Associations of Salt Producers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

JFPR: REG 9052 Project:
Sustainable Food Fortification in Central Asia and Mongolia

(Financed from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction)

SUSTAINABLE QUALITY SALT IODIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF SALT PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL ASIA

healthy food

22-24 November 2005
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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APPENDICES

Background

1. The governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan aim to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) and reduce iron deficiency anemia (IDA) and folic acid deficiency. These deficiencies are more common in Central Asia than many other developing countries. Iodine deficiency has a negative impact on fetal brain development, while iron deficiency constrains cognitive development of the younger child, and hampers mental and work performance of the older child and adult. The negative effects of iodine and iron deficiency at a young age are irreversible and affect school achievement and later productivity. Iron deficiency is also a major contributory factor for maternal mortality. Folate deficiency, also prevalent in these countries, causes neurotube defects in infants. These deficiencies have a major impact on the educability and productivity of large segments of the countries' populations, straining education and health systems, lowering productivity, and raising levels of sustained poverty.

2. The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) 9005 Regional Project (2001-2004) administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported six Central Asian countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project piloted capacity-building processes to establish a regional marketing and distribution network, and rules of trade. It also demonstrated the efficacy of a regional approach to solving common nutrition problems that inhibit human and economic development. Most of the activities were focused on a few pilot provinces in each country. Due to the direct and catalytic effects of JFPR 9005, these countries have moved toward universal salt iodization (USI) and begun fortifying wheat flour. After a decade of limited success in attempts to iodize salt, and reduce iron and folate deficiencies, JFPR 9005 created an environment of national commitment and focused its activities on these key nutritional issues. As a result, substantial increases in iodized salt production and the passage of supporting legislation were achieved in all participating countries. While only the Kyrgyz Republic and Azerbaijan had USI legislation at the beginning of JFPR 9005, Tajikistan enacted USI legislation in 2002, followed by Kazakhstan and Mongolia in 2003. Uzbekistan is drafting similar legislation. Today, the iodization level has been adjusted to the world standard, and most of the salt industries have made significant progress in arrangements for self-procurement of potassium iodate.

3. While these considerable achievements have convinced the governments and private owners of salt industries and flour mills that USI and substantial wheat flour fortification are possible, the governments and private sector also realize that these achievements may be lost if not made firm and sustainable. The JFPR 9005 experience has helped the governments and private sector identify steps required for sustainable food fortification, and clarify further developments/actions.

4. In July 2004, ADB approved US$2 million of grant assistance under the JFPR 9052 for five Asian Countries in Transition: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The goal of the Project is to reinforce and sustain the reduction of IDD, IDA and folic acid deficiency among poor children and women in Central Asia through parallel attention to supply (production and distribution); demand (public awareness and demand creation); and regulation (quality control, implementation of regulations and legislation, and trade facilitation). The specific objectives are to (i) obtain and sustain use of iodized salt by 90% of households; (ii) sustain fortification of at least one third of wheat flour consumed domestically; (iii) build capacity of the private and public sectors to produce quality fortified food; (iv) develop regulatory institutions or incentive schemes to facilitate fortification, and ensure the trade of quality fortified food among Central Asian countries; and (v) build awareness of consumers about IDD and IDA prevention, and the benefits of micronutrient-enriched food.

5. The first regional meeting of salt producers of Central Asia was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on 12-13 July 2004. The Association of Salt Producers of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of JFPR, ADB and UNICEF organized this workshop with aims to initiate and establish a dialogue among salt producing industries on several issues including regulations, standards, and policy issues related to salt iodization. Quality salt iodization requires activities in the following areas: a) commitment of the private salt industry to quality iodized salt production; b) government policies, including regulatory frameworks, inspection, taxes/tariffs and export/import procedures; c) an established quality control system on wholesale and retail trade; d) advocacy and market/promotion for salt iodization; and e) capacity building. Forty-seven participants reviewed the situation in the Central Asian countries pertaining to both large and small producers, and both beginning and existing national programs. A representative of the European Salt Association shared its experience and discussed the role of national coalitions. Representatives from the China Salt Company and the Lonestar Corporation (UK) discussed the issues of procurement of potassium iodate and salt iodization equipment by salt industries from their own funds. The conference adopted a statement that endorsed the cooperation of salt producers in the region and highlighted future steps for sustainable salt iodization and trade.

I. Objectives and Outcomes

6. The Second Regional Conference of Salt Producers of Central Asia and Mongolia entitled “Sustainable Quality Iodization in Central Asia and Mongolia” was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 22-24 November 2005. The conference’s purpose was to bring together a number of salt industry leaders and key project stakeholders from the countries in Central Asia to discuss policies required for achieving and sustaining quality iodization of the entire edible salt supplied in the countries and the region. The were to identify key issues, define appropriate future actions to expand salt iodization through effective public-private collaboration, and define the optimum roles of sponsoring agencies in enhancing public-private sector collaboration in the countries and the region. The main objectives of the conference were: (i) to improve the capacity of salt industries in Central Asia through increased production of improved quality iodized salt, thus helping to sustain the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders in the region; (ii) to provide an opportunity to regional salt, fortificant, and equipment producers to present their products, knowledge and services; and (iii) to establish networks between the salt producers and suppliers of potassium iodate and equipment (see agenda at **Appendix 1**). The workshop brought together 64 participants from five participating countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This included authorized representatives of JFPR Project Steering Committees and Working Groups, food quality control assurance experts, NGO leaders, Project coordinators, and Financial Assistants (**Appendix 2**).

7. The meeting was structured around a series of presentations that provided participants with current information about various aspects of salt iodization from the views of producers and traders, fortificant and equipment suppliers, and authorized governmental agencies. The countries represented at this meeting fully support micronutrient malnutrition elimination through food fortification programs and all, except one, have adopted national laws on mandatory universal salt iodization and approved national standards on adequate iodine content in edible salt (including salt used in food processing industries).

8. The meeting resulted in a consensus statement on actions and principles considered necessary for establishing fortification policies, at both national and regional levels, which aim to maximize access of poor families to quality iodized salt.

9. Special external sessions were devoted to the issues of project management and reporting. Grant implementation procedures regarding procurement, the engagement of consultants, auditing, and project Web-site development were reviewed to improve project implementation.

II. Opening Ceremony and Welcome Addresses

10. **Ms. Tonzillya Narbayeva**, Head of the Analytic and Information Department on Social Policy of the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU), welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan and noted that the conference was an important step for introducing food fortification. The GOU considered the implementation of the food fortification project an essential part of the long-term program on the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies. She expressed thanks to ADB, the Government of Japan and UNICEF for providing assistance in achieving universal salt iodization. While she stated that the annual production of iodized salt in Uzbekistan had reached 88 thousand tons, she also stressed that the priority task would be to ensure the quality of iodized salt, and that the role of the Association of Salt Producers would be to establish adequate quality control mechanisms. Ms. Narbayeva informed participants that during the 2004 Year of Health the draft law on universal salt iodization was drawn up and discussed with relevant ministries and governmental agencies. It would soon be considered by the Cabinet of Ministers and then, in accordance with procedure, would be passed to the Parliament for consideration and adoption.

11. **H.E.Mr. Yuichi Kasumoto**, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Uzbekistan, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Japan (GOJ), and said that it was the GOJ's honor to provide useful support for poor families. He explained that Japan extended its economic assistance to Central Asia in order to facilitate regional cooperation and expressed his hope that the economic changes would be followed by liberalization and democratization. Mr. Kasumoto stated the commitment of GOJ to assist countries in transition and to help poor families tackle micronutrient deficiencies. He added that it was very timely assistance to reduce IDD, and that international and regional cooperation was very important in highlighting new prospects for the resolving of priority problems.

12. **Mr. Sean O'Sallivan,** ADB Country Director for Uzbekistan, welcomed participants on behalf of ADB and expressed gratitude to GOU for hosting the conference; and GOJ for financing JFPR projects for Improving Health and Nutrition of Poor Mothers and Children, and for Sustainable Food Fortification. These projects, amounting nearly US$9 million, have been administered and managed since 2001 by ADB on Japan's behalf with the overall aim to improve the nutrition status of poor mothers and children. Both projects have focused on enhancing food fortification, especially the iodization of salt and the fortification of wheat flour with iron, folic acid, and other minerals. He noted that strong Government commitment and support have significantly contributed to enhancing salt iodization. When the Project was launched in 2001 only the Kyrgyz Republic and Azerbaijan had a Universal Salt Iodization Law. Since then, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan have also adopted similar legislation. Universal salt iodization laws provide salt producers with a level playing field. Once the law is enacted, salt producers need not worry about cheaper non-iodized salt produced by rival companies, and consumers can be assured of a uniform standard of iodized salt at an acceptable price. The governments also provided incentives to salt producers by removing or reducing taxes and tariffs on potassium iodate and necessary equipment.

13. While private salt producers have actively collaborated in producing iodized salt, and civil society has helped the public at large to understand the importance of consuming iodized salt, and to create demand for iodized salt, several challenges remain. Despite progress made in the last few years, the draft universal salt iodization legislation is still to be considered in the Parliament of Uzbekistan. As a result, the use of iodized salt in Uzbekistan households is much lower than that of the neighboring countries who have passed laws, and the Uzbek salt industry has yet to make the commitment to replace ADB's subsidies with its own funds. Major challenges for salt producers include securing regular supplies of reasonably priced potassium iodate, and improving the quality of iodized salt. Mr. O'Sallivan stressed the region's transition progress to a set of consistent policies and trade rules that ensures that no child would be mentally retarded for lack of iodine in its diet.

14. **Mr. Andro Shilakadze,** Deputy UNICEF Representative to Uzbekistan, noted that the cooperation and partnership had allowed Uzbekistan to increase the household consumption of iodized salt from 19% to 63%. He stressed the necessity for continued international discussions on micronutrient deficiencies to reinforce the global commitment for the benefit of children. Mr. Shilakadze also highlighted the increased role of the Salt Associations in the sustainable quality of iodized salt production, and the self-procurement of potassium iodate and fortification supplies.

III. Overview of the Salt Iodization Status

15. The four years since the Almaty Forum in October 2001 have witnessed a significant improvement in the production of iodized household salt and its supply among poor populations of the JFPR Project participating countries. The serious nature and presence of IDD, and the limited progress made toward USI, in the area prior to the Project underscored its urgent need. The Project set in each Country Investment Plan (CIP) a challenging target of iodizing 66% of the national human salt consumption. In pursuit of its target, the Project, working in close collaboration with its area partners, provided comprehensive support to the national leaderships in improving their management capacity and expanding the delivery infrastructure and operational oversight. Documented outcomes of the Project included improvements of political will and oversight; enactments of appropriate legal instruments and procedures; increased salt inspections by regulatory authorities; cost-efficient trade and tariff regulations; upgraded processing and marketing in salt supply channels; increased utilization by producers of fortificant, equipment, and packaging materials; stronger and more abundant communication and design efforts for improving the acceptance of iodized salt by poor consumers; and enhanced monitoring and evaluation capacities.

16. At the beginning of the Project household use of iodized salt varied from 19% to 30%. By 2005 though, the consumption level had reached 86% in Kazakhstan and 67% in Uzbekistan.

17. Support for JFPR Project was directed at the policy process of legislative and regulatory enactments, which in turn led to harmonious salt iodization laws in all countries except Uzbekistan. In the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan attendant regulations on taxes and tariffs were enacted, and iodized salt standards of 40±15ppm iodine were promulgated in all countries. Chemical supplies, and equipment were provided for salt and urine measurement, and numerous rapid salt iodine field tests were performed at salt enterprises, retail outlets, and in households. JFPR Project financed a series of capacity building events and workshops, and supported the design, development, and printing of numerous communication and media materials, targeted at a wide variety of beneficiary groups, learner audiences, and stakeholders. National and international expert advice and travel were fielded on explicit need, and a strong admin-finance support was maintained throughout. Support in establishing policy instruments, technology, and capacity building can serve as a model for similar programs aiming to reach the global IDD elimination goal.

18. Throughout the Project execution, ADB maintained close working relationships with UNICEF. To facilitate decisions on investments in salt iodization, UNICEF arranged for salt situation assessments in the participating countries. UNICEF project officers in each country also assisted in project activities design, and coordinated the exchange of information between partners and the country team members. UNICEF further contributed by recruiting a micronutrient assistant project officer in each of the country offices of Central Asia and trained them in the specifics of food fortification, with special reference to the aims and anticipated progress of the Project. Finally, UNICEF and JFPR supported an establishment of the Salt Producers' Associations in all the Central Asian countries, including Mongolia. During the Project period, a collaborative blend of talents, effort and support among various supportive agencies that have involved strategy analysis, capacity development, support monitoring, and technical exchanges has continued.

Table 1. Activity of Participating Salt Industries in 2004-2005

Country	2004		January-June 2005		July-September 2005	
	Active Salt Companies	Production of IS (MT)	Active Salt Companies	Production of IS (MT)	Active Salt Companies	Production of IS (MT)
Kazakhstan (2)	2	62,975	2	30,376	2	18,199
Kyrgyz Republic (6)	6	11,735	6	5,970	6	2,060
Mongolia (26)	23	7,057	14	2,794	16	1,764
Tajikistan (4)	3	22,588	3	10,080	4	9,345
Uzbekistan (13)	13	43,004	13	32,245	13	17,600
Total (51):	**47**	**147,359**	**38**	**81,465**	**35**	**48,968**

MT = metric ton

Source: Associations of Salt producers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan Country Project Office

Table 2. Consolidated data on production of iodized salt in 2004-2005

Country	Planned Annual Iodized Salt Production (MT)	2004		January – September 2005	
		Consolidated IS Production (MT)	Consolidated IS Production (%)	Consolidated IS Production (MT)	Consolidated IS Production (%)
Kazakhstan	67,391	62,975	**93.4**	48,575	**72.0**
Kyrgyz Republic	13,200	11,735	**88.9**	5,970	**45.2**
Mongolia	5,600	7,057	**126.0**	4,723	**84.3**
Tajikistan	37,650	22,588	**59.9**	19,425	**51.5**
Uzbekistan	70,000	43,004	**61.4**	49,845	**46.0**
Total	**193,841**	**147,359**	**78.2**	**128,373**	**66.2**

MT = metric ton

* The planned amount was discussed between CPOs and the food industry on the basis of agreed ratio between the desired amount (90% of consumption amount) and the production capacity of the given salt industry.

Source: Associations of Salt producers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan Country Project Office

19. While the salt industry structure in some participating countries is diverse, the practice of adding iodine in salt processing—except in rare instances—is as feasible and profitable as salt manufacturing itself, regardless of a processing enterprise's scale, size, or sophistication. The formation of a Salt Producers' Association may help ensure an equitable transfer and transparent sharing of knowledge and resources. In the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia, the formation of an association was partly a response to the tradeoff between two scenarios: total dependence for domestic iodized salt from outside sources or prohibition of iodized salt imports combined with mandatory iodization of all domestic needs in the country. However, in Uzbekistan the association continues to struggle in finding its true mandate and equitable functions, despite vigorous agency stimulation.

20. Foreign aid, by definition, was temporary and inevitably the supply of potassium iodate fortificant became the responsibility of the salt industry itself. UNICEF facilitated the self-procurement of potassium iodate by domestic salt industries through established UNICEF channels in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A manufacturer association may help maintain stable and fairly priced supplies of industry inputs, including fortificant. While the commercial purchase of fortificant by the producers, and the fully self-financed iodization of salt from the sales price paid by the consumer, could ideally and ultimately be reached, experiences in other countries with special constructions such as revolving funds or agency-

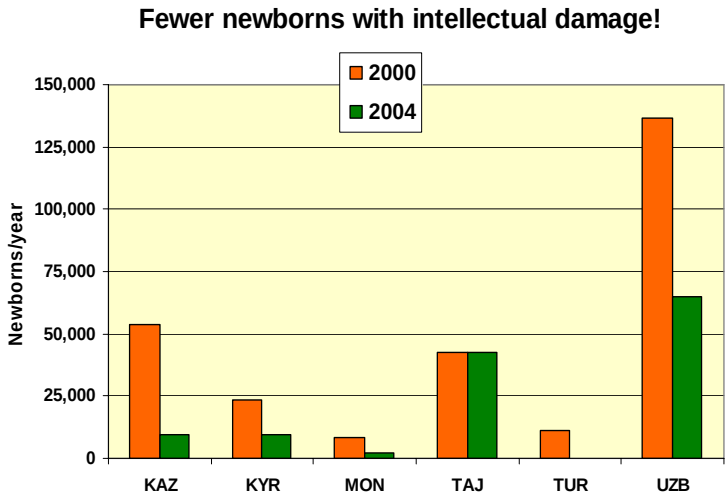
assisted procurements are generally disappointing. The solution therefore should be found in the normal commercial pricing principles that determine the supply, markets and sales through traders to consumers.

IV. Discussion Summary

(a) National IDD Prevention Policy and Quality Iodized Salt Production

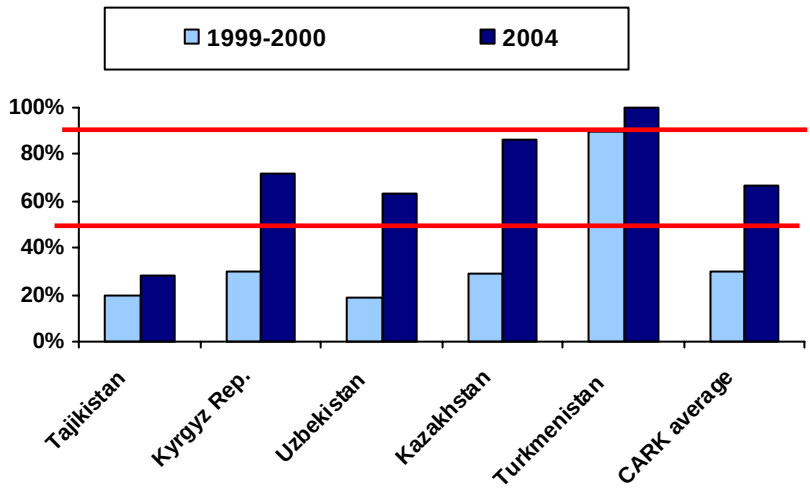
21. The short and long term consequences of micronutrient malnutrition are serious: current health and productive activities are harmed, and the potential of future generations will be damaged. Micronutrient deficiencies play a major role in mortality risk as well, especially for pregnant mothers and young children, through influence on height, size, and proper functioning of the immune system. IDD has the most substantial negative impact on the developmental capacities of children, together with protein energy malnutrition (PEM), and iron deficiency anemia (IDA). Iodine deficiency also affects the whole population as damage caused during fetal brain development permanently reduces intellectual capacity by 10-15% IQ points on average. Malnutrition, generally considered a public health problem, also restrains economic development. Micronutrient malnutrition, with its insidious effects over the life span of a child, costs a country economy up to 3% of its GDP annually. On the larger scale, this translates into an overwhelming sequence of losses in growth and human potential.

Figure 1 cit: presentation of Prof. Frits van der Haar, Emory University, USA



22. The 2001 agreement on the Prevention of IDD in CIS member states established a framework for consolidated Government actions on the sustainable elimination of IDD through universal salt iodization by 2005. When The World Health Assembly 2005 adopted its resolution on sustaining the elimination of IDD and invited regular reporting with 3-year intervals by Ministries of Health, the Central Asian countries had already made serious progress in achieving these global goals. An experts' team already confirmed that

Figure 2 **Percent of Households Using Adequately Iodized Salt in CARK (UNICEF/MOH survey based data)**



Turkmenistan had achieved the USI goal in 2004, and Kazakhstan was expected to reach the goal within the year. In 2006-2007 the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan were also expected to achieve USI, with Uzbekistan following. The recent regional forum on Maternity and Children Health (Dushanbe, September 2005) reviewed the situation and made the following specific country-tailored recommendations: adopt and implement USI legislation in Uzbekistan; address sustainability in Kazakhstan through consistent monitoring and increased education; devise a means of centrally harvesting salt from 53 small scale salt producers in the Khatlon oblast, Tajikistan; increase the household use of iodized salt in the Kyrgyz Republic through vigorous advocacy to policy makers in Kazakhstan; and establish a strong and independent Salt Producers Association in each country. The MCH Forum also stressed the necessity to transfer the responsibility for iodine premix procurement to salt producers and to setup functioning IDD committees and Salt Producers Associations with regular exchanges of information.

23. At the beginning of the Project in 2001, experience was lacking that universal salt iodization was possible and could be achieved. When the nations in the Central Asia region started with the policies of universal salt iodization, more than 275,000 infants a year were born in these countries with a significant risk of brain damage from iodine deficiency. Today, due to the progress already made in universal salt iodization, that number is about 130,000 a year, thus protecting 125,000 newborns annually from brain damage caused by iodine deficiency. When iodine deficiency remains unchecked, the national economies suffer because of increased and unnecessary costs in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases among the elderly. More importantly, infants with less intellectual ability grow up into less intelligent children, who cannot learn as much as needed, and therefore once an adult, earn and contribute less to the national economy. When the Central Asian nations began in 2001 with the policies of universal salt iodization, it was estimated that on average the national economies suffered losses of up to 1% of GDP from costs caused by iodine deficiency, or as much as US$158 million a year. However, because of the progress already made in universal salt iodization, these losses have shrunk to about US$54 million a year, and the combined savings have accumulated to more than US$100 million a year.

24. Information expansion and capacity building in the industry are needed so that improvements can continue to be made in their practices for improved procurement, manufacturing, and management of inputs and raw materials; and improved quality assurance and customer relations. The practices of salt iodization, access to iodized salt supplies, and iodized salt consumption should also be better anchored into the habits of society. Customers and consumers should be made aware of this incredibly inspiring success story, so that a demand for continued iodized salt supplies can be maintained. This would also mean that the capacity to oversee this effort at the highest government levels should become more firmly and permanently established.

25. In Kazakhstan the main policy was based on the Law on IDD Prevention and the national standard on iodized salt, which were adopted in October 2003. A set of the President's Decrees, Government Decrees and Regulations, and a National Program on IDD Prevention also supports the law. To facilitate quality salt iodization the Government adopted several measures that included eliminating taxes and tariffs on potassium iodate and salt iodization equipment, and mandating procurement of iodized salt by the health and children institutions from the public funds. In 2004, UNICEF and the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition conducted an assessment of the household use and adequacy of iodized salt in selected regions of Kazakhstan. This assessment intended to provide data on iodized salt consumption, design recommendations on communication strategies, and reinforce monitoring. The survey revealed that the average consumption of iodized salt had reached 83% of households and that 74.9% of the population was aware of the negative aftereffects of IDD on children’s mental development. All procedures of quality iodized salt production, including packaging and labeling, were implemented according to the national standards. External and internal control was arranged at production sites, and wholesale and retail

markets. In September 2005, the national Salt Producers Association was established with memberships from six salt companies. The Association plans to concentrate its activities on the protection and support of the rights and interests of its members—salt producers—with the public authorities and regulatory institutions of Kazakhstan. It is also designing a common policy of production, distribution, and trans-boundary trade. A survey revealed very low awareness of the 'Healthy Food' logo (23.1% on average, and less than 10% beyond the pilot areas). In the Southern provinces of Kazakhstan, some small private entrepreneurs were manually extracting salt and thus creating the possibilities for an adulterated product.

26. In the Kyrgyz Republic, a National Food Fortification Alliance was established to ensure political and legislative support, and to facilitate dialogue between the private and public sectors. The Government enacted the National Program on Reduction of Prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in 2003-2007; adopted the national standard on iodine content and sanitary requirements of iodized salt; and considered the reduction of taxes and tariffs on fortification equipment and premixes. Challenges faced by the program included the illegal import of non-iodized salt from Kazakhstan; low incentives for bona-fide salt producers; gaps in internal quality control systems; and the slow establishment of a mechanism for self-procurement of potassium iodate.

27. In Mongolia the Law on Salt Iodization and Prevention of IDD was adopted in October 2003 with two main stipulations: (i) only iodized salt could be sold in the territory of Mongolia; and (ii) only iodized salt could be imported to Mongolia. The Government has also revised plans for the 2nd phase of the National Program on IDD Prevention (2005-2006) and informed that during the first stage (2002-2004) knowledge among consumers on the importance of iodized salt had reached 98% and that consumption changed from 46% to 74.4%. The 3rd National Nutrition Survey (2004) also demonstrated positive changes in the health status of the population; urinary iodine concentration less than 100µg/L was identified in 52.9% of the sample; and less than 50µg/L in 17.5%. Salt purification basins were established with JFPR support in Uvs and Zavkhan aymags. Lessons learned from the first stage were the following: weak domestic salt industry; the lack of a monitoring system for IS consumption; insufficient mechanisms of quality control on imported/produced iodized salt; and the lack of information on salt production, import and distribution.

28. In Tajikistan IDD remains a serious medico-social problem. The production of iodized salt was 19,578 tons in 2000. This increased to 40,952 tons in 2003 but was only 22,588 tons in 2004. The consumption of iodized salt increased from 20% (MICS, 2000) to 72% (MOH and UNICEF survey, 2004). This resulted in visible improvements of the population's health status. The prevalence of goiter changed from 5,941 per 100,000 in 1998 to 2,619 per 100,000 in 2004. Similar data on goiter prevalence among children under 14 years changed from 7,510 (1998) to 3,000 (2004) per 100,000. Project implementation increased IDD awareness of the population, reinforced the legislative base on iodized salt production, and improved the monitoring system on iodized salt quality. However, IDD prevalence in Khatlon province and the districts under national administrative supervision (RRS) remained high, and the local administration did not fully understand the importance of universal salt iodization.

29. Uzbekistan has adopted sanitary rules regarding the contents of elementary iodine in table salt; and designed the national standard in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Salt Producers Association, and the Uzbekistan Agency on Standards. The draft USI law was revised and agreed upon with most of the ministries, and is soon to be passed for Parliament's consideration. In Uzbekistan salt iodization costs of US$0.02-0.06 per person per year are considered affordable for all poor families, when compared with one-day hospital treatment costs of about US$9 for a patient with IDD. The following health institutions, youth organizations, and NGOs involved in health promotion conducted communication and advocacy campaigns on iodized salt: The Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health, KAMOLOT Youth Movement, the Republican Center on Family Issues,

NGO Dono and NGO Salomatlik Soglik Garovy. Mass-media advertising also introduced the 'Healthy Food' logo at the community level.

(b) Quality Control over Iodized Salt Production

30. Common quality assurance and control mechanisms were developed for fortified food products. Three quality control levels were exercised: production, distribution, and consumption. Issues of harmonizing the adopted national regulations, and standards to the World trade Organization's (WTO) requirements were also discussed.

Figure 3

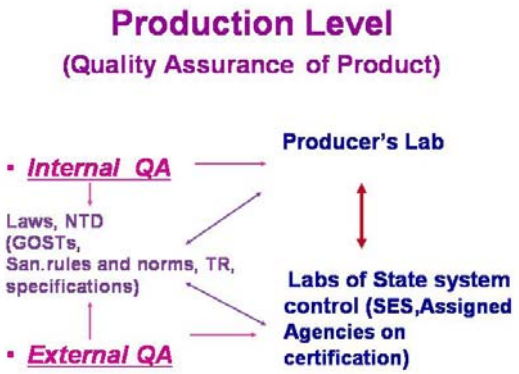


Figure 4

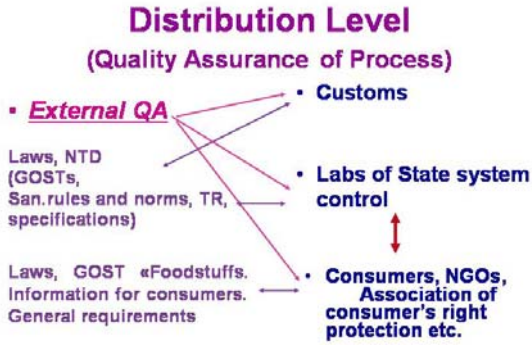
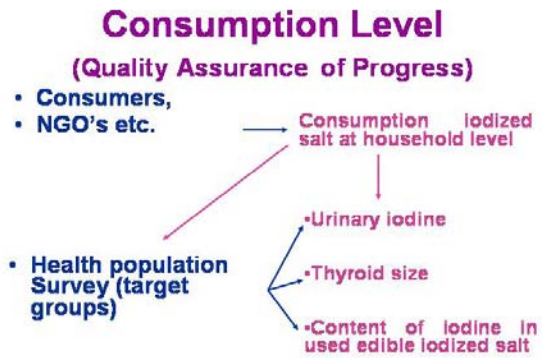


Figure 5



31. Salt producers and representatives of control agencies and public health institutions from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan shared their experiences in establishing and operating quality assurance and control systems: a united control agency in Mongolia, community involvement in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic and monitoring activities of the Institute of Endocrinology and Central SES in Uzbekistan. An overview of the internal/external monitoring on iodized salt production in participating countries is presented in **Tables 3-4**.

Table 3. Consolidated Data on Internal/External Quality Control of Iodized Salt at Industrial Sites in 2003-2005

Country	2003/2004		January – September 2005	
	Number of Tests	% of Quality Iodized Salt	Number of Tests	% of Quality Iodized Salt
Kazakhstan	3,078	100.0	1,522	100.0
Kyrgyz Republic	-	92.9	20	100.0
Mongolia	5,048	87.5	701	100.0
Tajikistan	4,891	92.7	2,912	93.5
Uzbekistan	23,095	100.0	4,507	92.8
Total:	**36,112**		**9,662**	

Source: Associations of Salt producers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan Country Project Office

Table 4. Consolidated Data on Government Quality Control of Iodized Salt at Local Market in 2003-2005 (by Sanitary Epidemiology Services and other authorized control agencies)

Country	2003/2004		January – September 2005	
	Number of Tests	% of Quality Iodized Salt	Number of Tests	% of Quality Iodized Salt
Kazakhstan	23,159	88.0	79	97.0
Kyrgyz Republic	42,992	76.5	20	73.0
Mongolia	1,631	94.0	140	99.9
Tajikistan	1,793	77.8	1,565	84.6
Uzbekistan	17,667	65.1	665	84.3
Total:	**87,242**		**2,220**	

Source: SES and Ministries of health of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia; Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

32. An MBI Kits International (India) representative made a presentation on the use and further development of salt test kits and presented the comparative results of a WHO-UNICEF study of the different salt test kits used worldwide.

(c) Needs of the Salt Industries and Procurement Issues

33. A 2000-2005 analysis, assisted by the UNICEF Supply Division (Copenhagen), of fortificant supplies, salt iodization equipment, and test kits showed that in terms of expenses, potassium iodate represented by far the largest commodity (72-95%), while the procurement of salt iodization equipment and salt test kits had decreased in comparison to the period before 2000. The unit price of test kits and potassium iodate is decreasing marginally, and test kit quantity has decreased since 2002. While potassium iodate peaked in 2003, levels in 2004-2005 were still above those of 2002. Key recipient countries for 2000-2005 were Egypt, Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Nicaragua. New international demands in KIO3 procurement (drum size and net weight, safety, and ventilation) were indicated to salt producers.

34. A presentation by the UNICEF Supply Division described UNICEF's general policy in its assistance to the USI/IDD elimination goal. In *long-term programs* UNICEF will support activities not requiring additional donor funding, namely: monitoring and disseminating new science and research results; tracking and disseminating new global level recommendations; promoting collaboration between countries/regions; and providing new updates and guidance to countries based on both personal and worldwide program experiences. In *short-term programs* UNICEF will aim to sustain progress and ensure future achievements in the countries which have achieved USI (and those close to achieving it); identify opportunities for accelerating the production and supply of iodized salt; and assist in program reviews to ensure significant progress, within a few years, in countries still facing challenges. UNICEF named the following preconditions as important to ensuring the high coverage and sustainability of USI: effective national coordination; government ownership and leadership; legislation and functioning enforcement mechanisms; industry capacity to take over recurrent costs of fortification; and IDD education as part of workplace training for relevant professionals. UNICEF encouraged food control and public health agencies to make monitoring/inspection part of their routine responsibilities, and for civil society organizations and consumers to become key actors in the program.

35. The executive managers of Ajay-SQM (Chile) and Iodobrom (Ukraine) made valuable contributions in the discussion on the following issues: the shipment and quality of potassium iodate from traditional South American deposits, the production of potassium iodate using the electrolytic method, and the current potassium iodate transportation procedures in CIS countries.

36. Salt Producers Associations shared their plans on the self-procurement of potassium iodate, and expressed their needs for salt iodization and packaging equipment. The Uzbekistan Salt Association and Ministry of Health discussed with UNICEF a revolving fund to facilitate delivery and distribution of potassium iodate to participating salt enterprises. It was noted that in Kazakhstan, the AralTuz and Pavlodar Salt companies have long experience in dealing with chemical companies on the procurement of potassium iodate. The Tajikistan Association of Food Processors shared their initial experience in a revolving fund, established with UNICEF assistance, and the Mongolian Salt Producers Association reported on its initial activities that included the dissemination of information on USI among local authorities, research institutions, salt industries, and civil society; and work with the Ministry of Finance on the elimination of taxes on the procurement of potassium iodate.

(d) Regional Cooperation and Trans-Boundary Trade

37. While two countries in the region (Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) can produce an adequate amount of quality iodized salt to meet the entire demands of Central Asian countries, the lack of modern technology at salt enterprises in Uzbekistan does not allow the country to adequately produce quality table salt, despite it having significant salt deposits. The Kyrgyz Republic also imports more than 80% of its consumed table salt.

38. The AralTuz Company (Kazakhstan) is capable of providing quality iodized salt to the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan markets, but the trade is affected by large amounts of smuggled salt trade. The AralTuz Company who previously supplied iodized salt to Uzbekistan (Tashkent city) in 2002 faced unfair competition and cancelled supplies. According to AralTuz data, about 20,000 tons of non-iodized salt from unspecified origins is supplied annually to the Kyrgyz Republic from the Zhambyl province of Kazakhstan and then labeled as table salt and shipped to the markets. Some small salt enterprises and even individual salt entrepreneurs in the region also negatively influence the quality of iodized salt, as they supply low-quality salt to the markets under the quality iodized salt label (and sometimes under false brand names). Most of this production is uncertified, and the enterprises do not have a license for salt production. There is a need for strengthening customs and fiscal control at the borders to ban the trade in non-iodized salt.

39. The Kyrgyz Salt Producers Association reported that it was thoroughly investigating illegal supplies of non-iodized salt from the Zhambyl province of Kazakhstan, which continued because of the weak border control both at the Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic customs posts. The Tajikistan Association of Food Producers supported cooperation in the region and informed about negotiations of supplies of salt to the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

40. The Second Regional Conference of Salt Producers of Central Asia and Mongolia recognized that while substantial progress has been made in the Central Asian countries in preventing and controlling IDD, much remains to be done, particularly regarding sustainable quality salt iodization. The meeting recognized that to deal successfully with IDD prevention, a combination of strategies, of which some have already proven successful, is required. Government agencies have an opportunity for vast outreach in shifting consumers' demand; the private sector has technical knowledge and marketing ability; NGOs have great field experience to share; ADB and UNICEF can access policymakers and allocate funds for undertaking micronutrient control programs. The Salt Producers Associations and leading salt companies are capable of producing quality-iodized salt and presented a plan on necessary activities for ensuring sustainable quality salt iodization in Central Asia. ADB/JFPR Project Team focal points (the country project offices and the regional coordination and administration office) presented an overview of the JFPR contribution to universal salt iodization in the participating countries.

41. A number of factors however, constrain private investment in developing markets for fortified products: weak regulatory control at customs and wholesale and retail markets; continued trade of non-iodized salt; undeveloped distribution systems in rural and remote areas; lacking regulatory systems for USI law enforcement; and most importantly, low public awareness of micronutrient malnutrition and under-developed consumer demand for fortified products. For private investors, these factors may mean high investment in development, distribution, and marketing as well as a relatively slow return. Raising awareness among consumers and the public-private sector collaboration in marketing, combined with expertise and resource sharing during product development, and attempts to lower incremental costs of salt iodization through the establishment of a mechanism for the procurement of potassium iodate by Salt Associations/salt producers may prove most crucial in reducing barriers for future collaboration.

42. Participants agreed that the established framework of regional cooperation was a very important complementary mechanism for achieving universal salt iodization, and agreed to continue the dialogue between the Salt Producers Associations and the National Fortification Alliances; and among the Salt Producers Associations in the region. National Alliances were encouraged to take a lead in partnerships with the private sector and civil society; more effectively combine tax policy support for bona-fide salt producers; and to

efficiently combine the broad communication and education programs for the general public. A final statement was discussed and amended during the closing session (see **Appendix 3**).

Recommendations:

(a) The Tashkent declaration includes reference to information that the Salt Producers Associations should share annually with their National Food Fortification Alliance. It is recommended to develop a guideline for an informational report covering: procurement of inputs; iodization capacity development in the industry; product quality assurance; sales volumes to consumer and food industry markets; and marketing/educational efforts.

(b) Various presentations by ADB/JFPR Coordinators and Salt Association officials mentioned existent and/or expected waivers of import tariffs for potassium iodate and other basic inputs for salt iodization. It is recommended to build detailed documentation of the waivers for each country; the authority that granted the waiver; their time-duration; and details of the procedure required for ensuring the validity of the waiver for a given procurement.

(c) The Tashkent declaration includes reference to “uninterrupted potassium iodate supplies” for members of Salt Producers Associations. The required self-reliance by the Associations in the purchase of inputs has not yet been resolved, however. It is recommended that in each country, the JFPR Coordinator assists the Association President in developing a 5-year projection of the KIO3 required for members; the timing for semiannual or annual purchases (given a normal delay of approx. 12-14 weeks between purchase and delivery); the administrative procedures for purchasing, obtaining tariff waivers and import clearance; building a reasonably sized buffer potassium iodate stockpile; and a scheme for increasing proportions of member payments for the collective purchases.

Appendix I

A G E N D A

SUSTAINABLE QUALITY SALT IODIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA
Second Regional Meeting of Salt Producers of Central Asia
22-24 November 2005

Monday, 21 November 2005

Arrival of participants

Tuesday, 22 November 2005

8:30-9:00 ***Registration of participants***

9:00-9:40 **Opening ceremony**
Chairperson: Mr Bakhityor Niyazmatov, Vice-Minister of Health of Uzbekistan

- Address on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan
  Ms Tonzillya Norbayeva, Information and Analytical Department for Education, Health and Social Protection, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Address on behalf of the Government of Japan
  H.E. Yuichi Kasumoto, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Address on behalf of the Asian Development Bank
  Mr Sean O'Sullivan, ADB Country Director
- Address on behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund
  Mr Andro Shilakadze, Deputy UNICEF Representative

Keynote speech: Ideas and Suggestions for Progress Toward Universal Salt Iodization in Central Asia
Frits van der Haar, Emory University, USA

9:40-11:00 **Plenary Session 1 Quality Iodized Salt Production and Trade in the Central Asia**
Chairperson: Mr Bakhityor Niyazmatov, Vice-Minister of Health,

- Overview of the salt production within the JFPR 9052 Regional Project
  Mr Rustam Muzafarov, Regional Project Coordinator

Country reports on follow-up of recommendations of the First Meeting of Salt Producers of Central Asia and Almaty Forum 2004 on Sustainable Food Fortification

- Kazakhstan
  Ms Nailya Karsybekova, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Kyrgyz Republic
  Mr Arthur Byuklianov, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Mongolia
  Ms Baasaikhuu Byambatogtokh, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Tajikistan
  Mr Abdusalom Vokhidov, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Uzbekistan
  Mr Amankul Baikulov, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator

11:00-11:20 Coffee break

11:20-13:00 **Panel Discussion A: International Procurement by Salt Industries**

Chairperson: *Mr Sarpek Eshaliev, President, Kyrgyz Salt Association*
Facilitators: *Mr Murtada Sesay, UNICEF Supply Division*
Mr Rustam Muzafarov, JFPR 9052 RCAO

- Presentation from UNICEF Supply Division

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-15:30 **Plenary Session 2 Procurement of Fortificants and Equipment by Salt Industries: Needs, Sources of Supply, National Import/Export Regulations and Financial Procedures**

Co-Chairpersons: *Mr Assylbek Bishekov, President, Kazakhstan Salt Association*
Mr John Egbuta, UNICEF Representative

Country reviews on sources of supply for premix and iodization equipment; reports on import/export regulations on chemicals and equipment; financial procedures for contracts and payments to international suppliers; proposals for improving trade and customs procedures in the region

- Kazakhstan
  Mr Assylbek Bishekov, President, Salt Producers Association
- Kyrgyz Republic
  Mr Sarpek Eshaliev, President, Salt Producers Association
- Mongolia
  Ms Ts.Bat-Erdene, President, Food Producers Association
- Tajikistan
  Mr Djabor Rasulov, Vice-President, Food Producers Association
- Uzbekistan
  Mr Gaivillo Amirkulov, Executive Director, Salt Producers Association

15:30-15:50 *Coffee break*

15:50-17:30 **Panel Discussion B: Quality Assurance and Control on Iodized Salt in Central Asia**

Chairperson: *Ms Ts.Bat-Erdene, President, Mongolian Salt Association*
Facilitators: *Dr Feruza Ospanova, KAN, prof. Frits van der Haar, Emory University,*
Mr John Egbuta, UNICEF

Issues of tests, methods and regulation strengthening,
universal use of 'Healthy Food' log in the region

19:00-21:00 *Welcome event on behalf of Salt Producers Associations of Central Asia and ADB/JFPR Regional Project*

Wednesday, 23 November 2005
VENDORS' DAY

9:30-17:30 **Presentation of Vendors**

Display and/or exhibitions of products, equipment; discussion of supplies, logistic and payments modalities

14:30-14:50 ***Keynote speech***

- Salt Test Kits: Production, Utilization and Related Issues
  Mr Dhandapani Chandrasekhar, MBI KITS International

14:50-17:00 ***Concurrent Session on draft final recommendations***
(By salt associations, leading salt producers and facilitators)

Facilitators: *prof. Frits van der Haar, Emory University, Mr Rustam Muzafarov, JFPR RCAO, Mr John Egbuta, UNICEF*

Thursday, 24 November 2005

9:00-10:40 **Panel Discussion C: Trade of Iodized Salt in Central Asia**

Chairpersons: *Mr Djabor Rasulov, President, Tajikistan Salt Association*
Mr Nurmukhan Kalamkatov, Vice-President, AralTuz Salt Company

Issues of trans-boundary trade, customs and trade procedures, taxes and tariffs

10:40-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 **Plenary Session 3: Adoption of Final Recommendations and Statement**

Chairpersons: *Mr Bakhityor Niyazmatov, Vice-Minister of Health of Uzbekistan*
Mr Rustam Muzafarov, JFPR 9052 Regional Coordinator

12:30-13:30 **Closing Ceremony**

EXTERNAL SESSIONS ON JFPR 9052 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

23 November 2005 ***External Private Session I***

9:30-13:00
- Essential Issues of CPO's Project Management for May-October 2005
  Rustam Muzafarov, Regional Coordinator
- Essential issues of CPO's Financial Management for May-October 2005
  Maksat Kystaubayev, Financial Analyst

24 November 2005 ***External Private Session II***

14:30-17:00
- Web-site review
  Rustam Muzafarov, Regional Coordinator
- Annual evaluation country workshops and RCAO evaluation missions
  Rustam Muzafarov, Regional Coordinator
- Evaluation of CPO's Management for May-October 2005
  Rustam Muzafarov, Maksat Kystaubayev, RCAO

List of Discussants at Panel Discussions

22 November, Tuesday

15:50-17:30

Panel Discussion B: Quality Assurance and Control on Iodized Salt in Central Asia

Chairperson: *Ms Ts.Bat-Erdene, President, Mongolian Salt Association*
Facilitators: *Dr Feruza Ospanova, KAN, prof. Frits van der Haar, Emory University, Mr John Egbuta, UNICEF*

- Overview of the Quality Assurance and Control on Iodized Salt in Central Asia
  Dr Feruza Ospanova, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition
- Overview of Quality Control on Iodized Salt in Kyrgyz Republic
  Mr Arthur Byuklianov, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Internal Quality Control at Kyrgyz Salt Enterprise
  Mr Shyngyzbek.Mirzakimov, Manager, Solo Co.
- Internal Quality Control at Tajikistan Salt Enterprises
  Mr Faizikhon Nozimov, Yavan Salt Enterprise.
- Internal Quality Control at AralTuz Company
  Mr Nurmukhan Kalamkatov, Vice-President, AralTuz Co.
- Monitoring of Production and Trade of Iodized Salt in Sogd and Khatlon Provinces
  Mr Abdusalom Vokhidov, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Quality Control on Iodized salt in Mongolia
  Ms Baasaikhuu Byambatogtokh, JFPR 9052 Country Project Coordinator
- Monitoring of Production, Trade and Consumption of Iodized Salt in Uzbekistan
  Prof. Said Ismailov, Director, Institute of Endocrinology
  Dr Eduard Kim, Chief of Nutrition Hygiene Division, RSES
- Follow-up of the recommendations of the IX MCH CARK Forum
  Mr John Egbuta, UNICEF

24 November, Thursday

9:00-10:40

Panel Discussion C: Trade of Iodized Salt in Central Asia

Chairpersons: *Mr Djabor Rasulov, President, Tajikistan Salt Association*
Mr Nurmukhan Kalmakatov, Vice-President, AralTuz Salt Company

- Perspective Vision of the Production and Trade of the Iodized Salt in Central Asia
  Mr Assylbek Bishekov, President, Kazakhstan Salt Association
- Raw Salt Resources and Proposals on Salt Trade
  Mr Saparbek Eshaliev, President, Kyrgyz Salt Association
- Review of the Trade and Customs Procedures in Kazakhstan in Relation to Quality Iodized Salt Production
  Mr Adilbek Akhnazarov, Director, AratlTuz Trade House
- Review of Customs Procedures in Kyrgyz Republic
  Ms Jamilya Karypbayeva, JFPR 9052 Country Financial Analyst
- Review of Customs Procedures in Tajikistan and Specific Issues of Food Export/Import
  Mr Manuchehr Kosimov, Director, Globalink Co.
- Salt producers' Vision on Partnership with Donor Agencies
  Mr Marat Saparov, Director, SozakTuz Co., Mr Abdibek Toktybayev, Tuz Co.

Appendix II

SUSTAINABLE QUALITY SALT IODIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA
Second Regional Meeting of Salt Producers of Central Asia
22-24 November 2005

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SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF SALT PRODUCERS

QUALITY SALT I ODIZATION
IN CENTRAL ASIA AND MONGOLIA

22-24 November 2005, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Representatives from salt production companies and the salt producer associations of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, having discussed the progress already made and the remaining urgency to reach sustainable quality salt iodization in Central Asia and Mongolia in the course of three-days meeting conducted with the support of the Asian Development Bank, United Nations Children Fund and Kazakhstan Academy for Nutrition approved the following principles and recommended actions:

Confirming that:

Since holding the First Meeting of Salt Producers of Central Asia less than one year ago (12-13 July 2004, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic), a significant amount of progress has been made in increasing the production, sales and consumption of quality iodized salt in the countries of Central Asia, guided by the adoption and implementation of appropriate legal frameworks and collaborative arrangements where available;

Recognizing that:

Government decisions on legislation, national programs and food fortification alliances have been effectuated in all countries. Similarly, in all countries progress has been made in formulating official regulations and guidelines on monitoring and quality control of the production, sales and storage of iodized salt for human consumption. Salt producer associations have been created in Mongolia and Kazakhstan. Compared to 1999 - 2000, the consumption of iodized salt in households has increased to the following status by 2005[1]: Kazakhstan: from 29% to 83%, Kyrgyzstan: from 30% to 41%, Mongolia: from 43% to 57%, Tajikistan: from 20% to 28%, Uzbekistan: from 19% to 56%.

Salt producers from the Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic have started procurement of the potassium iodate from their own funds; UNICEF provided the initial support for the procurement programs in Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Salt producers associations in partnership with the consumers' federations and other participating non-governmental organizations and with support by ADB and UNICEF launched monitoring of the quality of iodized salt and its wholesale and retail prices.

Recalling that:

Along with this outstanding progress, a number of challenges remain. Legislation has yet to be enacted in Uzbekistan. In all countries, difficulties continue in the procurement of potassium iodate, in ensured quality control, regulating value-added taxes and customs tariffs, and import and sales of uncertified, non-iodized salt, which substantially impede the increase of the production and sales of quality iodized salt.

[1] The data reflect the UNICEF sources, as UNICEF was authorized by the world community on IDD/USI data reference depositary

The following efforts are of key importance in each country to realize the USI goal: (i) periodic renewal of political will and commitment; (ii) continuous development of the capacity in the salt industry for quality iodized salt production and supply; (iii) transparent enforcement of legislative acts and appropriate regulations to guide national programs; and (iv) monitoring of salt iodization efforts and surveillance of iodine nutrition in the population.

Based on the international and regional experience and progress to date, the participants in this meeting reconfirm their support to the goal of ***universal salt iodization (USI)***[2] *in order to protect newborns from brain damage and reduce national economic loss. Reaching this goal will make a sizable contribution to the realization of the agreed-upon Millennium Development Goals and assist in an important way to poverty reduction in Central Asian countries. The salt producers of Central Asia, individually and through their national Salt Producer Associations, are ready to assist in ensuring these efforts on priority.* ***Therefore, they resolve to undertake the following actions:***

1. **Upholding the principle that salt production companies are responsible for achieving through USI by ensuring:**
    - ongoing improvements in quality iodized salt production;
    - promotion of iodized salt to the customers and the public;
    - un-interrupted adequate potassium iodate supplies by requesting UNICEF assistance where appropriate;

2. **Strengthen the authority of the Salt Producer Associations in its collaboration as a full partner in national salt iodization programs in each country by:**
    - promoting membership by all salt production companies in the country;
    - membership of the Chairperson in the national food fortification alliances;
    - engagement by the Association as a full participant in the processes of regulation/legislation;

3. **Strengthen the collaboration of Salt Producer Associations with the Government and other country partners by:**
    - facilitation of cross-border trade and reduction of transport costs, tariffs and value-add taxes;
    - improving of border control against illegal imports and exports of non-iodized salt;
    - continuous improvements of quality monitoring systems;
    - regular reports to the Food Fortification Alliance about the status of iodized salt supplies and submit proposals on how to improve the supply.

[2] Universal salt iodization is defined as the iodization of all salt for human and animal consumption, including the salt used in food industry