

Report: Fifth Regional Workshop on Scaling up Food Fortification *Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli*

Background

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 on 12th February 2020 at ITC-FSAN, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Over 150 Food Businesses and State Officials attended the workshop to deliberate on the challenges of scaling-up food fortification and devise a roadmap for the same. Food Safety Commissioner, Goa, senior representatives of the ICDS, PDS and MDM departments from the State of Maharashtra and Director, Western Region, FSSAI were some of officials present during the workshop. The complete list of participants is placed at Annexure I.

The day long workshop was divided into two sessions wherein the first half laid emphasis on the concept and need for food fortification while the second half was dedicated to engaging with the stakeholders to understand their perspective. The workshop was kickstarted with a welcome address by Dr. Yogesh Kamat, Director, Western Region, FSSAI during which he set the context for the day.



This was followed by a presentation on the 'Overview of Food Fortification' by Ms Rijuta Pandav, Deputy Lead, FFRC, FSSAI. The support provided by Tata Trusts was explained by Mr. Vivek Arora, Senior Advisor, Tata Trusts. Both these presentations provided an in-depth knowledge about the need, global and Indian experiences, cost and process of food fortification.



This report enlists the objective of the workshop, detailed proceedings of the sessions, key outcomes, challenges and the way forward.

Objective

One of the major objectives of the workshop was to establish a direct link with the nodal officers working on-ground for food fortification at the State/UT level. This will help create a sustainable channel of information exchange and ensure that a central repository of authentic data pertaining to food fortification is developed.

The workshop was also designed to understand ground realities and create an action plan for scaling-up food fortification in the safety net programmes(SNP) and in the open market. The other objectives also include:

1. Populating the national food fortification scoreboard which captures the current status of food fortification in all states
2. Collation of accurate data such as availability of fortified commodities in the SNPs, number of beneficiaries in each SNP in the State, allocation and quantity consumed per beneficiary, number of feeding days etc. at the State level
3. Alignment of Supply and Demand of fortified commodities in the open market

State Experience Sharing Session

The participating UTs of Dadra and Nagar Havel and Daman and Diu took a step forward and expressed interest to ensure provision of fortified rice and salt in their safety net programmes. 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.

The State of Maharashtra highlighted the provision of additional supplementary foods like Milk, Fruits and Eggs in drought prone areas as a best practice.

Ms. Jyoti Sardesai, Food Safety Commissioner, Goa discussed the status of fortification in the State and informed that the double fortified salt and fortified edible oil is being used for the preparation of meals in ICDS.



Industry Experience Sharing Session

To excite the potential food businesses, existing players shared their experience on initiating food fortification and how they overcame challenges faced. A representative from Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Pvt Ltd shared that it was successfully able to adopt milk and edible oil fortification with the constant support of the senior management. Marico India shared that through a conducive regulatory policy, especially in terms of the quality and standardisation of premix suppliers it has now been able to successfully implement food fortification.



Working Groups Key Outcomes

State Scoreboard

Working groups, one for each participating State was formed. Each group was handed a comprehensive questionnaire about the use of staples/ fortified staples in Safety Net Programmes (SNPs). Team members from FFRC and Tata Trusts resolved State specific queries around supply chain mapping, required tender documentation and technology involved. They also assisted State officials to gather the required data and complete the forms. This data was displayed on a state-wise scoreboard which reflected:

- Quantity of staple used in each of the three SNPs (MDM, ICDS and PDS),
- Potential to fortify each staple
- Commitment from the State towards the cause of food fortification.



The duly filled forms for each State are placed at Annexure I.

Maharashtra

ICDS

1. Double Fortified Salt(DFS) is being used in ICDS: Hot Cooked Meal at all centres in 36 districts of the State. For a total of 60,15,987 beneficiaries and a quantity of 1,44,38,368 kg DFS at 8 gm consumption per beneficiary.
2. Fortified soyabean oil is being used in ICDS: Hot Cooked Meal at all centres in 36 districts of the State. For a total of 60,15,987 beneficiaries and a quantity of 1,80,47,961 kg at 10 gm consumption per beneficiary.

MDM

1. DFS is used at all schools in 35 districts of the State. With 12363.2 tonnes for 57,19,500 beneficiaries in upper primary and 36,12,342 beneficiaries in primary.

2. Fortified soyabean oil is being used at all schools in 35 districts of the State. With 4945.3 tonnes for 57,19,500 beneficiaries in upper primary and 36,12,342 beneficiaries in primary.

PDS

1. Fortified rice is being distributed through PDS at all fair price shop outlets in Gadchiroli district since last year. The allocation is at 38000 quint or 3800 MT per month of fortified rice with 8,83,278 beneficiaries.
2. DFS is sold at fair price shops of 6 districts (Amravati, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik and Pune) for INR 14 per kg. The allocation of DFS is 1328.11 MT per month.

Goa

ICDS

1. Double fortified salt (226 MT) and fortified oil(356 MT/year) is being used in all the districts for preparation of Nashta (Mix ladoo, soya chunk pulao, sweet idli, dal and kesari rawa) in 300 days .
2. The total number of beneficiaries are 16206 aged 3-6 years. There is a potential for fortifying 28 MT wheat and 3600 MT rice annually.

MDM

1. 3720 MT of Wheat is lifted annually from the Food Corporation of India. The total number of beneficiaries are 161693 (95,330- primary and 66, 363 in upper primary). The cost per meal per beneficiary is Rs 7.26 for upper primary and Rs 6.11 for primary.
2. Rice is currently not included in the MDM menu.
3. The meals are being cooked by 103 self help groups and 9 parent teacher associations.

PDS

1. Rice (35,147 MT) and wheat (12,000 MT) is being distributed under PDS in the State.
2. The total number of card holders is 3,45,538.
3. The State has shown interest in Rice fortification. As there are no millers in the State, a blending unit may be installed and FRK supplied.

Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli

MDM

1. The Department of Primary Education purchases rice from FCI, and further the rice is procured as per the requirement at Centralised Kitchen.
2. 4.34 MT of rice, 0.2275 MT of edible oil, 0.9678 MT of wheat flour, and 0.000032 MT of salt is being fortified and reaching approximately 10,000 beneficiaries.
3. The Department of Primary Education has released an e-tender twice for the purchase of equipment for fortification of rice & Rice Kernel. Due to limited

response, the Department is in process of listing the online tender for a third time.

PDS

1. 141.504 tonnes of rice is allocated under AAY, and reaches 4,288 beneficiaries.
2. 8,640.405 tonnes of rice is allocated under PHH, and reaches 1.92 lakh beneficiaries.

Expression of Interest by Food Businesses

Working groups, one for each of the five staple commodities was formed. Each commodity group was requested to fill-up a questionnaire detailing their manufacturing data such as production capacity and currently fortified quantity.

Team members from FFRC and Tata Trusts resolved commodity specific queries around technology involved, premix procurement, incremental costs, endorsement procedure and testing mechanisms. They also assisted them to gather the required data and complete the forms. This data was displayed on a commodity-wise scoreboard which reflected:

- Total fortifiable capacity of each staple
- Currently fortified tonnage
- Commitment from the industry towards the cause of food fortification.



The industry promised to initiate fortification shortly and provided a quantifiable assurance. The duly filled forms for each commodity is placed at Annexure II.

Food Businesses from Maharashtra participated in the workshop representing staples - milk, oil, salt and wheat flour. Interest was expressed by 10 edible oil industries and 7 wheat flour industries. These industries will be contacted further by development partners to address their queries and support them in adoption of fortification.

Most of the FBOs were keen on initiation of food fortification and expressed their interest for the same. Certain inhibitions and queries that they had were addressed while some

others wanted to discuss with their management before deciding on adoption of fortification at their respective units.

A total of 20 dairies participated in the meeting. Few milk cooperatives and private dairies expressed their interest in initiating fortification of their pouch milk variants and requested training for their production and quality personnel. These dairies are being contacted further by Tata Trusts for provision of technical support to help them start fortification at the earliest.

Challenges

1. One of the key challenges highlighted by the PDS department of Maharashtra was complete scale-up of rice fortification in the district of Gadchiroli under the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme.
2. It was highlighted that due to a misalignment of demand and supply of fortified foods, combined with a change in cost, there was resistance from the industry to produce fortified variants.
3. Due to the merger of the UTs of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, effective from the 26th of January, 2020, and an expansion of administrative responsibilities, there is a need to sensitise newly appointed officials responsible for taking the agenda of food fortification forward in the UT.
4. A major challenge highlighted by the state of Goa was the unavailability of rice and wheat flour millers.

Way Forward

1. A video conference with key stakeholders from the Government of Maharashtra, and Tata Trusts may be scheduled with FSSAI to discuss the challenges for complete scale-up of rice fortification in the district of Gadchiroli. (Action: Director, Western Region, FSSAI)
2. Plan a training of industry members who expressed an interest to adopt food fortification. (Action: Tata Trusts + FFRC, FSSAI)
3. With the merger of the UTs of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, effective from the 26th of January, 2020, a sensitisation workshop on food fortification for key stakeholders will be scheduled, in collaboration with FFRC. (Action: State Lead, FFRC)
4. Organise a sensitisation workshop on rice fortification for PDS, Goa (3rd week March) . (Action: State Lead, FFRC)

