



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**19th Session
Accra, Ghana, 1-4 February 2011**

NUTRITIONAL ISSUES AT NATIONAL OR REGIONAL LEVEL

(Replies to CL 2010/45-AFRICA received from Benin, Mali, Mauritania and Seychelles)

(i) Have any specific nutritional issues within the country or region been identified such as: obesity, nutritional profiles, and have any public health oriented actions been taken including the use of nutritional labelling and claims

BENIN

Malnutrition problems exist in Benin. Iron, iodine and vitamin A supplementation measures have been adopted.

MALI

The main nutritional problems affecting Mali and sub-Saharan Africa are malnutrition and anaemia.

The Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling and its Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims are the only references used in Mali for drafting standards and regulatory texts on labelling and nutrition claims.

Mali has undertaken the following actions to deal with malnutrition and anaemia:

- Fortification of edible oils and flour with vitamin A and iron;
- Formulated supplementary foods for infants and young children;
- Iodization of cooking salts;
- A study to enhance the bacteriological quality of weaning foods in peri-urban areas of Mali;
- A study on raising the sanitary quality of street foods in Mali.

MAURITANIA

Yes, there are health problems such as obesity and malnutrition. No measure has been taken.

SEYCHELLES

The food labelling regulation of Seychelles requires that nutritional labelling and claims shall be marked on food products.

(ii) Any other relevant information**MAURITANIA**

A decree was adopted for the fortification of wheat-based staples and flour but this still has to be implemented.

(iii) Have any capacity building needs to improve the status of nutrition in the country or region been identified**MAURITANIA**

To enhance nutritional status, it is essential to conduct effective research studies on the nutritional status of the population (children, pregnant women...) and to put in place a mechanism to control the quality of fortified foods (building capacity of public health laboratories).

The training of a team of trainers to enhance nutritional status at national level is recommended.

Support to women's groups for awareness-raising and child nutrition at all levels.

SEYCHELLES

The nutrition unit of the Ministry of Health is organising various programmes in order to sensitise the general public on the needs to consume a balanced diet.