

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

Report of the Regional Co-ordinator,
South Asia Region

January – December 2004

by

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Report in Summary Format

Section	Nomenclature
1	Policy, Advocacy & Empowerment Programs
1.1	Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi has organized a three-day program from 23-25 th April, 2004. The theme was “Ten Years of Women’s Political Empowerment: The Journey Ahead” which was chosen as part of the Women’s Political Empowerment Day Celebration. Elected women Panchayat Presidents etc. from all over the country participated in the program. ICCIDD participated in the program. We had put up a stall for display and demonstration and conducted interactive sessions.
1.2	M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, in collaboration with Ministries of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, food and Public distribution, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, United Nations World Food Program, FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development, has organized the National Food Security Summit. His Excellency, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India has delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav made a presentation on 4 th February,2004. The topic of his presentation was “Malnutrition : What it costs the Nation” in the Technical Session with the theme of “understanding the Critical Dimensions of the Life Cycle”.
1.3	IndiaCLEN Strategic Plan Meeting was held at Hotel Claridges New Delhi from 10 th -12 th Mar 2004. ICCIDD participated and made a presentation on 10 th March on the theme of ‘Micronutrients’.
1.4	IndiaCLEN organized a workshop on Micronutrient Malnutrition Control in India : Workshop on Developing operation Research Project”, in New Delhi from 26 th - 28 th March 2004. ICCIDD team led by Dr. C.S.Pandav actively contributed in the program and also made a presentation on the theme “Iodine Deficiency Disorders in India : From Policy to Program”.
1.5	Protocol Development Workshop on “Rural Private Medical Practitioners” at Lucknow – 2-4 April 2004. Dr. .S.Pandav attended the program.
1.6	Government of Uttaranchal had requested MOST/USAID to help develop a training module to Anganwadi workers, “ Job Training Curriculum for Anganwadi Workers”, of the Integrated Child Development Service Program. Thus, a workshop was organized at Light House Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 6 th April 2004 with a view to further better the Module. Key objectives of the revised syllabus were to better prepare them to deliver the set of services under Integrated Child Development Services Program. ICCIDD team participated in the deliberations.

1.7	Nutrition Foundation of India held a Workshop on Nutrition in the Medical Curriculum in New Delhi – 28-30 March 2004. The objectives of the Workshop were to improve the existing medical curriculum with emphasis on “Nutrition in the Medical Curriculum”. The major areas covered were (1) Preclinical Area, (2) Clinical Area and (3) Preventive Medicine and Public Health/ICCIDD made significant contributions at the workshop.
1.8	A Regional Workshop on the theme of Sustaining Iodine Deficiency Disorders elimination through Universal Salt Ionization in the North-Eastern Region” was held in Guwahati on 25 th and 26 th June, 2004. Major national and international organizations, including UNICEF, The MI and ICCIDD participated in the proceedings along with state and national institutions. The culmination of the workshop was marked by the document, “THE NORTH-EASTERN DECLARATION”. The full text of the declaration is included in the text of the report being mailed later.
2	Government
2.1	As Principal Investigator, visited INDO-RAMA Project titled “Establishment of Sentinel Surveillance system for cardiovascular diseases in industrial population” Nagpur – 1-4 Jan 2004. This gave ICCIDD an extended platform to share the experiences and challenges in the field of IDD elimination
2.2	The three workshops were held between January 2004 to April 2004, at three centers of Tuticorin, Gandhidham and Jaipur. About 60 laboratory personnel from 26 laboratories attended the workshops at these 3 centres (twenty at each center). The four days workshop was organized to give the participants the theoretical background of salt iodine estimation procedures, with the addition of, “hands on experience” in carrying out the iodine estimation in salt, including the preparation of reagents and internal quality assessment protocols.
2.3	International Conference on Edible Salt, Jaipur – 14 February, 2004. His Excellency, the Governor of Rajasthan has inaugurated the event. Dr. Denish Moorthy of ICCIDD made presentation entitled “Tracking Progress Through Sustaining Elimination of IDD” on the 14 th February, 2004. There were twenty presentations by leading experts.
2.4	Attended the workshop held at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad – 17 Mar 04 This was a Workshop on National Dissemination of Impact Evaluation of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country. Secretary (Health) Government of India, Director General, Indian Council of Research and other senior policy making level functionaries attended. Dr. C.S.Pandav represented ICCIDD and contributed.
2.5	The Indian State of Chattisgarh has introduced the scheme of distributing through public distribution system (PDS) the ‘Chattisgarh Amrut Namak’ brand of iodized salt to below poverty line population in the state. Started on 26 th January 2004 (Republic Day of India), it initially catered to 9,40,000 families and later extended to 19,61,000 families on 15 th August 2004 (Independence Day of India). It is priced at 25 paise per k.g. (as low as 0.5 cents!)

2.6	The Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (TNSC) is a wholly owned enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu, India. The TNSC was established with the dual objective of generating employment opportunities for the vulnerable segments of society, as well as to exploit the potential natural resources for production of salt and salt-based by products. During the past decade, TNSC has been associated with the implementation of the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program (NIDDCP). TNSC contributes to this program by supplying iodized salt to the most vulnerable sections of the population through the Public Distribution System (PDS). TNSC also supplies iron fortified and double fortified salt (iron and iodine) through the mid day meal scheme (Noon Meal Program) to the school children. This has been possible with the help of international aid agencies in the field of promoting micronutrients.
3	Industry
3.1	The apex industry body, Confederation of Indian Industries (Western Region) has called for a 'National Conference on Salt' at Ahmedabad on 17 and 18 December, 2004. Among the experts, Dr.C.S. Pandav was slotted to lead a session on "Role of International NGOs in Prevention on IDD". Due to Winter Session of Parliament, this will now be held on 28 and 29 January, 2005, so that senior level participation is possible.
4	Laboratory
4.1	ICCIDD Laboratory is providing regular quality assurance support to various salt manufacturing units from across the country. This is in addition to the regular laboratory activities being carried out.
5	Fresh Initiatives
5.1	A statewide survey in the Indian State of Rajasthan was conducted during the year 2004. The detailed report is being sent separately.
6	Collaboration / Partnership
6.1	Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India organized the National Partners Meeting on 7 Aug 2004 at New Delhi. ICCIDDD made a Statement on Partnership at the Meeting, which inter-alia states "We Pledge Our Commitment to the Partnership".

6.2	The regional Office has brought out publication entitled “ Partnership : Key to Success & Sustainability – An Development Sector Experience. This is an experience sharing of successful partnership of ICCIDD with Bharat Scouts and Guides .This experience sharing highlights, Partnerships enrich and strengthen programs and enlarge the reach in implementation. This is especially relevant in situations where stakes are high and resources are limited. It has particular importance in the context of activities in the social and development sector. A public health program, such as elimination of iodine deficiency disorders, which has pointed significance to the health, and development of the nation’s population, is one such example.”
7	School-Based Programs
7.1	HRIDAY – SHAAN, an NGO engaged in health awareness and capacity building programs, especially among students and youth, in association with the American Cancer Society organized a Students’ Parliament on Health Awareness at the Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, AIIMS in New Delhi on Thursday, the 7 th September, 2004. This is one of the parliaments being organized on regional basis and will be culminated with national parliament in April 2005. There were 500 high school grade students and their teachers from various Delhi schools participated. ICCIDD has negotiated to put up an exhibition and demonstration booth to highlight various aspects of IDD and iodized salt.
7.2	ICCIDD has participated in the Bharat Scouts & Guides program “Seminar on Community Development Project and Services” on 11 th October, 2004 at the National Youth Centre, Gadpuri in the state of Haryana. The Session started with introductory speech by Dr. Sai Prabhawati, Deputy Director, BSG and Leader of the event. . This was followed by theme setting and presentation on Iodine Deficiency Disorders by Mr. Peter Parekattil.
8	Conferences / Workshops
8.1	48 th All India Annual Conference of Indian Public Health Association was held in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa from 24-26 January 2004. This is an important annual feat of public health professionals. One of the highlights of this year’s program was the sharing of ICCIDD project of Orissa state survey
8.2	Symposium on Nutrition Challenges Ahead – Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University – 5 Feb 2004. The symposium was organized by Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi. This was organized by the Department of Food and Nutrition of Institute and was supported by the MI. Dr. Chandrakant Pandav made a presentation entitled “Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in India : A Success Story”.

8.3	Inclen Global Meeting, Agra, India – 11-14 Feb 2004. The Twentieth Global Meeting of International Clinical Epidemiology Network was held with participants from across the globe. The core theme of the Meeting was “Leveraging Research through Policy and Practice”. It was organized by the IndiaCLEN (Indian Clinical Epidemiology Network), of which Dr. Chandrakant Pandav is active Member and is Director of CEU, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He also contributed as Member of the Overall Organizing Committee and was solely responsible as Member of the Publicity Committee. In the sessions proper, Dr. Pandav was the lead Resource Person for the Session “Health Economics : Health Economics in Developing Countries”.
8.4	International Symposium on Thyroid Disorders, Nepal, 20 th to 22 nd February, 2004 - The Symposium was organized at Manipal College of Medical Sciences and Teaching Hospital, Pokhara, Nepal. Dr. Chandrakant S. Pandav served the Symposium as an International Invited Faculty. The major aim of the international symposium was “Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the form of various thyroid disorders. The symposium provided platform to discuss this at length with eminent endocrinologists, surgical endocrinologists and faculties of other disciplines to tide over the two-pronged diagnostic and therapeutic dilemma. A total of over 150 health practitioners attended.
8.5	Attended half day Seminar on “Research Methods in Clinical Epidemiology” in the Auditorium of Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi – 24 Mar 2004. Dr. C.S.Pandav and team made presentation entitled “ Research Questions and Hypothesis Interface between Population Health and Clinical Medicine”.
8.6	National Multisectoral Workshop on National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program (NIDCCP) was held in New Delhi on 27 th February on 2004.Dr. C.S.Pandav attended the meeting.
8.7	31 st Annual Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) was held at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGI) in Chandigarh from 27 th to 29 th February 2004. At this important annual event of public health professional in India, Dr.C.S. Pandav made a presentation and conducted interactive session on “Tracking Progress Towards Sustainable Elimination of IDD in India : Partnership at State, Regional and National Levels”.
8.8	The 8 th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology was held at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, India from 7 th October to 10 th October, 2004. Prof. M. G. Karmarkar, Senior Adviser, ICCIDD participated in the Conference & made a presentation on “ Iodine and Developing Brain ”.
8.9	International Epidemiological Association has organized the 8 th IEA Regional Scientific Meeting from 5 th to 8 th December, 2004 at Jhansi, India. Dr C.S.Pandav is scheduled to make important presentations and lead sessions.

9	Legal
9.1	Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Supreme Court – The Expert Committee (<i>on health</i>) of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has submitted its report to the Commission, which has forwarded it to the Supreme Court. The next date of hearing is not yet fixed.
10	Regional
10.1	WHO Regional Meeting was held at Maldives, Male from 6 th to 9 th September, 2004. Prof. M.G.Karmarkar, Senior Adviser, ICCIDD made a Statement on behalf of ICCIDD. The full text of the Statement is included in the detailed report.
11	International
11.1	Dr.C.S. Pandav was invited for Verification of Progress in IDD Elimination in Turkmenistan from 4 th to 12 th October, 2004. The major objectives of the assignment was to: (1) The history and present situation of National IDD in Turkmenistan, (2) The ongoing national efforts towards optimum iodine nutrition with special emphasis on USI and (3) Progress made in elimination of IDD in Turkmenistan with special attention to sustainability.
12	Social Sector / Civic Society
12.1	International Consultation on “Consumers & Water” on the occasion of The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi –on 15 th and 16 th March 2004, under auspices of the apex body of Consumer Coordination Council of India, with the support of government of India and WHO-SEARO. The theme was “Consumer and Water.” ICCIDD team participated in the two day event and Dr. Chandrakant Pandav made a presentation entitled “Water and Health”. In addition to the various governmental and international organisations’ representatives, there were large number of participants from consumer rights protection and promotions groups from all over the country. It gave ICCIDD the opportunity to enlarge the scope of activities with coming closer with these groups, who would primarily use their resources for consumer education of IDD and iodized salt.
13	Studies
13.1	4 States Survey – Goa, Bihar, Orissa (Tamil Nadu already reported in 2003 report). The detailed report is included in the full text of this report, which is being mailed separately.
14	Training

14.1	Resource Mobilization Workshop was organized by Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs (DSPRUD) from 24 th to 26thMay 2004. Dr. Finlay Craig and team from U.K. / WHO Geneva were the Resource Persons. ICCIDD attended the Workshop.
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15	Books
15.1	International Council for Control Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) has brought out a publication, entitled “Towards The Global Elimination of Brain Damage Due to Iodine Deficiency” . This is the twelfth in the series of publications of ICCIDD has in arrangement with Oxford University Press. The book presents empirical inputs and insights based on decades long research programs and implementation activities in all parts of the world. Notable is the emphasis and focus given to the developing countries. It is a commendable effort that brings out the inclusive circle of “research-policy-programme-implementation and back to research” . The Book was released at a solemn function held at the Claridges Hotel, New Delhi on Monday, the 31 st May 2004. Her Excellency, Mrs. Michelle Marginson, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission to India, released the book in the presence of a select group of audience. In her Keynote address, Mrs. Marginson traced the longstanding association of Australian Government with the ICCIDD right from the days of its inception in 1986.
16	Newsletter
16.1	The Regional Newsletter “IQ+ Jagriti” has been published four Quarterly Issues during the year 2004. This has received very good response.
17	Website
17.1	The website, “ www.iqplusin.org ” is being regularly updated with highlight of major activities and information materials.
18	Calendar – 2004
18.1	ICCIDD and Bharat Scouts and Guides has jointly brought out the wall calendar-2004 with appropriate messages and photographs. The facsimile is included in the detailed report.