

Nutrition International - Bangladesh - Salt iodization - All population groups

Programme: Nutrition International - Bangladesh

Programme Data

Programme Description

We consume iodine in our foods. When plants and animals are raised in areas with iodine-deficient soil, the diet for those people will be less healthy, resulting in populations suffering from iodine deficiency disorders (IDD).[1] Iodine deficiency is a leading cause of mental impairment and therefore iodine offers protection to the growing brain.[2]

In many middle to high income countries, the problem of iodine deficiency has largely been solved by adding iodine to salt, which then makes it into animal feed, breads, processed foods and salt shakers in homes around the world. Salt iodization is considered the most successful type of food fortification.[2] That said, in 2017, 1 billion people globally did not have access to iodized salt.[3]

Supporting efforts to achieve universal salt iodization (USI) is Nutrition International's main strategy to help eliminate IDD. This means that all edible salt, for households, processed foods and animal salt, is adequately iodized based on how much the general population consumes. Nutrition International (NI) works in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh and partners to improve the legislative, policy and regulatory environments for salt iodization. NI works with the salt industry to build its capacity to comply with regulations. NI seeks to foster greater government ownership and commitment for USI programs to ensure long-term sustainability.

The areas of NI support for Salt Iodization include:

1. Building the capacity of the government quality control authorities in effective monitoring, quality control and enforcement:
 - Helping the government in developing iodization standards harmonized with global best practices and drafting legislation and regulation for enforcement.
 - Strengthening and/or establishing quality control laboratories.
 - Facilitating the establishment of technical working groups to review progress of activities being planned by stakeholders to facilitate USI.
2. Strengthening the capacity of small and medium-scale salt producers in the:
 - Improvement of the iodization process, technology and internal quality control.
 - Establishment of a viable cost recovery system through revolving fund mechanisms. Identification of the best performing salt processors and the recognition of these processors at the national level to boost their morale and brand interest.
 - Improvement in the industrial processes and technology including the up-gradation of salt plants.
3. Contributing to the global evidence base and to the development of global standards and guidelines
4. Advocacy and Behaviour Change Interventions rolled out in collaboration with other stakeholders including government departments

These activities are being implemented in partnership with the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorder project, Standards and Testing Institution, Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Center, Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Institute of Food Science and Technology, Institution of Nutrition and Food Science, and Salt Mill owners and processors. Iodized salt is produced sub-nationally in eight salt production zones (Dhaka, Narayanganj, Khulna, Jhalokati, Cox's Bazaar, Patiya, Chittagong and Chandpur) which is then supplied across the country. NI began work with salt fortification in Bangladesh in the late 2000's and work is ongoing.

Program type

National

References

1. Zimmermann, M. B. (2011). Iodine deficiency disorders. *Oxford Medicine Online*. doi:10.1093/med/9780199235292.003.3109
2. WHO. *Guideline: fortification of food-grade salt with iodine for the prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014.
3. UNICEF. (n.d.). UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women. Retrieved from <http://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/iodine-deficiency/#>

For more information:

- <https://www.nutritionintl.org/about/contact-us/>
- <https://www.nutritionintl.org/what-we-do/by-programs/salt-iodization/>

Implementing organisations

- Government
 - Health
 - Industry
 - Details:
more
Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation; Standards and Testing Institution, Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Center; Institute of Public Health Nutrition; Institute of Food Science and Technology; Institution of Nutrition and Food Science
- International NGOs
 - Nutrition International
- Private Sector
 - Details:
more
Salt Mill Owners and Processors

Funding sources

- Bilateral and donor agencies and lenders
 - Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Action data

Start date
Country(ies): Bangladesh
Status: On-going
Topic: Salt iodization
Target group: All population groups

Typical problems **Solutions**

Links to policies in GINA

[National Health Policy](#)

[National Food and Nutrition Policy](#)

[Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition \(NPAN\)](#)

[IDD Prevention Law 1989 \(salt law\)](#)

[Health Population & Nutrition Sector Development Plan \(HPNSDP\)](#)