

MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH QUARTERLY UPDATE

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

KHPT organizes national learning and sharing workshop on Large-Scale Staple Food Fortification

KHPT organized a National Level Learning and Sharing Workshop titled “Fortifying Futures: Learnings from Large Scale Staple Food Fortification,” supported by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) on March 6, in Delhi. Ms. Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ms. Bhuvaneshwari Balasubramanian, India Country Director at GAIN and Mr. Mohan HL, CEO, KHPT graced the occasion as Chief Guests.

The workshop focused on two main themes: Government Advocacy and Industry Engagement. Government Advocacy sessions

emphasized the need to engage state food safety authorities and the integration of fortification into both open markets and government programmes. During Industry Engagement sessions, capacity-building initiatives and collaboration in the edible oil, milk and wheat flour sectors were discussed.

Featuring keynote addresses, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions, the workshop provided a platform for collaboration and best practice sharing. With a total of 60 attendees, including government officials, development partners, and industry stakeholders, the event facilitated meaningful dialogue and insights aimed at driving positive change and fostering partnerships for collective progress. Additionally, it celebrated the

milestones achieved over the past five years of implementing large-scale staple food fortification across 20 states since 2017.



Ms. Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director of FSSAI addressing participants

KHPT-GAIN and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), facilitate state-level workshop in Lucknow



KHPT at the State Connect Session in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

KHPT-GAIN and CII facilitated the State Connect Session, a state-level workshop on February 16, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with FSSAI. This event served as a platform bringing together State Food and Drug Administration, Food Business Operators, Small and medium-sized enterprises, hotels, restaurants and cafes, and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities in the food sector. The aim was to bolster the food safety and regulatory ecosystem by enhancing state food safety indices and implementing global best practices.

In addition, in the workshop the immense value of capacity-building opportunities provided through customized training sessions for the Food Industries were also discussed. These training sessions covered important areas such as demonstrations on Food Safety & Regulatory Compliance Requirements, including online portals for licensing, registration, labeling, and nutraceuticals. The trainings also focused on strengthening lab infrastructure, particularly emphasizing technical facets like microbiological requirements and sample preparation, alongside training sessions on food fortification.

KHPT conducts screening of anaemia using non-invasive hemoglobin screening device for the first time

On March 18, KHPT conducted pilot testing for screenings of anaemia using the EzeCheck hemoglobin non-invasive screening device at Bannikuppe Government primary and high schools in Mysuru, and Ajjapanahalli Government Primary School in Malur, Kolar, in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka. This initiative is part of the KHPT-ITCproject in the state, which aims to enhance the nutritional status of women of reproductive age, adolescents and children.



Screening of anaemia at a government school with the EzeCheck device

The non-invasive screening device is designed to measure hemoglobin levels without the need

for a blood sample, which may be important when screening children or adults who are afraid of needles or medical procedures. The piloting phase of the non-invasive screening device for anaemia will span six months, during which the results will be closely analyzed. Subsequently, follow-up screenings will occur every six months over a period of three years, allowing for comprehensive monitoring of anaemia prevalence and trends. In cases of severe anaemia, individuals will be referred to the appropriate healthcare professionals under the government of Karnataka for necessary intervention and care.

Capacity Building

KHPT supports establishment of nutrition gardens at Anganwadi centres to promote nutrition

As a part of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) project, KHPT is establishing organic nutrition gardens at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to provide fresh, organically grown vegetables directly to women and children aged 0-6 years. This initiative aims to promote healthier diets and better nutrition outcomes for our community. The first garden was set up in February at Rajivnagar AWC

in Devalapura Gram Panchayat, Tumakuru Block, Tumakuru district.

KHPT has plans to extend this initiative by establishing **8** nutrition gardens in Tumakuru and **6** in Kunigal, further enhancing access to nutritious food sources. With the active participation of Self-Help Group (SHG) women and Anganwadi workers, community-led organic nutrition gardens will be maintained year-round, ensuring a steady supply of local seasonal produce to the AWC beneficiaries.



■ Collaborative efforts of AWWs and SHGs in establishing nutrition gardens at AWCs in Tumakuru

KHPT and FMCH host Continuing Education programme for Healthcare Professionals on KMC

On March 18 and 19, KHPT, in collaboration with its partner organization FMCH, facilitated Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) programme on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC). The sessions of the programme were designed for Medical Officers and staff nurses from Central Hospital Ulhasnagar 4 and Government Maternity Hospital Ulhasnagar 3,



■ KHPT-FMCH hosted CME & CNE workshop for Healthcare Professionals at GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai

Mumbai. The training aimed to equip healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge for effective KMC implementation, ultimately improving newborn care by enhancing their capacity in implementing KMC.

The one-day training sessions were conducted in two batches at GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai, led by Dr. Anitha Haribalakrishna, Head of the Department of Neonatology and Convenor, along with faculty from KEM Hospital.

Program Implementation

The project, “Sankalp-Strengthening Program Implementation and Monitoring to Achieve Single-digit Neonatal Mortality - Multicentric NMR Reduction Implementation Research,” aims to provide critical insights into the effective implementation of strategies to reduce neonatal mortality.

KHPT, in partnership with St. John’s Research Institute initiated this project in February 2024 in Koppal district of Karnataka supported by ICMR, funded by BMGF to reduce neonatal mortality in the district and also to generate scalable and adaptable models for other regions.

Case story

A Woman’s Journey of Healing and Hope

In the heart of Tumakuru block, Lilavati, a KHPT Community Facilitator, has been tirelessly working to bring about positive change in the community through the Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) project, with a special focus on preconception care (PCC). Lilavati often conducts home visits to engage with the target population in select villages of Tumakuru block. During one such visit in Hosnalmangala village, she encountered Manjula, a young woman whose life had taken a tragic turn. Newly-married Manjula discovered she was two months pregnant just four months into her marriage. Tragically, she experienced a miscarriage, which severely affected her. At only 18 years old, she was ill-prepared to handle the situation. Recognizing her need for support, Lilavati made several home visits to counsel Manjula and encouraged her to participate in the Eligible Couples (EC) Day.

EC day is an initiative by KHPT, where couples and families are sensitized about the important concept of PCC, which is very

important for the health of the newborn and the well-being of the mother. As Manjula’s husband was engaged in work, her mother-in-law accompanied her to the EC Day event, where she was identified with low haemoglobin levels. Manjula was unaware of the importance of PCC, including aspects such as maintaining an adequate diet, getting sufficient rest, recognizing danger signs, and birth preparedness. Through comprehensive screening for health, nutritional and psychosocial risk factors, and counseling sessions on safe motherhood, Manjula received support and guidance. She also gained essential knowledge regarding PCC and pregnancy, and the importance of prenatal care.

After the EC day event, Lilavati made several follow-up home visits to Manjula, accompanied by the ASHA worker. During these visits, Lilavati offered counseling and moral support, helping Manjula to regain her mental strength. By actively involving Manjula’s mother-in-law in the process, Lilavati facilitated a deeper understanding of the importance of waiting until she was physically and mentally prepared to conceive again.

Follow us on:     

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