

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

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

2006

by

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Introduction

The year 2006 has been filled with increased activities. The most important of these was the 21st ICCIDD Board Meeting, held on 20-21 April, 2006 at India Habitat Center, New Delhi.

Another important event was the announcement of the formation of “National Coalition for Sustained Iodine Intake (NCSII)” for India. The Secretary Health, Mr. P.K. Hota would be the Chairman of the Coalition.

Since its inception ICCIDD has played a pivotal role in the endeavor of global elimination of IDD. To facilitate these experiences the meeting provided a platform in furthering the dissemination of experiences, especially those related to success stories of National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Elimination Programmes.

At the Governmental level, there has been steady demand for professional advice and support for both planning and implementation. Most importantly, Government has reinstated the ban on the sale of Non Iodised Salt, meant for human consumption w.e.f. 17 May, 2006. Advocacy with the Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Health are being undertaken to reduce the import duty on Potassium Iodate.

There have been increased laboratory-based activities. Technical support has been provided to desiring industry units. Salt testing kits have been distributed all over the country. Samples from surveys conducted by UNICEF and ICCIDD-AIIMS at Jharkhand have been analyzed. Training has been imparted to officials from Baroda and Rajasthan.

The Fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for WHO-SEA Region was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 22-25 August 2006. ICCIDD made a statement in this session.

The Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, Sri Lanka organized a Consultative Meeting at Colombo on 5 September, 2006 to “Review and Develop New strategies of the Salt Iodisation Programme in Sri Lanka.” The visit to Sri Lanka provided an opportunity to meet the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

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

On behalf of my team, I take pleasure in presenting the Regional Report-2006 and solicit your comments and feedback.

Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav

Regional Coordinator (South Asia)

International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders

Report of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asia Region

Summary Format

Section	Nomenclature	Pages
	Introduction	
	Report in Summary format	
1	Policy & Advocacy	
1.1	<p>Exhibition: 21st ICCIDD Board Meeting, 20-21 April, 2006, New Delhi</p> <p>An exhibition was organized as part of the 21st ICCIDD Board Meeting at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Salt Producers and Potassium Iodate Manufacturers were given a platform to exhibit their products and got a chance to interact with the National & International Agencies, Private Sector, Consumer Organizations and the Board Members of ICCIDD.</p>	
1.2	<p>Ban on Sale of Non Iodised Salt Reinstated</p> <p>The sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption will not be allowed in the country from May 17, 2006. The Union Health Ministry had issued a notification to this effect on November 17, 2005 and the ban was to come into force after six months, i.e. from 17 May, 2006. ICCIDD along with UNICEF played a key role in reinstating the ban. ICCIDD has also filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court.</p>	
1.3	<p>Response to Newspaper Article “Iodised Salt and India”, Translated from an article printed in Marathi News Daily, “Sakaal”</p> <p>An article on, “Iodised Salt and India” written by Mr. Suryakant Pathak was published in the daily edition of Sakaal (one of the leading Marathi newspaper of Maharashtra) on 26th May, 2006. Thereafter, two responses on the article were also published in Sakal. The responses provided the answers to few questions raised by Mr. Pathak. Additional issues raised by Mr. Pathak are written in Marathi and are translated by Ms. Smita Pandav.</p> <p>Headquartered in Pune, the Sakaal Group is a vast media syndicate that has made a vivid imprint on the media canvas. With six core publications extensively covering Maharashtra and Goa and an e-paper assiduously accessed by Netizens everywhere, the Sakaal Group has a phenomenally wide penetration and reach.</p> <p>Maharashtra is one of the states where there is partial ban on sale of non iodised salt. It is also a state where there is lot of opposition to USI and legislation from NGOs, Salt Producers and also Scientists.</p>	

1.4	<p>36th Annual Conference of Endocrine Society of India (ESICON), 17-19 November, 2006, Jaipur</p> <p>The Endocrine Society of India organized its 36th Annual Conference from 17-19 November, 2006 at B. M. Birla Science & Technology Center, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Dr. Arijit Chakrabarty of ICCIDD attended this conference. The conference provided an opportunity to exchange the experience, find new technology in the field of relevant medical science and open new doors to mitigate the human suffering. The scientific deliberations during the conference were very useful for all delegates. The knowledge can be utilized for the care / protection of the endocrine problems and “Keeping the Science Fresh”.</p>	
1.5	<p>Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Congress Party of India, Lauds NGOs’ Role in Development, 23-24 November, 2006, Tirupathi</p> <p>“Community organizations should play an active role in implementing various development and welfare programmes of the Government meant for the upliftment of the deprived sections of the society” – Sonia Gandhi.</p> <p>Inaugurating the three day Annual Summit of Akhil Bharat Rachanatmak Samaj (ABRS) and Silver Jubilee celebrations of Rashtriya Seva Samithi (RASS) at Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh, Sonia Gandhi also emphasized the role of these organizations in strengthening the Panchayati Raj system by improving skills of women Self Help Groups (SHG).</p> <p>A team from ICCIDD attended this summit. ICCIDD was provided a stall to exhibit its literature on IDD and demonstrate the use of Salt Testing Kit to the people who attended this important event.</p>	
1.6	<p>Letter to Sri Sri Ravishankar in reply to his apprehensions regarding Universal Salt Iodisation</p> <p>A letter was written to Sri Sri ravishankar in response to an online petition filed against iodisation of salt by the “Art of Living” foundation. We have received a positive response. Effort is on to speak to the “Guruji”.</p>	
1.7	<p>Letter to Indian Airlines to use and print Iodised Salt in the packets used by them.</p> <p>A letter was written to the National Carrier, Indian Airlines for printing Iodised Salt in the salt sachets used by them and an acceptance from them has been received.</p>	
1.8	<p>Spreading Awareness on IDD, Bharat Scouts & Guides, 23 August 2006, Godpuri, Haryana</p> <p>An awareness workshop was organized in Godpuri village of Haryana in collaboration with our partners Bharta Scouts and Guides.</p>	

1.9	<p>Exploring Opportunities for IDD Awareness Campaign, 05 September, 2006, Sonapat, Haryana</p> <p>A tem from ICCIDD was sent to Sonapat in Haryana to explore opportunities for spreading IDD awareness campaign.</p>	
2	ICCIDD Press Briefing	
2.1	<p>Launch of “National Coalition for Sustained Iodine Intake (NCSII)”, Press briefing at India Habitat Centre, 20 April, 2006, New Delhi</p> <p>The 21st International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders Board Meeting became an occasion to launch the National Coalition for Sustained Iodine Intake The coalition has representation from the Government of India, Judicial Bodies, Civil Society organizations and Salt Producers from across the country. It is being supported by ICCIDD and UNICEF.</p>	
3	Government	
3.1	<p>Letter to Ministry of Railways, 11 May, 2006</p> <p>Approached Ministry of Railways to continue Category “B” priority for movement of Iodised Salt Transportation, Letter to Mr. J. P. Batra, Chairman Railway Board.</p>	
3.2	<p>Letter to Advisor Nutrition, Ministry of Health, 20 July 2006</p> <p>A letter was written to the focal person in NIDDCP assuring continued support to the Governments endeavor for USI.</p>	
3.3	<p>Letter to Salt Commissioner, Government of India, 20 July, 2006</p> <p>A letter was written to the Salt Commissioner, Government of India, assuring continued support to the Departments work in the country’s Salt Iodisation Programme.</p>	
3.4	<p>Letter to Chairman, National Knowledge Commission, Mr. Sam Pitroda, 28 July 2006</p> <p>Following the lead given by the Executive Director of ICCIDD, David P. Haxton, a letter was sent to Chairman, National Knowledge Commission to explore ways in which the Commission can support the national priority to achieve Universal Salt Iodisation and to sustainable elimination of IDD.</p>	
3.5	<p>Approached Ministry of Commerce & Industry to exempt the import duty on Iodine, 21 August, 2006</p> <p>A letter was given to the Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Dr. A.K. Dua, requesting for bringing down the import duty on Iodine meant for production of potassium iodate.</p>	

4	Studies & Surveys	
4.1	<p>Double Fortified Salt Distribution (DFSD) through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in Chhattisgarh-An Assessment</p> <p>Iron Fortified Salt Distribution Scheme is being implemented in the state of Chhattisgarh since 2003. It was necessary to perform an assessment of this project for 2 reasons. First, this could give some recommendations on the process of its implementation and its overall impact on the performance indicators. Secondly, it would help the state to decide whether this scheme should be continued in Chhattisgarh. Thus, recommendations from this evaluation research would be useful in giving appropriate direction to the project.</p>	
4.2	<p>Tracking Progress Towards Sustainable Elimination of IDD in Jharkhand</p> <p>A dissemination workshop was held on 17th November, 2006 at the SKIPA hall, Ranchi to disseminate the results of the state wide study carried out for Tracking Progress Towards Sustainable Elimination of IDD in Jharkhand.</p>	
4.3	<p>Tracking Progress Towards Elimination of IDD in Sikkim</p> <p>A study on Tracking Progress Towards Sustainable Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in Sikkim is in progress. The field survey has been completed. Samples of urine and salt are being analyzed at AIIMS. The study is being conducted by ICCIDD in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim.</p>	
5	Collaboration	
5.1	<p>ICCIDD-MII-USI Project in collaboration with Micronutrient Initiative India (MII), New Delhi, started from May 2006</p> <p>The major heads of the activities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement and Distribution of KIO3 2. Repairs and Rehabilitation 3. Establishment of Laboratory, Equipments, Chemicals 4. Advocacy and Dissemination Workshops 	
6	Laboratory	
6.1	Analyzed 2310 salt samples from UNICEF, 28 March-20 April, 2006	
6.2	Prepared 20,000 salt testing kits for HLL, 05-25 May, 2006	
6.3	Analyzed 1205 salt samples from Jharkhand, 07-20 June, 2006	
6.4	Analyzed 1121 urine samples from Jharkhand, 21 July-31 August, 2006	
6.5	Analyzed the results and prepared report, 12-15 September, 2006	
6.6	Analyzed 80 samples from INMAAS, 06-09 October, 2006	
6.7	Trained 2 girls Ms. Kejal Joshi and Ms. Chitr Niyati from M.S. University, Baroda in Urinary Iodine Estimation using simple microplate method, 13-14 October, 2006	

6.8	Analyzed 95 urine samples from M.S. University, Baroda, 01-13 November, 2006	
6.9	Analyzed 60 urine samples from Institute of Home Economics, New Delhi, 18-20 November, 2006	
6.10	Training to Dr. Madhu B. Singh, Assistant Director, Desert Medicine Research Centre, Jodhpur in Urinary Iodine Estimation Technique using simple microplate method, 04-08 December, 2006	
6.11	Analyzed 160 samples from INMAAS, 05-06 December, 2006	
6.12	Analyzed 80 urine samples from INMAAS, 12 December, 2006	
6.13	Training of Chemist at Bhubaneshwar Salt Department Laboratory. Subsequent establishment of laboratory at Bahuda Salt Society in Bhubaneshwar planned	
7	Legal	
7.1	Public Interest Litigation in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Running into its 4th year, it is still pending. However, an early decision is now expected in view of the reinstatement of ban on sale of non iodised salt for human consumption.	
8	Regional	
8.1	Bangladesh: Fifty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, 22-25 August, 2006, Dhaka The Fifty-ninth session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for WHO-SEA Region was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 22-25 August 2006. It was attended by representatives of all the eleven Member States of the Region, UN and other Agencies, Non-Governmental organizations having official relations with WHO as well as Observers. A total of 73 Participants and Observers attended the meet. ICCIDD was represented by Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav, Regional Coordinator (South Asia) who made a statement at the meet.	
8.2	Sri Lanka: Consultative Meeting to "Review and Develop New strategies of the Salt Iodisation Programme in Sri Lanka, 05 September, 2006, Colombo The Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, Sri Lanka organized a Consultative Meeting at Colombo on 05 September, 2006 to "Review and Develop New strategies of the Salt Iodisation Programme in Sri Lanka." Presentations included Recent Survey Report of the Medical Research Institute, Department of Healthcare and Nutrition, Work related to Iodised Salt in Food Control Unit of Ministry of Health, Research on Thyroid Antibodies in School Children and Experiences of IDD Elimination in other Countries.	
8.3	Sri Lanka: Meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa Dr. Pandav apprised the President of the ICCIDD-MI initiative in Sri Lanka to improve the quality of iodised salt on a sustainable basis. Dr. Pandav congratulated the President for the successful progress towards sustainable elimination of IDD.	

9	International	
9.1	<p>Spain: Nutrition 2006, Barcelona, I World Congress of Public Health Nutrition / VII Congress of the Spanish Community Nutrition Society, 28-30 September, 2006, Barcelona</p> <p>Nutrition 2006, Barcelona was a landmark event organized by the Spanish Society of Community Nutrition (SENC) in collaboration with the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), solely dedicated to address issues in the area of Public Health Nutrition from a worldwide perspective.</p>	
10	IT Based Programmes	
10.1	<p>Website of the Indian Coalition for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders www.iqplusin.org</p> <p>Regular update of the website. All the IQ+ Jagriti Newsletters are available in the PDF format</p>	
11	Communication	
11.1	<p>Information material [e.g. ICCIDD Newsletter, Brochures “Pink booklet (10,000 copies), 20 Questions, Poster Sets, Video CDs] have been distributed on a regular basis to Government Departments, Network Members, Missions, Professional Bodies, Industry, Medical Colleges, Home Science Institutes and other Stakeholders.</p> <p>To increase the outreach, Pink Booklet has been translated in regional languages, Hindi and Gujarati. The Tamil and Oriya versions are also in the process of translation and will soon be available for distribution.</p>	
12	Regional Newsletter	
12.1	IQ+ Jagriti, the Regional Newsletter. Three issues have been printed this year. The fourth issue is ready for printing	
13	International Newsletter	
13.1	IDD Newsletter. Three issues have been printed this year. The fourth issue is being printed. The International Newsletter is now being printed in India	
14	Conferences / Workshops	
14.1	Regional Consultation Meet on Nutrition for Northern States/UT, 09-10 January, 2006, Chandigarh	
14.2	Micronutrient Situation Analysis for USAID/India, Technical Advisory Group Meeting, 09 January, 2006, New Delhi	
14.3	International Conference on Salt, “Salt 2006”, organized by CII, 20-21 January, 2006, Ahmedabad	
14.4	USAID A-Z Programme, 20 January, 2006, New Delhi	
14.5	Joint National Conference of IPHA & IAPSM, 21-24 January, 2006, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh	

14.6	“21 st ICCIDD Board Meeting”, Coordination Meeting at MI, 27 January, 2006, New Delhi	
14.7	“21 st ICCIDD Board Meeting”, Conference call from Ottawa, 28 January, 2006, New Delhi	
14.8	“21 st ICCIDD Board Meeting”, Coordination Meeting, 06 February, 2006, New Delhi	
14.9	Feasibility of Commercial Production & Marketing of DFS, 08 February, 2006, ICMR, New Delhi	
14.10	Meeting with leading Columnist, Mr. Kuldeep Nayyar, 18 March, 2006, New Delhi	
14.11	Micronutrient Investment Plan: Planning Meeting, 20 March, 2006, New Delhi	
14.12	Meeting with leading Columnist, Mr. Kuldeep Nayyar, 30 March, 2006, New Delhi	
14.13	Nutrition Co-ordination Committee meeting, 3-4 April, 2006, ICMR, New Delhi	
14.14	“National Coalition for Sustained Iodine Intake” (NCSII), Planning Meeting with Mr. P.K. Hota 07 April, 2006, New Delhi	
14.15	Feasibility of Commercial Production & Marketing of DFS, 12 April, 2006, ICMR, New Delhi	
14.16	Nutrition Task Force, 17 April, 2006, ICMR, New Delhi	
14.17	Launch of National Coalition for Sustained Iodine Intake (NCSII), 20 April, 2006, New Delhi	
14.18	“21 st ICCIDD Board Meeting”, 20-21 April, 2006, New Delhi	
14.19	“Acceleration of USI in India”, 22 April, 2006, New Delhi	
14.20	USI in UT of Chandigarh, Punjab & Haryana-Role of Medical Colleges, 24-25 April, 2006, Chandigarh	
14.21	Tracking Progress in West Bengal-Preliminary Discussion, 28 April, 2006, Kolkata	
14.22	Discussions with Small Scale Iodised Salt Producers, 03 May, 2006, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	
14.23	Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS Golden Jubilee Celebrations-Contribution of AIIMS in USI, 23-24 June, 2006	
14.24	NCSII, Interagency Meet, 26 June, 2006, New Delhi	
14.25	ICCIDD-MII Project Meeting, 30 June, 2006, New Delhi	
14.26	Meeting with Salt Producers of Tamil Nadu and Salt Commissioner, 12-13 July, 2006, Chennai	
14.27	Meeting with Opinion Leaders, 15 July, 2006, Pune	
14.28	“Strengthening Public Policy to Manage Emerging Health Challenges”, 19-21 July, 2006, New Delhi	
14.29	Meeting with WHO-SEAR, RD, 26 July, 2006	
14.30	IDD in Maharashtra, 02 August 2006, Mumbai	
14.31	Field Visit for Tracking Progress in Chandigarh, Punjab & Haryana, 15-16 August, 2006	
14.32	59 RC Meet of WHO-SEAR, 21-25 August, 2006, Dhaka	
14.33	Consultative Meeting: “Review and Develop New Strategies of the Salt Iodisation Programme in Sri Lanka, 02-06 September, 2006, Colombo	
14.34	Meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, 05 September, 2006	

14.35	Newborn Screening Programmes, 6-7 September, 2006, New Delhi	
14.36	Feasibility of Commercial Production & Marketing of DFS, 08 September, 2006, ICMR, New Delhi	
14.37	Ghantiwala Salt Manufacturers Association - Un-organised Sector of Gujarat Salt Industry, 08 September, 2006, Ahmedabad	
14.38	5th National Conference of IAP Chapter on "Growth Development & Behavioral Pediatrics", 9 September, 2006, New Delhi	
14.39	1 st Western Region Panel Meeting of Iodised Salt Producers, 09 September, 2006, Ahmedabad	
14.40	Awareness Workshop for Salt, Iodised Salt Producers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, 12 September 2006, Visakhapatnam	
14.41	Geospatial Communication Network Mapping-Possible Role in USI, 12 September, 2006	
14.42	Meeting with RD, WHO-SEAR, 13 September, 2006, New Delhi	
14.43	Field Visit to Orissa, 14 September, 2006	
14.44	Spain: Nutrition 2006, Barcelona, I World Congress of Public Health Nutrition / VII Congress of the Spanish Community Nutrition Society, 28-30 September, 2006, Barcelona	
14.45	Interactive Session on Production of Adequately Iodized Salt in Gujarat, 06 October, 2006, Gandhidham	
14.46	Meeting with Smt. Rita Teatota, Joint Secretary MoH & FW, 10 October, 2006, New Delhi	
14.47	Meeting with Mr. P.K. Hota, Secretary MoH & FW, 17 October, 2006, New Delhi	
14.48	The Micronutrient Initiative launches India Micronutrient National Investment Plan for 2007-11, 19 October, 2006, New Delhi	
14.49	National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (NIDDCP) Workshop, 26-27 October, 2006, New Delhi	
14.50	Workshop on Childhood Obesity and Nutrition by MARG, 28 October 2006, New Delhi	
14.51	1 st ICCIDD Southern Region Panel Meeting, 04 November, 2006, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu	
14.52	36 th Annual Conference of Endocrine Society of India (ESICON), 17-19 November, 2006, Jaipur	
14.53	Field Visit to Salt Producing Areas of Nagaur District in Rajasthan, 19-21 November, 2006, Jaipur	
14.54	Mrs. Sonia Gandhi Lauds NGOs' Role in Development, 23-24 November, 2006, Tirupati	
14.55	Inter-country Participatory Workshop, 4-6 December, 2006, Jaipur	
14.56	Workshop on Iodine Deficiency and Mental Retardation, 11 December, 2006, Gorakhpur	
14.57	National Workshop on Recent Advances in Nutrition, Micronutrient Deficiency, Diet Related Chronic Non Communicable Disorders and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle, 14-15 December, 2006, New Delhi	