

## Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program – The Food Fortification in Philippines



### What is Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program (SPSP)?

Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program (SPSP) is a strategy to encourage food manufacturers to fortify processed foods and food products with essential nutrient at levels approved by the Department of Health (DOH). Its fundamental concept is to authorize food manufacturers to use the DOH seal of acceptance for processed foods or food products, after these products passed a set of defined criteria which analyzed by FDA. The seal is a guidelines used by consumers in selecting nutritious foods.

It started when the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) released results that Filipinos are micronutrient deficient in Vitamin A, Iodine, and Iron. It then led to R.A. 8976, which is the Philippine Food Fortification Act which requires a mandatory food fortification for all staple foods.

## **National Salt Iodization Program**

Aside from these items, a separate R.A. 8172 (Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide, commonly known as ASIN) was implemented which aimed to solve iodine deficiency in the Philippines. For mandatory salt iodization, the Strategic Plan of the National Salt Iodization Program for 2017-2022 intends to strengthen monitoring at various points of the iodized salt value chains including production, wholesale, trader, retail and household levels.

### **Which applications are SPSP covering?**

The Philippine Food Fortification Program covers all imported or locally processed foods or food products for sale or distribution in Philippines. However, it does not cover dietary supplements for which established standards have already been prescribed by the DOH through the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Department of Health (BFAD) and which standards include specifications for nutrient composition or levels of fortification.

**Table 1.0 Mandatory Food Fortification**

<b>Fortification Levels Food Vehicle</b>	<b>Fortificants</b>
Wheat Flour	Vitamin A and Iron
Refined Sugar	Vitamin A
Cooking Oil (except for export)	Vitamin A
Rice (All rice except brown rice and locally produced glutinous rice)	Iron
Salt	Iodine

### Status and Recommendations for the SPSP

As of 2008, there are 139 processed food products having Sangkap Pinoy Seal with 83% with vitamin A, 29% with iron and 14% with iodine where 37% of them are snack foods.

In a nutshell, nutrient deficiencies in Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine in Philippines is of public health significance. Micronutrient deficiency in Philippines including levels of stunting, low birth weight and wasting have remained essentially unchanged in the last decade. Both the government and private sectors should work hand-in-hand to enhance the efficiency of this fortification program.

### Market Examples with Sangkap Pinoy Seal



Promina Instant Porridge



Jack 'n Jill Magic Creams Butter



Roller Coaster Potato Rings



Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Knot Pretzels



## References

Republic of the Philippines Ministry of Health, National Nutrition Council, (2017). Philippine Plan Of Action For Nutrition 2017-2022: A call to urgent action for Filipinos and its leadership. Executive Summary.

Republic of the Philippines Ministry of Health. Republic Act 8976. "The Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000". "An Act Establishing the Philippine Food Fortification Program And For Other Purposes.