



November 2017

Rice Fortification

WFP Experience

Background

WFP supports rice fortification as an effective approach to improve access to nutritious foods. It is actively involved in rice fortification in Asia, Latin America and Africa in making fortified rice available through its social safety nets programmes, school feeding and/or through discussion to advocate for mandatory rice fortification.

WFP is working closely with national governments and other stakeholders to strategically and effectively introduce fortified rice. Different stakeholders (ministries, private-sector, donors and technical partners) all have a role to play. Each country needs to address its own unique technical, legislative and business aspects. Local production and consumption, rice imports/exports, as well as in-country distribution channels are important considerations. Therefore, before countries embark on rice fortification, a proper landscape analysis for its implementation needs to be carried out. This explores the operating environment, feasibility and sustainability of rice fortification, and what the potential public health impact will be (depending on various delivery options: mandatory fortification, voluntary fortification or targeted through the social safety net programmes).

Effective implementation also depends on the structure and capacity of the rice milling industry, available distribution channels, rice consumption patterns, consumer preferences, market size, rice supply-chain, and the policy and regulatory environment.

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.

Fortified rice scale-up pathways



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

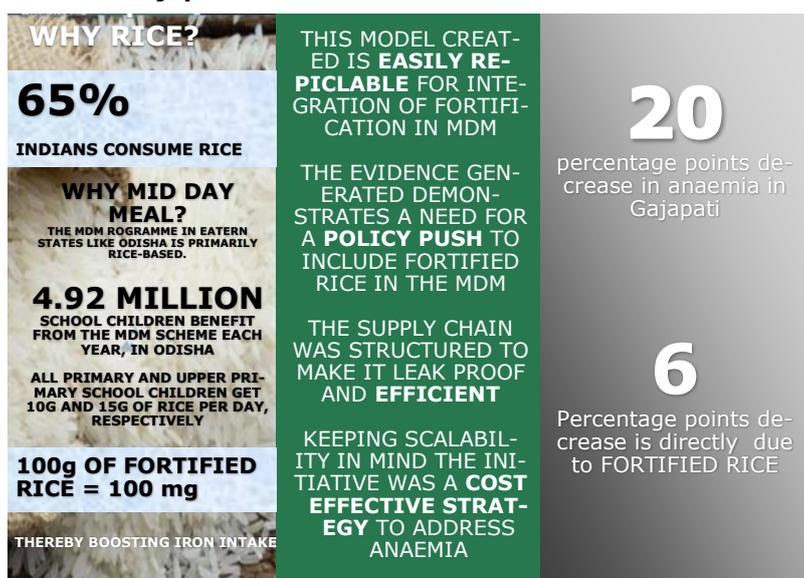
Case study Mali – Pilot study in West Africa (2017)

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



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.

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.

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

For additional information, please contact:

Asia
Britta Schumacher
Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor
britta.schumacher@wfp.org

Latin America & the Caribbean
Marcandre Prost
Regional Nutrition Advisor
marc.prost@wfp.org

West Africa
Anna Horner
Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor
anna.horner@wfp.org