

SCN 2003 Report from ILSI China

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1. Advocacy

By international and national efforts, nutrition promotion project supported by UNICEF and ADB has been initiated since 2001. Currently the major work is food fortification, an national alliance on food fortification has been established, which consists representatives from ministries of health, development and planning, finance, cereals, agriculture, industry, academia, NGO. Chinese Center of Disease Preventive and Control (Chinese Academy of Preventives Medicine before 2002), recently established Center for Nutrition and Development affiliated to the State Development and Planning Commission, and International Life Science Institute are the key institutions carrying out the activities.

2. Fortification

(1) Iron fortification of soy sauce

ILSI Focal Point in China initiated a iron fortification project in collaboration with Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The NaFeEDTA fortified soy sauce research on the stability, bioavailability by stable isotope, efficacious study with 304 anemic school children and 1.5 year effectiveness study in a poor area in Guizhou Province supported by ILSI Global/Project IDEA and MI finished in early 2001. Now it is in the operational phase.

Production of NaFeEDTA fortified soy sauce was initiated in 2001 and produces got into the market in September 2002 after putting all the legislation framework in place. Along with the marketing of the product, training for the staff at the factories on HACCP and food safety has been done and the public education through media, such as newspapers TV programs, as well as posters and brochures on health benefits of iron fortification have been undertaken. Future expansion of the production is expected. The team's most concern is to make the product accessible to the most needed people: poor, children and women, so it is planned to explore projects on motivation of production of low cost and simple-packaged products to fit the condition of the rural poor, fortification of low cost complementary food and probably specific project for pregnant women. Education and social marketing for rural China will be the priority. The project will focused on combating anemia in 11 less developed provinces in western China.

(2) Multi-nutrient fortification of wheat flour

A program integrating food fortification with the national program of re-forestry/poverty alleviation(free supply of cereals to the farmers giving up the slope land for re-forestry) was initiated in 2001. In three pilot areas, since December, wheat flour fortified with iron(NaFeEDTA), zinc, folic acid. Vit.B2. vit.B1, niacin is provided to the households after the baseline survey. It will be expanded to the western provinces involved in the re-forestry program.

The partners will be the government sectors, such as MOH, State Development and Planning Commission, industry and association, local government and UN organizations.

Funding is needed for further actions, and applications have been sent to the GAIN. Further collaboration UNICEF and the Micronutrient Initiative is also sought.

3. Supplementation:

Efficacy studies have been conducted using different formulations of micronutrient packets for young children. These studies have been developed and carried out by the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine with additional funding from both the Nestle Corporation and Heinz. Reports of these studies will be published in 2003. Planning has now begun to devise programmes based on these products and generic fortified infant cereals that can deliver added micronutrients to young children across large populations.

The folic acid supplementation program for women of reproductive age and pregnant women continues to expand in several provinces as well.

4. Dietary Promotion

Dietary Guidelines for Chinese Residents and a Balanced Diet Pagoda was recommended by the Chinese Nutrition Society and promulgated by MOH in 1998.