



**Closed Door Stakeholders' Consultation to deliberate
on "Developing a Roadmap for Addressing Vitamin D
Deficiency in India by 2030"**

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The Context of the Consultations

- One in Five Indian suffer from Vitamin D Deficiency.
- Vitamin D Deficiency can lead to multiple diseases, adversely impacting health and productivity.
- This is a cause for concern for a developing country like India, which has the world's largest population. An unhealthy population can be a substantial economic burden for India.
- ICMR-NIN has launched a nation-wide survey, which will give us the latest data on Micro-nutrient Deficiency.
- While a number of studies have raised concerns related to the growing Vitamin D Deficiencies in India, there is hardly any comprehensive approach and an action-oriented work plan to address the issue.
- We need holistic a Vision Document for Designing a Roadmap to Eradicate the Deficiency.
- The aim of this consultation is to bring together experts to collaborate, deliberate, and address this critical issue collectively.

Possible Policy Interventions

- Building awareness through Mass-Media Campaigns. The awareness may include right diet, lifestyle, quality of Vitamin D supplement to be taken, etc.
- Vitamin D supplementation through food safety net programmes.
- Food Fortification and Product Reformulation.
 - Which type of food can be fortified apart from oil and milk?
 - Should fortification be mandatory or voluntary?
 - Claims *versus* fortifications.
 - How to reduce cost of product reformulation?
- Taxes and Subsidies linked to Fortified Products and or product reformulation.
- Lowering Cost of Laboratory Testing and Treatment (Vitamin D supplements).

Need for

Regular Data Collection and Monitoring – undertake health and economic impact studies.

Setting-up of an expert group for the Vitamin D deficiency.

Some Key Questions for Discussions

1. What can be the top 5 policy priority to have a 'Vitamin D Deficiency Mukht Bharat'?
2. Can we look at some international best practices to address this issue?
3. What are the challenges that stakeholders are facing in addressing Vitamin D Deficiencies?
4. How is the deficiency measured and identified in India? What is the official benchmark? Are the RDA levels specified by different agencies good enough?
5. Vitamin D is the National List of Essential Medicines of India (NLEM, 2011) - What has been the impact?
6. Why are the prices of Vitamin D supplements so high? Can we have some low-cost solutions?
7. What are the Scope and Issues in Mass Fortifications?
8. How important is to build Awareness?
9. Regulation related inputs : For example, Fortification Regulations versus Claim Regulations of the FSSAI
10. Your Inputs on Budgets and Schemes
11. How can we work with the State governments on this issue?
12. How do we engage with multiple stakeholders - Can there be PPPs?
13. What is the best way to develop a forum/partnership and regular dialogue mechanism to address Vitamin D Deficiency?



Thank you

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