



Press Release

Fifth Regional Workshop on Food Fortification *Enthusing, Enabling and Empowering States and the Industry*

Mumbai, Wed, 12 Feb 2020: In order to scale up food fortification, the Food Fortification Resource Centre(FFRC), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI) jointly with Tata Trusts is organizing Regional Workshops across the country. The fifth workshop in this league, covering the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra today. Over 150 Food Businesses and State Officials attended the workshop to deliberate on the challenges to scale-up food fortification and devise a roadmap.

This workshop provided the opportunity to understand ground realities and collect data pertaining to fortification of the participating States. Officials from respective State Food Safety Departments talked about the current status, challenges of fortification in their States and outlined the suggested way forward. One-on-one interaction through a working group model was conducted with the States to create an at-scale action plan for their respective states.

The participating UTs of Dadra and Nagar Havel and Daman and Diu took a step forward and have expressed interest to fortify their staple commodities. Positive results also emerged from the hands-on sessions for the States of Maharashtra and Goa where they have committed to fast-track the roll-out of fortification initiatives along with scaling it up.

Working group discussions were also held for industry representatives and their willingness to adopt food fortification was captured through an expression of interest. Industry queries were resolved by technical partners. To excite the potential food businesses, existing players, shared their experiences on initiating food fortification and how they overcame challenges faced. The industry promised to initiate fortification shortly and provided a quantifiable assurance. Their commitment will be tracked going forward. This workshop will be followed by training programmes for the industry and mini consultations for the government departments.

Dr Yogesh Kamat, Director, Western Region, FSSAI in his welcome address said that the workshop was a great platform to bridge the gap between demand and supply side as all the stakeholders were present together. Ms Jyoti Sardesai, Director, FDA and Food Safety Commissioner, Goa talked about the need for a structured approach and said that the State of Goa is planning to initiate fortification of rice on a pilot basis in the State. The teams from FFRC, FSSAI and TATA Trusts provided an overview of food fortification standards, regulations, quality assurance, technical and communication support extended to both industry and government. All the participants were awarded a certificate of appreciation for their efforts in catalyzing food fortification in India.