

MI hosts meeting on Wheat Flour Fortification in India

The MI hosted a meeting, organized in collaboration with Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI) and Global Alliance for improved Nutrition (GAIN), on Flour Fortification in India on December 10 and 11 2007 at New Delhi. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a plan to engage with all stakeholders to support fortification of wheat flour with folic acid and iron.

India has unacceptably high prevalence rates of iron deficiency, anemia and neural tube defects caused by folic acid deficiency. Wheat flour is universally known as a good vehicle to deliver key micronutrients to large populations on a regular and self-sustaining basis. Notwithstanding interest and efforts to fortify wheat flour that is milled in the large roller mills in the country, progress to date has been disappointing. There is still no strong policy or program from the government to promote flour fortification.

In order to review the status and recommend actions, key stakeholders, including representatives from the Central and the State Governments, the milling industry, the premix manufacturers, medical community, non-governmental sector as well as international organizations, such as the World Food Program (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) met to jointly develop a multi-sectoral approach to wheat flour fortification in India in order to address iron deficiency anemia as well as folic acid deficiency. For further details about the meeting agenda, participants and the proceedings, please visit the URL: <http://www.sph.emory.edu/wheatflour/IndiaMeeting/>

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