

Joint FAO/WHO ICN2 Secretariat

Re: Comments on zero draft of the ICN2 Framework for Action

To the Secretariat,

The Food Fortification Initiative provides technical support and advocacy to countries interested in the fortification of grains, specifically wheat flour, maize flour and rice. We read with special interest the ICN2 Framework for Action and offer the following comments and suggestions.

In chapters 2.1 and 4.1.1, we endorse the need for "enhanced, strong and sustained capacities for effective action" and the six elements improving governance, and national level responsibility for action, respectively. However, we suggest strengthening the verbiage on and the importance of "monitoring and enforcement of nutrition actions" in several places:

- 2.1 Add "enforcement agencies" to "implementation partners".
- 4.1.1 Add text related to monitoring and enforcement of nutrition actions in this section.

In chapter 3, we endorse the priority actions noted on pages 10 and 11 (before 3.1.1) and suggest that in one or several places, that "food fortification" be explicitly listed as an example of an intervention that meets the characteristics described:

- the third sub-bullet under the ninth bullet: promoting the consumption of affordable nutritionally enhanced foods (e.g., fortified food)
- the tenth bullet: identifying and promoting good practices for improving nutrition-enhancing food- (e.g., fortified food) and agriculture-based approaches on a large scale
- the eleventh bullet: addressing micronutrient deficiencies through sustainable food-based approaches (e.g. fortified foods) for improving the nutrition status of populations

Further, improving the folate nutritional status of the population through fortification, targeted supplementation and nutrition education is a preventive activity to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as folate deficiency anemia and neural tube defects (most commonly spina bifida). Many Ministries of Health have budgets which are not adequate to address treatment of NCDs. We suggest that a more focused approach on prevention would be a better and more cost-effective way to proceed.

We wish you success in drafting and ultimately gaining consensus around the ICN2 Framework for Action to stimulate better nutrition worldwide.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Montgomery
Director