WFP aims to ensure that rice distributed within its programmes is fortified. Increasing use and demand for fortified rice within WFP programmes can influence broader social safety net programmes. It can also influence commercial production of fortified rice, providing a greater impact for social safety net programming as market availability of fortified rice increases.

WFP partnered with Royal DSM in 2007, and one of their five priority areas of focus is rice fortification. DSM provides in-depth technical expertise in fortifying rice kernels, and WFP provides vast implementation experience. WFP is a key technical partner for governments interested in large-scale rice fortification interventions to address micronutrients deficiencies. In partnership with several other UN agencies, NGO research institutes and private sector across the fortified rice supply chain, WFP helps national governments implement and scale up rice fortification programmes.

WFP’s position in rice fortification strengthened during past 10 years
Case study Mali – Pilot study in West Africa (2017)
1,500 MT fortified rice will be utilized in WFP’s school feeding programme in Mali, reaching over 80,000 school children with improved nutrition.

The pilot aims to identify different operational opportunities and barriers (particularly feasible supply chain, necessary capacity building and other constraints).

Local blending – local rice was purchased from a farmer’s cooperative in central Mali and locally mixed with imported fortified kernels from Thailand.

India – Gajapati Rice Fortification

This model created is easily replicable for integration of fortification in MDM

The evidence generated demonstrates a need for a policy push to include fortified rice in the MDM

The supply chain was structured to make it leak proof and efficient

Keeping scalability in mind the initiative was a cost effective strategy to address anaemia

Pilot Project, 2012-2015

After the success of this pilot project, several states are looking to integrate fortified rice in their social safety nets:

(i) Odisha — 14 tribal districts in the school feeding programme.

(ii) Tamil Nadu — 10 districts with high burden of anaemia in the school feeding programme as well as the Integrated Child Development services scheme (covers children between 0-6 years of age as well as pregnant/lactating women).

(iii) Union territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli — in all the food based safety nets.

WFP role:

(i) Providing technical support to scale up the integration of fortified rice in interested states.

(ii) Advocacy with National Ministries and state governments on fortified rice.

(iii) Evidence-based research to support policy push on fortified rice. For example, a recently undertaken cost analysis.

(iv) Sensitization of the private sector.

(v) Providing technical assistance to interested private sector players keen on becoming fortified rice kernel manufacturers.

(vi) Support to Food Safety & Standards Authority of India in developing technical manuals/modules etc. for rice millers.

Pilot Project, 2012-2015

Percentage points decrease is directly due to fortified rice

20 percentage points decrease in anaemia in Gajapati

6 percentage points decrease in anaemia in Gajapati

India — Gajapati Rice Fortification

Why Rice?

65% Indians consume rice

Why Mid Day Meal?

4.92 Million School Children benefit from the MDM scheme each year in Odisha

100 g of Fortified Rice = 100 mg

THERBY BOOSTING IRON INTAKE

Pilot Project, 2012-2015

Percentage points decrease is directly due to fortified rice

Countries with ongoing rice fortification:

Regional Bureau Bangkok (RBB) – Asia:
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Timor Leste

Regional Bureau Panama (RBP) – Latin America & the Caribbean:
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru

Bangladesh

Fortified Rice joint initiative between WFP and the government of Bangladesh

Beneficiaries: 500,000 people, mostly women and children

Duration: 2013-2017

Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Royal DSM

This joint initiative has now been scaled up in four ways:

1. By distributing fortified rice to ultra-poor women and their families under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme in 23 sub-districts, and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) in one district, covering 400,000 beneficiaries up to mid-2017

2. By supporting programmes that enhance resilience to disasters and the effects of climate change, covering more than 25,000 schoolchildren

3. By providing cooked school meals using fortified rice, reaching more than 25,000 schoolchildren

4. Encouraging garment factory owners to provide fortified rice to their employees, most of whom are young women.