

**International Council for Control of
Iodine Deficiency Disorders
(ICCIDD)**

**Report of the Regional Co-ordinator,
South Asia Region**

2005

by

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Introduction

The year 2005 has been filled with increased activities. New partnerships have emerged. The most important of these is the one with Micronutrient Initiatives (MI). The independent feedbacks we get indicate that this virtually took the programme to the grass-roots level.

There have been increased laboratory-based activities. Technical support has been provided to desiring industry units.

At the Governmental level, there has been steady demand for professional advice and support for both planning and implementation. Most importantly, on 15th June 2005 Government has reinstated the ban on the sale of Non Iodised Salt.

In sum total, a programme for the people has the people themselves participating in it.

I take pleasure in presenting the Regional Report-2005. The regional group solicits your comments and feedback.

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International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders

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Summary Format

Section	Nomenclature
	Introduction
1	Policy & Advocacy
1.1	Awareness Campaign for use of Iodized Salt – A novel concept incorporated by Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) for creating awareness among rural population on the benefits of iodised salt using “ Rakshabandhan ” as the backdrop for distributing packet of iodised salt. [Rakshabandhan is a Hindu festival wherein sister ties piece of sacred thread on her brother’s hand so that brother protects her from all problems].
1.2	Bond with Iodised Salt: Sir Roger Moore – Covers the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors visit to India to promote Universal Salt Iodisation.
2	ICCIDD Press Briefing
2.1	ICCIDD Press Conference on 22 nd March 2005 at New Delhi – focused on elimination of iodine deficiency disorders during the platinum jubilee of Mahatama Gandhi’s Dandi March.
2.2	Press briefing was organized to “Declare unequivocal support to the proposed non-iodised salt ban” on 9 th August 2005 at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi. (Collaboration with UNICEF)
3	Government
3.1	Series of meetings of Expert Group for celebration of Global IDD Prevention Day and to develop a strategy to launch the Iodised Salt Campaign on a Nation-wide scale on 2 nd May 2005 & 19 th May 2005 at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
3.2	Meeting for laying down norms for Micronutrients in ICDS foods held on 10 th June, 2005 at Department of Women & Child Development, Room No. 602, A Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
3.3	Indian Government has reinstated the ban on the sale of Non Iodised Salt on 15 th June 2005. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon’ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India announced the ban.
3.4	Congratulations letter to Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon’ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India by Prof. Chandrakant S. Pandav
3.5	Congratulations letter to Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon’ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India by Prof. M. G. Karmarkar
3.6	National Consultation on ICDS: Universalization with Quality at Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi from 6 th – 7 th July 2005
3.7	Meeting of Expert Group on 7 th September 2005 at Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India to consider the comments received on the draft notification no. GSR 340(E) dated 27.5.2005 regarding Iodisation of Salt.

4	Studies and Surveys
4.1	Planning meetings for conducting Tracking Progress Towards Sustainable Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in Sikkim and Jharkhand.
5	Collaboration
5.1	ICCIDD – MI – USI Project in collaboration with Micronutrient Initiatives (MI), New Delhi – Covers the project activities in 3 parts i.e. Potassium Iodate Subsidy, State level activities and Quality assurance.
6	Laboratory
6.1	Urinary Iodine Estimation – Samples from MI, Nepal
6.2	Establishment of Small Salt Testing Laboratory at Gandhidham, Gujarat
6.3	Distribution of Salt Testing Kits manufactured by ICCIDD’s Laboratory
6.4	Quality Assurance of Industry samples
7	Legal
7.1	Public Interest Litigation in Hon’ble Supreme Court of India – Running into the 3 rd year, it is still pending. However, an early decision is now expected in view of the reinstatement of the ban on sale of non iodised salt for human consumption.
8	Regional
8.1	Sri Lanka – Setting up of ICCIDD National Coordinators office.
8.2	Bangladesh – Continuing the support to the National Coordinators Office for IDD activities and publication of IDD Newsletter. Nomination of Mr. Mohiduzzaman to work as acting National Coordinator after the sad demise of Prof. Quazi Salamatullah.
8.3	Fifty-eighth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 6 th – 10 th September 2005
8.4	First Meeting of the Regional Working Group for Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Elimination was held from 29 th -30 th September 2005 at WHO/SEARO, New Delhi
9	International
9.1	ICCIDD Board Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa from 23 rd to 24 th April, 2005.
9.2	13 th International Thyroid Congress held in Argentina – 900 copies of IDD Newsletter – Volume 21, November 2005 had been sent on 28 th October 2005 to Dr. Niepomnische for distribution.

10	IT Based Programmes
10.1	Website of the Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders www.igplusin.org – This website has regularly been updated.
11	Communication
11.1	Information material [e.g. ICCIDD Newsletter, brochures, “Pink Booklet” (6000 Copies)] were being sent on a regular basis to Members of Parliament, All State Chief Ministers & Health Ministers, Govt. departments, network members, missions, professional bodies, industry and other stakeholders
12	Regional Newsletter
12.1	IQ+ Jagriti, the Regional Newsletter. – Two issues have been published and Two more are in the process of publication.
13	International Newsletter
13.1	IDD Newsletter. Three issues have been published from India. They are being printed, published and mailed from India.
14	Conferences / Workshops
14.1	National Conference on Salt – 2005 held on 28 th – 29 th January 2005 at Nirma University, Ahemdabad, Gujarat. This conference was jointly organized by Salt Department, Government of India, Government of Gujarat and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
14.2	12 th Annual Conference of IAPSM was held at Loni, Maharashtra . from 17 th – 19 th February 2005. Dr. Pandav made a presentation on “Linking of Research to Policy to Program IDDCP & USI in India”.
14.3	Meeting on “Stability of Iodine in Double Fortified Salt: a short term study” held on February 24, 2005 at ICMR Headquarters, N. Delhi
14.4	Madhya Pradesh State IDD Review Meeting – 29 th March 2005 at Bhopal
14.5	Series of meetings on “Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) Guidelines” were held at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi.
14.6	IDD Dissemination Workshop at State Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIH&FW) in Orissa on 15 th April, 2005.
14.7	IDD Dissemination Workshop at the Public Health Institute at Patna, Bihar on 26 th April 2005
14.8	Regional Consultation Meet on Nutrition was organized by Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India from 19 – 20 May, 2005 at Pune
14.9	Technical Meeting on the MI Double Fortified Salt (DFS) at New Delhi on 27 th May, 2005
14.10	National Consultation on ICDS Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India: Universalisation with Quality at Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi from 6 th – 7 th July 2005.

14.11	Regional Consultation Meet on Nutrition was organized by Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India at Bhubaneswar, Orissa from 18 th -19 th July, 2005.
14.12	Third Annual Epidemiology Week and Networking of existing and prospective WHO Collaborative institutes in Epidemiology Training in India from 26-27 July, 2005 at NIE-Chennai. Dr. Pandav made a presentation on “Tracking Progress Towards IDD Elimination in India”.
14.13	4 th National Convention of Consumer Coordination Council was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 30 th – 31 st July 2005. Dr. Pandav made a presentation on “Consumer Right to Basic Necessities: Tackling Malnutrition & Poverty (Developing a Campaign)” . There was a session on IDD with participation from WHO/UNICEF/MI/ICCIDD. ICCIDD provided technical support to Consumer Coordination Council in organizing this event and also helped in developing IEC material.
14.14	XXIX Apical Selection Committee Meeting in the specialty of Community Medicine of Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, J & K on 29 th August, 2005 – Meeting with DGHS & Health Secretary on IDD activities.
14.15	IDD Symposium on “Building Partnerships for Sustainable Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in India” at Nagpur on 4 th September 2005.
14.16	Guest of honour during the Inauguration Ceremony of Wagad Hospital at Bhachau, Kutch, on 17 th September, 2005 (Major Salt producing area)
14.17	Scientific Seminar on Common issues of Public Health Importance from 27-28 Sept.’ 05 at Kolkata (Indian Public Health Association).
14.18	State Task Force Meeting of IDD in Patna, Bihar on 4 th October, 2005
14.19	CII National Committee on Population and Health on 25 th – 26 th October, 2005 at Mumbai
14.20	National Conference on “Strategies to Eradicate Malnutrition for Health and Economic Development” held on 28 th – 29 th October, 2005 at New Delhi
14.21	Delivered 32 nd Kamla Puri Sabharwal Memorial Lecture on “Partnerships for Public Health: Linking Knowledge to Action” – Progress with respect to Sustaining Elimination at Lady Irwin College on 25 th November, 2005.
14.22	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a National Conclave on “Towards Millennium Development Goals on Health” held on 29 th November 2005 at Hotel Crown Plaza, New Delhi. Dr. Pandav Made a presentation on “Case Studies on Public Private Partnership in Health” .