

अध्यक्ष  
Chairperson

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भारत सरकार  
भारतीय खाद्य संरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
एफडीए भवन, कोटला रोड़, नई दिल्ली-110002  
Government of India  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002  
Website : www.fssai.gov.in

D.O. No. 17/States/FFRC/Fortification/FSSAI-2017  
19<sup>th</sup> of September 2019

*Dear Shri Alok Kumar,*

It is well established that micronutrient malnutrition, resulting from deficiency of vitamins and minerals in the diet, affects all sections of our population and continues to be a major public health concern. It places a huge burden on the healthcare system and also poses a threat to the future economic growth of the nation.

Food fortification has emerged as a proven, simple, scalable and cost-effective strategy to improve the nutrition status of the population. It is complementary to dietary diversification and nutrient supplementation. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified standards for five fortified staples namely, wheat flour, rice, oil, milk and salt (Annexure I). Related Central Ministries have issued directives for the use of fortified staples in ICDS, MDM and PDS (Annexure II). Letters from the Chairperson, FSSAI, dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Annexure III) and the CEO, FSSAI, dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (Annexure IV) have also been sent encouraging states to adopt food fortification on a large scale.

However, food fortification has not yet been adopted and scaled up in your state as expected. This is disappointing particularly since the incremental cost of introducing all fortified staples in Government Safety Net Programmes in your state is approximately Rs. 70 crores (Rs. 1.80 crores for ICDS, Rs. 2.44 crores for MDM and Rs. 65.72 crores for PDS). This cost is insignificant compared to the state's overall budget and the

enormous costs of micronutrient malnutrition on the state's health system.

I therefore, urge you to examine the recent trends in prevalence of anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies in your state and adopt food fortification in the entire state as a priority. Support from FSSAI, through the Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC), is available for technical guidance, tendering and procurement of fortified foods, training, capacity building and awareness. Resources are available on the website: [www.ffrc.fssai.gov.in](http://www.ffrc.fssai.gov.in). The FFRC team can be contacted as per list attached (Annexure V). The latest FFRC Brochure is also enclosed for your reference (Annexure VI). We look forward to working with you to improve the nutrition status and health outcomes in your state.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

  
**Rita Teotia**

**Shri Alok Kumar, IAS**  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Assam  
Block C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sachivalaya, Dispur-781006  
Guwahati

Copy to :

**Dr. Chandrim Baruha**, Commissioner Food Safety for Assam & Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Government of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Encl:

- Annexure I: Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods), Regulations, 2018
- Annexure II: Directions from related Central Ministries
- Annexure III: Letter from CP, FSSAI
- Annexure IV: Letter from CEO, FSSAI
- Annexure V: FFRC Contact list
- Annexure VI: FFRC Brochure