

**Minutes of the meeting on Scaling up Fortification of Rice in India held on
10th April, 2017 at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI),
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi**

As per NHFS 4 (2015-16), India continues to suffer the triple burden of malnutrition along with various micronutrient deficiencies. Food fortification of the staples like Rice has been identified as an intervention that provides population-based safety net against multiple vitamin and minerals deficiencies like iron deficiency anaemia, B Vitamins (folic acid and B12) deficiency, zinc etc. It is a cost-effective strategy for the at-risk population inclusive of children and women of reproductive age. In this regard, a meeting to scale up Rice Fortification under the chairmanship of Shri Pawan Agarwal (CEO, FSSAI) was held on the 10th April, 2017 at FSSAI, FDA Bhawan, New Delhi. A list of participants is placed at **Annexure 1**.

The purpose of the meeting was to bridge the gap between the evidence and scale up of rice fortification supported with global and Indian research and come out with timelines for the industries engaged in refining/packaging/marketing of rice to start fortification with Iron, Folic Acid and Vitamin B12. The launch of consumer facing communication on Rice Fortifications and addressing key challenges was discussed.

CEO (FSSAI) welcomed all the participants and mentioned that Rice Fortification has been an age old, safe intervention to address the “Hidden Hunger” or the vitamin-mineral Malnutrition. Since Rice is a major staple consumed in 65 percent of households and therefore it becomes an effective vehicle for food fortification for the masses. He informed the participants of the various States have begun to procure fortified rice for their safety net programs like ICDS and MDM as well as applauded the key market players who have initiated the development of Rice Fortification Kernels (FRKs) manufacturing unit.

The following decisions were taken during the meeting:

1. FSSAI along with technical experts to develop a toolkit for the rice millers and the federation of all India Rice Millers Association to educate and support all the rice millers on rice fortification.
2. Key rice industry players like DCP India Pvt. Ltd, Adani Wilmer, Pattabi Agro, K.K.R group (Nirapara) and LT Foods committed to start fortification of rice within three months.
3. J-PAL to revisit their formulation to comply with the FSSAI fortification standards in their implementation research project on Introduction of Fortified Rice in PDS, Tamil Nadu to provide a stronger evidence.
4. FFRC to technically support the government funded food schemes like ICDS, MDM and PDS in scaling up rice fortification in states.

5. FSSAI to ensure quality of fortified rice via online checks, raw material check, post production checks to comply with the standards provided in the technical manual for rice fortification so that fortification logo is not misused.
6. It was noted with satisfaction that 4 manufacturers are producing Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and another 4 are likely to start. It was felt that as the demand for fortified rice will increase its cost of production of FRK will no longer be a constraint.
7. The premix suppliers to ensure that the cost of premix for rice fortification to remain fixed for FRK with standard composition (Iron, Folic acid, Vitamin B12).
8. All the stakeholders to use the +F Logo for their communication outreach as widely as possible on their fortified products.

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

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FSSAI/ FFRC

1. Shri Pawan Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI
2. Mr. Kumar Anil, Advisor (Standards), FSSAI
3. Ms. Smita Mankad, Head FFRC
4. Ms. Rohini Saran, Project Lead- Rice/ ICDS/Processed Foods, FFRC
5. Ms. Shakun Sharma, Project Lead – Oil, FFRC
6. Ms. Deeksha Bhatt, Project Lead – Milk, FFRC
7. Ms. Madhika Bijoria, Project Lead – MDM, FFRC
8. Ms. Nistha Lahoti, Project Lead – Wheat/PDS, FFRC
9. Ms. Rijuta Pandav, Project Lead – DFS, FFRC

Government Officials

10. Ms. V.Sumangala, Joint Director (MDM), Karnataka
11. Dr. J.H Panwal, JT (Technical Advisor), MWCD

Development Partners

12. Mr. Neeraj Jain, Country Director, PATH
13. Ms. Ruchika Chugh Sachdeva, Team Leader-Nutrition, PATH
14. Mr. Arvind Betigeri, PATH
15. Mr. G. Bala Gangadhar, Communication Officer, PATH
16. Mr. Amol Shinde, Program Officer, PATH
17. Ms. Vidya B.K, M&E Officer, PATH
18. Ms. Shariqua Yunus, Head-Nutrition Unit, WFP
19. Ms. Sharadha Gopalkrishnan, Program Policy Officer, WFP
20. Ms. Ashi Kohli Kathuria, Senior Nutrition Specialist, World Bank
21. Dr. Subrata Dutta, FFI
22. Mr. Suresh Lakshminarayan, National Program Manager – Food Fortification, MI

FBOs and FRK Manufacturers

23. Mr. J.S.Oberoi, LT Foods Pvt Ltd
24. Mr. Vivek Chandra, LT Foods Pvt Ltd
25. Ms. Aakanksha Nayyar, DSM
26. Mr. Raman Malik, General Manager, Arbro Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd.
27. Mr. Jaipal Singh, AGM (Prod), Kohinoor Foods Ltd.
28. Ms. Ruchika Ahuja, Executive Quality, Kohinoor Foods Ltd.
29. Mr. Santhosh Sharrma, Plant Head, DCP India Pvt Ltd
30. Ms. Komal Arora, Food Technologist, DCP India Pvt Ltd
31. Mr. Anand Kumar, Manager Quality, DCP India Pvt Ltd
32. Dr. Vinay Tripathy, Adani Wilmer
33. Mr. Suresh Itapu, Consultant, Adani Wilmer

34. Dr. A.K. Shukla, Pattabhi Agro Foods
35. Mr. Binod K Agarwalla, Secretary Rice Millers Association
36. Mr. Bjimol Jose, Manager- legal, KKR Food Products
37. Mr. Rounak Shrivastava, Fverst Day Lawson India Pvt Ltd
38. Mr. Ganesh Venkatraman, Fverst Day Lawson India Pvt Ltd
39. Dr. H.P. Kumar, Advisor, Sachdeva Group Ltd
40. Mr. A.I. Varghese, Christy Foodgrains Industry
41. Mr. P. Elumalai, Senior Manager – Fortified Rice, Christy Foodgrains Industry

Others

42. Mr. Ashok Sharma, Piramal Ent Ltd
43. Mr. Suresh Kumar, Executive Director, Chennai Mettlex Lab
44. Mr. Jitender Kumar, Ozone Pharmaeetical Ltd
45. Mr. Kamal Kukehta, Executive Director, Spectra Analytical Ltd
46. Mr. N.P Antony, Pavizham Hethor Pvt Ltd
47. Mr. R.K Dixit, Beta Biotech Pvt Ltd
48. Mr. Jatin Girdhar, Savour India Pvt Ltd
49. Mr. Anshul Pochouri, J-Pal South Asia
50. Ms. Shubra Mittal, J-Pal South Asia
51. Mr. Venkat Subramanian, Technical Consultant, FFI/J-PAL
52. Mr. Suman Gupta, AQC Chemical Labs Ltd
53. Mr. Sauvik Basu, Sundar Serendipity Foundation