Sub Groups were constituted to give concrete suggestions on important issues covered by this Working Group. These Sub Groups made their presentations in the **2nd meeting** held under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD) on 8th September, 2006 followed by discussions. Based on the discussions, a **Draft Report of the Working Group** was prepared which was discussed in the meeting taken by the Secretary (WCD) on 13th October, 2006. The report was accepted by all members with a few suggestions. The final Report of the Working Group on Integrating Nutrition with Health for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-2012), duly approved by the Chairperson, has been sent to the Planning Commission on 1.11.2006.
- **Committee of Secretaries** under the Chairpersonship of the Cabinet Secretary has been meeting regularly to deliberate on **the need to accelerate programmes to overcome micronutrient deficiencies**. In the last meeting held on 17th October, 2006 the Ministry of Women & Child Development was asked to prepare the Agenda Papers for the meeting. The Committee considered the **Issues of Concern and Suggested Solutions** prepared by MWCD. A **five-pronged strategy** had been advised to accelerate the programmes to overcome micronutrient deficiency in the country.

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Some of the Actions taken by MWCD for Micronutrient Malnutrition Control

- The Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution on the request of the Department of WCD had issued instructions to all State Governments to include **iodized salt under the public distribution system**. The Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy has been requested to utilise only iodized salt in the Mid Day Meal programmes in schools.
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- **Fortification of common foods with micronutrients** require inputs from a number of Government Departments for their production, supply, distribution and regulation. The Ministry of WCD being the nodal for nutrition has constituted an **Inter Ministerial Committee on Micronutrient Malnutrition** involving representatives of concerned ministries and experts to give boost to the food fortification measures which have so far been facing a stalemate. The first meeting of the Committee has been held on 30th May, 2006.
- Recognizing the importance of micronutrients for optimal growth and development of infants, pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers, **nutritional norms for providing micronutrients** at the level of 50% of the daily Recommended Dietary

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Ministry of Women and Child Development
Food and Nutrition Board

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