



Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director United Nations World Food Programme, meeting Mr. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles during his visit to India in July 2022.



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP India | July-September 2022

This edition of the Quarterly Bulletin by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India has updates on WFP Chief's maiden India visit; launch of the Public Systems Lab at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi ; setting up of Mobile Storage Unit in Uttarakhand; activities around rice fortification and national nutrition month; partnership with EXL on digital and financial literacy of women and girls in urban slums of Delhi; impact and evidence national capacity development; media coverage and advocacy events.

WFP CHIEF VISITS INDIA, HAILS FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES

WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley, visited India in July, during which he held high-level discussions and observed the functioning of the country's safety net programmes .

During his three-day visit (17-19 July), Mr. Beasley met the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery. He also met the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal.

"With the world's largest food safety-net programs, India is a shining example of how effective social protection can play a critical role in achieving food security - especially now as the world faces an unprecedented global hunger crisis. Lessons learnt from India can guide other nations and I encourage India to share its success story with the world," he said. "It is also exciting that India will be taking over the G20 presidency. I look forward to its leadership on various issues, including food security," he added.

In New Delhi, Mr. Beasley visited a school meal preparation facility run by Akshaya Patra that provides hot meals

to 25,000 students in government schools in the capital. India's school meal programme also known as *Prime Minister Poshan* covers close to 110 million school children with hot-cooked meals, daily.

He also visited a public food distribution centre in New Delhi that provides subsidised rations to vulnerable families. [Read more](#)



Mr. Beasley, Executive Director at a school meal preparation facility managed by Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Improving Access to Food

WFP SUPPORTED PUBLIC SYSTEMS LAB AT IIT DELHI INAUGURATED BY PIYUSH GOYAL

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the Public Systems Lab (PSL) at the IIT Delhi on 16 August.

The lab has been established by WFP and IIT Delhi for developing scalable solutions for civic systems and services that impact millions.

“Artificial Intelligence and automation can help us transform the public delivery system and I hope this lab will be the harbinger of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of making India a developed nation. Thanks to Bishow Parajuli from WFP and IIT Delhi who have partnered in this very important and pathbreaking initiative.” Shri. Piyush Goyal said.



Inauguration of Public System Lab at IIT-Delhi. L-R: Prof Nomesh Bolia; Union Minister, Shree Piyush Goyal; Bishow Parajuli, Rep & Country Director WFP India; Ankit Sood, Head Supply Chain & PDS (WFP India) & Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi

“Public Systems or social welfare systems deliver basic entitlements to citizens. WFP works closely with the government towards making these efficient and effective through innovation, research, incubation models, or processes. The launch of Public Systems Lab will augment and strengthen the impact of public systems at scale, especially when it comes to ensuring inclusion,” Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director, WFP India, said.

WFP SUPPORTED MOBILE STORAGE COMES UP IN DEHRADUN

Due to the lack of adequate storage facilities, farmers and procurement agencies must rely on Open storage or Cover and Plinth storage (CAP) techniques that have higher risk of losses due to the climatic conditions (rain, heat, and snow) as well as pest and rodent infestations which renders grains unfit for human consumption. It leads to large post-harvest losses, resulting in reduced income for the farmers.

To address this challenge, WFP India has been working with the Government of India for increasing storage capacities, especially via Mobile Storage Units (MSU) that are used by WFP globally.

In the month of August, WFP installed the third MSU in Rudrapur with 500 MT capacity at Food Cooperation of India’s Depot in Rudrapur.

Smart warehouse is equipped with wireless sensors such as temperature, humidity, CO₂, Infra Red Motion sensors, air flow, door, fire, phosphine gas, and oxygen.

WFP will undertake smart warehouse projects at six locations on a pilot basis.



WFP team after setting up Mobile Storage Unit that will create additional grain storage capacity preventing losses and securing farmer’s income with ready storage facility.

Climate Change and Adaptation

NITI AAYOG AND WFP LAUNCH INITIATIVE ON MAINSTREAMING MILLETS

With millets gaining momentum ahead of the International Year of Millets 2023 and the need for exchange and learning around its adoption, NITI Aayog and WFP have launched the Mapping and Exchange of the Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative for Millets Mainstreaming in Asia and Africa.

The initiative will support the documentation of good practices and lessons learned and present an opportunity for experience sharing amongst Asian and African developing countries.

To mark the launch an event was held on 19th July, a web portal was launched for mapping and exchange of good practices by Suman K. Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in presence of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Shri. Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director, WFP, India, and Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor, Agriculture, NITI Aayog.

Representatives from ICAR, State & Central Government Department, State, and Central Agriculture Universities, FPO, NGOs, Start-ups, Academia & Research, ICRISAT, and ICID participated in this event.

In the run-up to celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023, NITI Aayog conducted a technical workshop on the development of a good practice compendium on mainstreaming millets and a scale-up strategy as part of the initiative.



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.; Global Development Group NZ ; Individual donors to Share the Meal & WFP.org; Jubilant Bhartia Foundation; EXL Service.com (India) Private Limited.; Nutrition International; Sodexo Food Solutions, India Private Ltd.; Stop Hunger Foundation; WFP Trust for India; WFP Innovation Accelerator; WFP 2030 Fund.

Quality Nutrition for All

STATE LEVEL MEDIA WORKSHOP IN UP ON RICE FORTIFICATION

A state-level media workshop on rice fortification was organised in Lucknow on 10 August by WFP to create awareness among journalists and editors on the issues around fortification and governments vision to reduce anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiencies through it.

Arun Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Food & Supplies Department, addressed the media during the workshop and informed that fortified rice is being rolled out in the state through the food safety net schemes such as Antyodaya Ann Yojana, Targeted Public Distribution System, PM-POSHAN and ICDS.

Fortified rice offers a huge potential to improve the anaemia situation in the state, (more than 50% prevalence among women and children) especially if provided through the food safety net schemes.

Sessions on fortified rice, its status in the food-based safety net programmes in Uttar Pradesh was conducted as part of the workshop. A discussion on the myths and misconceptions prevalent in the community around fortified rice was also organized.

The event was attended by officials from Food & Civil Supplies, FCI, state MDM Authority, Health Department, academicians from King George's Medical University, Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Era Medical College, Lucknow University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Food Safety and Drug Administration development organizations working on nutrition, rice millers, FRK manufacturers, and fair price shop owners.

[Read more](#)



State level media workshop on rice-fortification at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

EAT RIGHT MELA IN HARYANA

As part of the Eat Right Campaign, Eat Right Mela was organised by Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Haryana in District Panchkula. The event was inaugurated by Smt. Monica Malik (IAS), Commissioner, Food Safety, Haryana, Sh. Gagandeep Singh, HCS, Joint Director (Admn.), FDA, Sh. Sangram Singh, International Wrestler, Health Expert, Inspirational Speaker and FIT India Icon, Sh. D. K Sharma, Joint Commissioner (Food), Sh. Manmohan Taneja, State Drugs Controller, FDA.

The Mela was organised at the Community centre, sector 20, Panchkula and witnessed participation of around 500 people including women and school children. To create awareness among common people about food fortification, a dedicated stall with focus on Rice fortification was set up by FSSAI with the support of WFP. Multiple activities were conducted to spread awareness about the benefits of Fortified rice and dispel myths around it. A dedicated presentation on rice fortification was delivered by WFP state representative during the inaugural ceremony. Biryani made from Fortified rice was also distributed to everyone present in the mela, along with information material.



School going children at the Eat Right Mela where WFP & FSSAI set up a stall focusing on rice fortification to create awareness, Panchkula.

Gender and Inclusion

KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY INKS PACT WITH UNITED NATIONS WFP

WFP and the Kurukshetra University (KU) have signed a letter of understanding for partnering on research and advocacy on gender, climate change, and nutrition issues.

The letter was signed between Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Registrar KU, and Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director, WFP in India.

Under the partnership, the two will work on enhancing gender equality and women empowerment through gender mainstreaming around intra-household access to food, improved nutrition, and social and financial inclusion, climate resilience, adaptation, and resilience building, and enhancing the nutritional effectiveness of the Government's food-based safety nets by increasing knowledge and demand for diverse, nutritious, and fortified foods.

"We are very excited about this partnership between World Food Programme and Kurukshetra University as this strategic knowledge collaboration will help contribute towards addressing challenges around access to food and nutrition insecurity," said Dr. Sharma.

"We recognise the significance of this collaboration from the point of view of the strategic contribution that institutions of higher learning make on strengthening scholarship and policy influencing to address some of the most pressing challenges, like climate change impact, gender and inclusion, around hunger and food security," said Mr. Parajuli.

[Read more](#)



Brajesh Sawhney, Director of Public Relations of Kurukshetra University, said that the letter was signed between Sanjeev Sharma, registrar of the university, and Bishow Parajuli, representative and country director, WFP in India, in the presence of vice-chancellor Prof Som Nath Sachdeva.

WFP TRUST FOR INDIA AND EXL JOIN HANDS FOR FINANCIAL AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY OF WOMEN'S GROUPS IN DELHI

The WFP Trust of India and EXL have come together to enhance digital and financial literacy among selected women self-help groups in Delhi to strengthen their livelihoods and food security.

A partnership agreement was signed last month on this between WFP Trust for India, a nationally registered public charitable entity, incubated by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and EXL India, part of EXL group, which is a leading player in the data analytics and digital operations and solutions space.

"This partnership represents the synergy that is needed to create long-term solutions to end food insecurity through an empowerment approach for a sustainable shift towards the common goal of reducing and eradicating hunger and malnutrition in India," Ms. Rita Sarin, Chairperson of the Trust said.

"Focus on gender and empowerment is crucial when it comes to addressing the challenges of nutrition and food security. Women and girls face massive nutritional disadvantages economically and socially as is indicated by the country's nutritional and health indicators.

[Read more](#)



WFP Trust of India & EXL collaborate to enhance digital & financial literacy among women self-help groups in Delhi.

Evidence and Impact

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON MONITORING FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN ODISHA



Member Secretary Ms. Roopa Roshan Sahoo & Bishow Parajuli, Representative and Country Director WFP India post discussion on cooperation.

Continuing partnership to strengthen the food and nutrition security monitoring in Odisha, WFP India Representative and Country Director, Bishow Parajuli, and Ms. Roopa Roshan Sahoo, Member Secretary, Poverty & Human Development Monitoring Agency, Government of Odisha, held an extensive discussion on 30th September 2022. The two looked at the progress and implementation plan based on a letter of understanding signed by the two earlier.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL EVALUATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting the 2014 UNGA Resolution, the evaluation function of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working closely with countries, partners, and civil society organizations to strengthen national evaluation capacities, leaving no one behind.

Continuing its collaboration with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DME0), NITI Aayog, WFP is working on strengthening the national monitoring and evaluation capacity better outcomes for government policies and programs around food security and nutrition. WFP facilitated a capacity strengthening session for senior officials of State and Union Territories on 21 July 2022 on the topic '**Overview of MEL cycle - When to do what?**' as a part of a week-long residential training program on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL), organized by DME0.

Two more events facilitated by DME0, saw WFP's participation as panellists to share its experience in working with the state Government of Rajasthan on mainstreaming M&E in the state. On 23 August 2022, WFP participated in the Development Partner's Meet as a panel member for one of the ses-

sions. On 1 September, WFP participated in the National We'bound Table organised by DME0 and presented its elevator pitch to state government officials for collaboration.

WFP is partnering with Rajasthan and Odisha state governments to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacities.

WFP is partnering on institutionalizing the M&E curriculum for a state government official. In partnership with the Directorate of Evaluation Organization (DEO) in the Planning Department, Rajasthan, WFP hosted a meeting with Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM RIPA) where HCM RIPA has agreed to incorporate the M&E curriculum in their training program.

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN INDIA

Building on the partnership for undertaking research and policy recommendations on improving food, nutritional security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change, WFP and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) reviewed and agreed on the next phase of the study on understanding the effect of Climate Change on Food and Nutrition Security in India. A meeting was held on 27 September.

Climate-resilient food security, nutrition and livelihoods, especially for smallholder farmers and ecologically vulnerable communities, the partnership, institutionalised under a memorandum of understanding, seeks to generate ideas and frameworks relevant not just for India but regionally and globally.

NEW REPORTS

- ◆ [Assessment of Government of India's Special Scheme for Release of Pulses to States/UTs at Discounted Rate](#)
- ◆ [Assessment of the Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under the Public Distribution System in Malkangiri District of Odisha](#)
- ◆ [India, Evaluation of A Pilot Project towards Improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition through the ICDS scheme in Jaipur District of Rajasthan](#)

Outreach
Media/Events/Engagements



E-mail: WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org
Twitter: [@UNWFP_India](https://twitter.com/UNWFP_India)
www.wfp.org/countries/india