

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No. 1 Series of 2019

**Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines**

WHEREAS, the Philippines has a reported high prevalence of malnutrition among pre-school and school children based on the National Nutrition Surveys of the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute;

WHEREAS, anemia is of public health concern in the Philippines due to the high prevalence of anemia among 6-11 months old children at 40.5%, pre-school children at 13.8%, school-aged children at 11.1%, pregnant and lactating women at 24.6% and 16.7% respectively, based on the 8th National Nutrition Survey of the of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology;

WHEREAS, iron plays a key role in brain function, resistance to infection, and growth, deficiency of which results to increased risk of low birth weight, maternal and perinatal mortality during pregnancy, adversely affects cognitive and motor development of children resulting to poor academic performance and decreased work capacity and productivity which contributes to the country's economic burden due to malnutrition.

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8976 or the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000 serves as the medium-term response to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies which mandates fortification of staple foods, both imported and locally processed foods, such as rice, sugar, wheat flour, and cooking oil with micronutrients that are mainly iron and vitamin A;

WHEREAS, RA 8976 mandates the fortification of all milled rice with iron. Rice as a staple food of the Philippines is an appropriate vehicle for iron fortification to reduce iron-deficiency anemia;

WHEREAS, the Philippines through DSWD, DepEd, some LGUs, NGOs, CSOs, COOs and development partners implement various social safety net programs including but not limited to dietary supplementation for various population groups, distribution of family food packs in temporary displacement settings due to natural or human-induced events (typhoon, earthquakes, fire, civil strife), food for work among others;

WHEREAS, RA 11037 or An Act Institutionalizing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten, and Elementary Schools to

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No.1 Series of 2019

**Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines**

Combat Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children, requires the provision of at least one fortified meal per day for 120 days for malnourished children in day care centers and public elementary schools, compliance to which will necessarily use iron-fortified rice.

WHEREAS, government-managed social safety net programs procure their rice requirements from NFA, which currently faces challenges in producing iron-fortified rice;

WHEREAS, these social safety net programs provide rice as a major commodity, but use of iron-fortified rice is currently negligible;

WHEREAS, efficacy trials of the Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute on iron-fortified rice showed the reduction of anemia among schoolchildren in the Philippines and provided evidences on high acceptability of iron-fortified rice;

WHEREAS, the model on scaling up rice fortification program through techno transfer of DOST-FNRI enabled private millers to acquire and adopt the technology in the production of iron rice premix and iron-fortified rice

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the current supply of iron rice premix and iron-fortified rice from the private sector, including cooperatives, can meet the requirements for these social safety net programs;

WHEREAS, iron-fortified rice provided as part of the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program from 2005-2010 may have contributed to the significant decrease in anemia prevalence in the general population from 30.6% in 1998 to 19.5% in 2008 to 11.1% in 2013 based on the National Nutrition Surveys of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, in consideration of the aforementioned premises, we the NNC Governing Board do hereby declare the need for collective effort in scaling up the use of iron-fortified rice for social safety net programs of the Philippines for the control of anemia particularly for vulnerable groups;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that iron-fortified rice be used for social safety net programs that use rice as a commodity as implemented by DepEd, DSWD, DOH, LGUs and NGOs, and development partners;

RESOLVED FURTHER, for the NNC Secretariat in close coordination with the Sub-Technical Working Group on Mandatory Food Fortification, to undertake the following:

1. Support and work with NFA on its compliance to mandatory rice fortification as provided in RA 8976 and to this Governing Board Resolution

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No.1 Series of 2019

**Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines**

2. Develop and implement an advocacy and communication effort to promote sale and consumption on the use of iron-fortified rice in the general population
3. Coordinate with government agencies, institutions and organizations that are not members of the NNC Governing Board, e.g. DAR that can be tapped to provide assistance on cascading the advocacy and promotion on the use of iron fortified rice for social safety net programs and NGOs.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to generate support of local chief executives to implement mandatory rice fortification through the enactment of related ordinances and to monitor compliance to these ordinances and provide reports thereafter on the compliance to these ordinances;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to promote the importance of rice fortification to the rice industry, beneficiaries of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), non-government organizations, and the general population;

RESOLVED FURTHER, for the following agencies to undertake the following specific actions:

The **Department of Health** shall issue a policy for all DOH hospitals, canteens, programs and projects that convene activities during which rice is served to use only iron-fortified rice; design and implement a promotional campaign on iron-fortified rice and explore the allocation of a budget for the iron-rice premix for use by NFA and other rice millers; Food and Drug Administration to set standards for rice fortification, including iron-rice premix and monitor quality and compliance in the production and importation of iron rice premix;

The **Department of Agriculture** through the National Food Authority shall develop its own policy to regulate millers, traders and retailers for the production of iron-fortified rice for government purchase, for social safety net programs and for the general population; enable their field personnel to assist in monitoring as provided by RA 8976 and promote rice fortification to farmers' groups and cooperatives.

The **Department of the Interior and Local Government** shall issue a policy instrument enjoining LGUs to: 1) use iron-fortified rice for their social safety net programs such as for disaster response and rehabilitation and for feeding programs and for use in their canteens, hospitals and meetings and to enact ordinances in support of rice fortification similar to the ordinances of the provinces of Compostela Valley Provincial Ordinance No. 29-2015 An Ordinance Providing Mechanisms For Use Of Iron-Fortified Rice In The Province Of Compostela Valley Known As Comval I-Rice and La Union Ordinance No. 118-2017 An Ordinance Providing Mechanisms for the Production, Distribution and Use of Iron-Fortified Rice or the "La-Union Fortified Rice Ordinance of 2017"; and 2) monitor rice fortification through their agricultural officers in coordination with NFA field personnel; and 3) promote rice fortification to farmers' groups and cooperatives;

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No.1 Series of 2019

**Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines**

The **Department of Education** shall issue an order on the use of iron-fortified rice for the School-Based Feeding Program; for school canteens to sell only iron-fortified rice, and promote the use of iron-fortified rice through Parent Teachers Associations.

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development** shall undertake the following activities for the implementation of Social Safety Net Programs:

1. For Supplementary Feeding Program –remove the requirement on the use of NFA rice to allow procurement from the private sector, require the use of iron-fortified rice particularly by LGUs that receive funds from the DSWD. The guidelines should include the list of suppliers of iron-fortified rice (as also included in the DepEd Guidelines).
2. For Disaster Preparedness and Response – Implement the memorandum on the revised composition of the family food pack that among others indicates the use of iron-fortified rice.
3. For the Rice Subsidy Program of the 4Ps – Include the promotion of iron fortified rice for the beneficiaries of 4Ps.
4. For Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon (BangUN) Program – Use iron-fortified rice in the supplementary feeding for children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

The **Department of Science and Technology** shall continue research to reduce the cost of fortification (i.e. cheaper iron fortificant, cheaper blending machines for millers) and continue to provide incentives through interest-free loan for investors for the production of iron-rice premix and iron-fortified rice; and provide technical assistance to rice industry on rice fortification.

The **Department of Trade and Industry** shall adopt a policy that would provide incentives for investors/producers of iron-rice premix and iron-fortified rice through the Investments Priority Plan. It shall also assist relevant micro- and small enterprises along rice fortification through its Shared Services Facilities Program.

The **National Economic and Development Authority** shall assist in identifying ways of incentivizing those who are compliant to mandatory fortification of rice and other staples, including salt.

The **Department of Labor and Employment** shall promote the use of iron-fortified rice in company rice subsidy for employees and company canteens to help improve work productivity.

The **non-government organizations** shall promote the use of iron-fortified rice to their respective clientele; adopt a policy on the use of only iron-fortified rice for those with programs that use rice; and assist in advocating for the enactment of ordinances in support of rice fortification (League of Municipalities of the Philippines), explore the provision of incentives to compliant industry players, assist in the advocacy for the provision of rice fortification budget to NFA (Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population Development).

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No.1 Series of 2019

**Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines**


The **development partners** (i.e. relevant UN agencies and bilateral organizations that procure and provide milled rice as part of its programs) shall distribute only iron-fortified rice; All UN agencies and bilateral organizations shall support the promotion, sale and consumption of iron-fortified rice.

The **other national government agencies** shall promote the use of iron-fortified rice to their respective employees

RESOLVED FURTHER, for agencies concerned to implement their roles and responsibilities as provided for in Republic Act 8976, "An Act Establishing the Philippine Food Fortification Program and other purposes";

RESOLVED FURTHER, for the National Nutrition Council Secretariat to ensure that this policy is disseminated as widely as possible, implemented accordingly, and compliance to RA 8976 is monitored regularly with an annual report submitted and presented to the NNC Governing Board.

Approved this 15th day of February 2019.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health and Chairperson
National Nutrition Council Governing Board

Attested:


AZUCENA M. DAYANGHIRANG, MD, MCH, CESO III
Council Secretary and Executive Director
National Nutrition Council

NNC GOVERNING BOARD
Resolution No.1 Series of 2019

Scaling Up Rice Fortification with Iron for
Social Safety Net Programs in the Philippines

CONFORME:


EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL

Secretary of Agriculture
Vice-Chairperson, NNC Governing Board


EDUARDO M. AÑO

Secretary of the Interior and Local Government
Vice-Chairperson, NNC Governing Board


BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO

Secretary of Budget and Management
Member, NNC Governing Board




LEONOR M. BRIONES

Secretary of Education
Member, NNC Governing Board


SILVESTRE H. BELLO III

Secretary of Labor and Employment
Member, NNC Governing Board


FORTUNATO T. DELA PEÑA

Secretary of Science and Technology
Member, NNC Governing Board


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
Member, NNC Governing Board


ERNESTO M. PERNIA

Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning
National Economic and Development Authority
Member, NNC Governing Board


RAMON M. LOPEZ

Secretary of Trade and Industry
Member, NNC Governing Board




ROMEO C. DONGETO

Executive Director of Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)
Private Sector Representative to the
NNC Governing Board


AMADO R. FARAWAN

Health and Nutrition Advisor of Save the Children and Representative of the Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security (PhilCAN)

Private Sector Representative to the
NNC Governing Board