



A Fair Price Shop owner with Annapurta, automated grain dispensing machine, at Gurugram, Haryana. Photo: WFP/Shyamalima



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP India | Oct-Dec 2021

The edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India has updates on partnerships with the Government of Meghalaya, NITI Aayog, and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation; Take-Home Ration production and rice fortification; capacity building on monitoring and evaluation; innovations on making public distribution system effective; regional conference on climate resilience; 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and more...

Improving Access to Food

AUTOMATED GRAIN DISPENSING MACHINE LAUNCHED IN ODISHA

WFP has installed Annapurta or the automated grain dispensing solution in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It became operational as a pilot on 30th December at a Fair Price Shop and attracted nearly 430 beneficiaries in three days, dispensing 2.2 metric tonnes of rice and wheat.

Annapurta, developed by WFP India, in partnership with the Government of India, Department of Food and Public Distribution, provides 24x7 access to the full entitlements of the beneficiaries with 99.99 percent accuracy. The first machine in the country was *launched* at Gurugram in Haryana last year.

GPS TRACKING SYSTEM FOR MOVEMENT OF FOOD GRAINS IN RAJASTHAN

A Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled tracking system developed by WFP for the Government of Rajasthan is ready for deployment. The tracking system will monitor and analyse the movement of food grains between the warehouses and Fair Price Shops will be deployed in Rajasthan's Alwar District. The system will be tracking the movement of approximately 2.79 million metric tonnes of grains every year, improving supply chain management and bringing transparency in operations. The solution is part of an ongoing partnership with the Government of Rajasthan on making the Targeted Public Distribution System more efficient.

December 2021

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA AND WFP SIGN MOU

WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Government of Meghalaya on 19th November. Under the agreement, WFP will provide technical support to the state to efficiently automate and optimize the end-to-end supply chain network and Fair Price Shops in the Public Distribution System.

Among the highlights of the partnership is the piloting of alternate storage mechanisms to reduce losses and improve warehouse management by sharing global best practices on warehouse management, and making supply chains efficient and cost-effective. This includes applying smart technologies based on the Internet of Things. [Read More](#)



Food and Civil Supplies Secretary Dr. P Shakil Ahammed and Eric Kenefick, Deputy Country Director, WFP India after signing the agreement. Photo: WFP/Ankit

OPTIMISATION REDUCES GRAIN TRANSPORT COSTS BY 75%

WFP has been supporting the Government of Uttarakhand to optimize its intrastate transport network for movement of food grains for the public distribution

system, to reduced distance travelled and thus reduce cost and their overall carbon footprint. The Government of Uttarakhand has informed WFP that after the first round of optimisation their transportation costs have gone down by 75 percent. Initial trends also indicate a reduction of distance travelled by 18-25 percent.

Quality Nutrition for All

PM ANNOUNCING A STATE-WIDE EXPANSION OF TAKE-HOME RATIONS PILOTS IN UP

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi laid the *foundation stone* for 202 decentralised Take-Home Rations (THR) production units across 43 districts of Uttar Pradesh on 21st December. WFP is the technical partner to the state government for this initiative, which will support women's micro-enterprises across the state to produce and provide age-appropriate fortified blended foods for young children and pregnant and lactating women. WFP supported model production units that have been operating in the Unnao and Fatehpur districts of the state. WFP continues to provide technical assistance to women's microenterprises to support the production of THR in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

In Uttar Pradesh, 400 metric tonnes of THRs have been distributed to beneficiaries under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme.

MYTH-BUSTING THROUGH IEC AND SBCC ON RICE FORTIFICATION

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, State Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched a series of Information Education Communication (IEC) and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) products on the benefits of fortified rice on 21st November. Developed by WFP, in close collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the products include a film on 'fortification of rice and myth busting', radio jingles, and social media content on fortified rice.



Recipe Videos on Take-Home Ration Products

WATCH NOW

Thanks to our partners: The Government of India; Associated Data Processing; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Cargill, Inc.; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Ericsson India Global Services; General Mills Foundation; General Mills, Inc.; Individual donors to Share the Meal & WFP.org; Nutrition International; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator; WFP 2030 Fund; Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND KNOW-HOW ON FORTIFICATION

WFP supported capacity development sessions for the government and key stakeholders on various aspects of rice fortification.

A capacity-building session for 652 State, District, and block-level officials of the Department of Women & Child Development on fortified rice, Uttar Pradesh. Virtual training of over 100 rice millers and an equal number of Government officials from Food & Civil Supplies Department was carried out on the rollout of the rice fortification program under the Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana programmes too.

A capacity-building session was held for the members of women's self-help group in Rangeilunda, Ganjam, Odisha, on nutrition and production of the improved Take-Home Rations.

In collaboration with the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, and State MDM Authority, 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' events were organised at Chandauli and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh where WFP supported sessions on cooking demonstration and community sensitisation on fortified rice. The objective of these events was to make the community aware of forti-



Children relishing food made using fortified rice as part of an event to dispel misconceptions about its safety and taste Photo: WFP

fied rice being provided under PM Poshan and ICDS, dispel myths about fortified rice and inform the community about the benefits and its' role in addressing iron deficiency anaemia. At both locations, over 500 people participated including students, schoolteachers, Panchayat or village council members, elected members of legislative assembly, self-help group members, community members and parents of school-going children.

Disaster Resilience & SSTC

AGREEMENTS WITH NITI AND MSSRF

WFP and NITI Aayog, the policy think-tank of the Government, entered into an agreement on 20th December in New Delhi. WFP will provide technical support to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition security in India.

The agreement includes supporting efforts towards mainstreaming millet and positioning India as a global leader in knowledge exchange around millets.

[Read more](#)

WFP and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) have entered into a strategic partnership to build upon research and programmes that enhance resilience and food security in climate-affected communities in India.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mr. Bishow Parajuli, WFP India Representative and Country Director, and Dr. Madhura Swaminathan, Chairperson MSSRF, in Chennai on 8th October.

[Read more](#)



Official signing ceremony between Mr Bishow Parajuli, Country Director, WFP India and Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Adviser, Agriculture & Allied Sectors, NITI Aayog. Photo: NITI and MSSRF

FOUNDATION COURSE ON FNS IN EMERGENCIES LAUNCHED

WFP and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM) launched a foundation training course on Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies for practitioners on 20th December.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE FRAGILITIES

WFP supported NIDM for a three-day virtual regional conference titled 'Food Security and Nutrition in Climate Fragilities and Disasters' from 30th November and 2th December. The conference focused on mainstreaming food security and nutrition in emergency preparedness and response in national and regional strategies.

A compendium of 31 inspiring case stories was launched at the regional conference and success stories were presented in multiple technical sessions.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Generating Evidence & Assessing Impact

DEVELOPING EVALUATION CAPACITY

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog and WFP jointly conducted the second training session to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation capacity of officials at the Directorate of Evaluation Organization, Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan on 15th November in Jaipur. The training focused on understanding the output-outcome monitoring framework and OECD-DAC Evaluation criteria.

WFP supported DMEO, NITI Aayog, in conducting the first conference with Government Administrative and Central Training Institutes on 23rd November, with the objective of embedding evaluation as part of training for government officers. WFP presented the evaluation curriculum and competency framework developed in collaboration with

LEARNING WORKSHOP ON OMM

At a validation workshop on 9th November, WFP presented the top-line findings of the draft assessment and documentation of good practices and lessons learned report on Odisha Millets Mission (OMM). Participants included officials of the Odisha Agriculture Department at the state and district levels. National level stakeholders included senior officials from the NITI Aayog, Indian Institute of Millets Research, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Food Technological Research Institute, and Dhan Foundation.

DMEO to more than 35 participants.

WFP is supporting DMEO, NITI Aayog, to institutionalise monitoring and evaluation as part of the government administrative training. WFP and DMEO have jointly drafted the national M&E curriculum and competency framework for government officers at senior and middle management, and for research staff, which have been approved by DMEO and shared with the government for implementation across administrative training institutes.

Through WFP's support to the Government of Rajasthan to monitor SDG 2 in the state and at the sub-district level, 26 of the 36 indicators recommended by WFP have been approved by the Chief Secretary and incorporated in the District Indicator Framework released in October 2021 by the Planning Department.

Gender and Inclusion

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WFP India marked the *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* that kicked off on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ran until 10th December, the Human Rights Day.

A social media campaign, with colleagues posting their images wearing orange scarves, highlighting the theme "*Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!*" An all-staff virtual event was organised to commemorate the campaign during which several messages were conveyed to end violence against women.

An awareness and orientation session on prevention and response to gender-based Violence in the community was also conducted with members of a women's self-help group federation in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 7th December.



A collage of images of WFP India staff endorsing commitment to end gender-based violence. Photo: WFP/Shyamalima

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