

Minutes of the Meeting on Scaling up of Double Fortified Salt in India held on 3rd Feb, 2017 at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), FDA Bhawan

India is suffering from dual burden of malnutrition and currently the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency is on the increase and efforts have been made to combat iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) by mandatory iodization of salt. Along with IDD, there is also a high incidence of Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA), and in order to combat both these deficiency diseases it has been advocated to implement the use of Double Fortified Salt (DFS), a salt fortified with both Iron and Iodine, across the country. In this regard, a meeting to scale up Double Fortified Salt (DFS) under the chairmanship of Shri Pawan Agarwal (CEO, FSSAI) was held on the 3rd February 2017 at FSSAI, FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. A list of participants is given at **Annexure 1**.

The meeting began with CEO addressing the participants and informing them that Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) in 2011 had issued a directive for mandatory use of DFS in Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and an advisory guideline for Mid Day Meal (MDM) programmes respectively throughout the country. Despite the directive and guidelines on the use of DFS, it is seen that DFS is not being implemented due to certain challenges faced by the States in logistics, distribution and issuance of tenders. In this respect, FSSAI has issued standards and guidelines on fortification which were made operational since October, 2016 in order to facilitate the fortification of Salt and other staples.

The following **key decisions** emerged from the meeting were:

1. FSSAI with the support of the Salt Commissioner will convene a meeting with all the salt manufacturers in the country to scale up the production and distribution of DFS.
2. Tender documents from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh which are successfully procuring DFS will be reviewed by

FSSAI to develop a standardized template indicating procurement of food commodities for Government Programmes and Schemes for all States.

3. In order to ensure best quality fortification of DFS, FSSAI will facilitate the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manufacturing, processing and packaging of DFS along with specifications of the premix to be used.
4. National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was requested to share user acceptance studies on DFS.
5. FSSAI in collaboration with the Salt Commissioner to address and discuss with the Indian Railways to grant concession for DFS usage.
6. In order to popularize consumption of DFS within the States, FSSAI will set up a fund of ₹ 5 Crore to facilitate an Advocacy Campaign along with Consumer Facing Communication in equal partnership with the Salt Manufacturers.
7. FSSAI would write to Ministry of Finance for considering a tax exemption on micronutrient premixes in order to promote and scale up food fortification in States.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants

FSSAI Officials

1. Mr. Pawan Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer
2. Ms. Anita Makhijani, Deputy Director, Standards Division
3. Ms. Smita Mankad, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)
4. Ms. Nistha Lahoti, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)
5. Ms. Deeksha Bhat, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)
6. Ms. Shakun Sharma, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)
7. Ms. Deepti Gulati, Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)
8. Ms. Rijuta Pandav, Consultant
9. Ms. Shibani, Technical Officer

Salt Commissioner's Office

10. Mr. R.M. Bunkar, Superintendent of Salt

National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)

11. Dr. Longvah

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

12. Dr. Kapil Yadav, Associate Professor

International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD)

13. Dr. Anamkia Vadera, Programme Officer

Industry

14. Mr. Sachin Gupta, Senior Manager, Tata Chemicals Limited
15. Mr. Balvir Singh Rathore, General Manager, Vibrant Global Salt
16. Mr. Yogesh Gupta, Director, Jagannath Chemfood Private Limited
17. Mr. Govind Kumavat, QCA, Goyal Salt Private Limited
18. Mr. Dilli Kumar, General Manager, Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited
19. Mr. P.T. Dayanandan, Company Secretary, Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited
20. Mr. Amit Verma, ACG
21. Dr. Shirish Dhande, CEO and President, ACG
22. Mr. Anupam Srivastav, Wella Nutrologicals
23. Mr. Vivek Ladha, Wella Nutrologicals

Development Sector Partners

24. Ms. Suvabrata Dey, Regional Manager, Micronutrient Initiative
25. Ms. Sucharita Dutta, Country Director, Micronutrient Initiative
26. Mr. Suresh Lakshminarayanan, National Program Manager, Micronutrient Initiative
27. Mr. Mayank Anand, Associate, Clinton Health Access Initiative
28. Mr. Parth Bhaguna, Associate Director, Clinton Health Access Initiative
29. Dr. R. Shankar, Tata Trusts
30. Mr. Ganesh Iyer, Tata Trusts
31. Mr. Mansharan Seth, Tata Trusts
32. Mr. J.K. Raman, Tata Trusts
33. Mr. Vivek Arora, Tata Trusts