



AFFORDABLE HEALTHY DIETS FOR ALL: The role of food fortification in a time of pandemic

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER
14:30 - 16:00 CET

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our economies, health and food systems and threatens to deepen the global crisis of malnutrition. Food fortification strategies are an essential part of the nutrition safety net during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond – helping to restore access to healthy diet when the availability of fresh produce and animal-source foods is limited.

Join us to explore how governments and businesses are rising to the challenge by implementing food fortification programs despite the obstacles created by the pandemic.

Moderator:

Gerda Verburg, UN Assistant Secretary General and SUN Movement coordinator

Speakers:

- Hamid Jalil, Member Food Security and Climate Change, Planning Commission of Pakistan
- Anna Lartey, Director, Food and Nutrition, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Member of SUN Executive Committee
- Penjani Mkambula, Programme Lead, Large Scale Food Fortification, GAIN
- George Oluwalajiki, Product Development Manager, Flour Mills of Nigeria
- Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, Additional Secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh
- Engidu Legesse, General Manager at Guts Agro Industry PLC, Ethiopia
- Felix Phiri, Director of Nutrition, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Ministry of Health, Malawi; SUN Focal Point and member of SUN Executive Committee

[Register](#)



**NUTRITION
CONNECT**

For more information, visit: www.nutritionconnect.org/webinar-fortification-covid19

MODERATOR

Gerda Verburg

UN Assistant Secretary General and SUN Movement Coordinator



Since August 2016, Gerda Verburg (The Netherlands) has served as UN Assistant Secretary-General And Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, working with the 60 country governments that lead the SUN Movement, united with UN agencies, civil society, business and donors, in a common mission to defeat malnutrition in all its forms. She was appointed by the UN Secretary-General based on her extensive experience in politics and international cooperation. In 2008, following her appointment the previous year as Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands, Ms Verburg was elected as Chair of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 17).

From 2011, she served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations Rome- based agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP). In 2013, she was elected as Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and in 2014 she served as Chair of the Agenda Council for Food and Nutrition of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

SPEAKERS

Anna Lartey

Director, Food and Nutrition, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Member of SUN Executive Committee



Professor Lartey is, since 2013, the Director of the Nutrition Division at the FAO. Prior to that she was professor and the Head of Department at the department of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Ghana where she worked since 1986. She has won several honors and rewards related to her work on nutrition such as the African Nutrition Society award in 2014 as well as the Sight and Life nutrition leadership award. Between 2013 and 2017 she was also the president of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

Ms. Lartey worked as a researcher in Sub-Saharan Africa for 27 years on maternal and child nutrition. She has contributed to over 80 peer reviewed academic publications about nutrition and the food system and she has given over 100 keynote presentations. In 1998 she finished her PhD on international nutrition at the University of California in Davis.

Hamid Jalil, Member

Food Security and Climate Change, Planning Commission of Pakistan



Dr. Hamid Jalil is currently working as 'Member Food Security & Climate Change' Planning Commission, Govt of Pakistan. He is also co-chair of the high-level National Nutrition Forum (NNF) as well as Early Childhood Development (ECD) Steering Committee. He is also chairing Technical Working Group on ECD. Before joining this assignment, he was working with government of Canada in agriculture.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Hamid Jalil has more than 25 years of experience in promoting food security & agricultural value chains in Pakistan, Sudan and Canada. He has worked with national/ international public/private sector organizations, such as Govt of Pakistan, Govt of Sudan, International Centre for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), IFAD, European Commission, USAID & Govt of Canada.

He has diversified academic background having combination of studies in agriculture, food safety and business management (DVM, MPhil Nutrition, PhD Microbiology and MBA) as well as various professional trainings from; Harvard Business School, Institute of Technology Canada, and Standards Malaysia, etc.

While much of Dr. Hamid's professional work is within Pakistan, Canada & Sudan, he has carried out more than 72 technical & trade missions to 21 countries in order to promote trade through international markets access and linkages and branding Pakistan as Halal Hub.

Penjani Mkambula

Programme Lead, Large Scale Food Fortification , GAIN

Penjani Mkambula is Program Lead for Food Fortification at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). He leads the food fortification program portfolio at GAIN as well as supporting other partners globally on food fortification. Prior to switching to the international development sector, he also worked in food industry where he was involved in supply chains for fortified foods and specialized nutrition products. Penjani serves on the Executive Management Team of the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), Board of Iodine Global Network (IGN), and the Steering Committee of the African Union's Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA).

George Oluwalajiki

Product Development Manager, Flour Mills of Nigeria

George Idowu Oluwalajiki is the Product Development Manager of Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc. Lagos, Nigeria. He attended the Federal University of Technology, Akure, where he obtained a Master's degree in Food Science and Technology. Before joining the services of the FMN in 2013, he worked as Quality Assurance Manager, Product Specification Manager and Works/Production Manager at different Business Divisions of the UAC of Nigeria Plc.

George is highly skilled in creation of new products and renovation, process deployment and recipe optimization. He is a member of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) and the Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria (IPAN). George has passion for promoting food research as well as fortification of local and traditional foods in Nigeria. He is happily married with children.

SPEAKERS

Kazi Zebunnessa Begum

Additional Secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh

Ms Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, Additional Secretary & SUN Country Focal Point, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is a career civil servant. She has been serving the country for the last 31 years in the different capacities of the government service.

Ms Kazi Zebunnessa Begum completed MSS degree from Department of Social Welfare under University of Dhaka. Then she completed MA on Development Science from Netherlands.

As an officer throughout her career, Kazi Zebunnessa Begum held responsible positions with outmost honesty and dignity. Apart this she worked in the field of Violence Against Women under Department Of Women Affairs and also worked as lien in Government Engagement & Sustainability Lead Project named "Platforms for Dialogue (P4D)" with British Council funded by European Union.

She is actively involved in art, literature, social and cultural activities. Notable positions currently she is acting as National Commissioner, Bangladesh Girls Guide Association.

Engidu Legesse

General Manager at Guts Agro Industry PLC, Ethiopia

Engidu Legesse Yesuneh, is co-founder and general manager of Guts Agro Industry PLC, in Ethiopia, Graduated from Technical and Vocational College in Addis Ababa, worked for six years as an electrician and contractor before joining Addis Ababa University's Institute of Technology where he studied electrical engineering for three years, received his masters in Global Management Programme at the University of Salford in England in 2016.

Subsequent to the studies, ventured in to business as entrepreneur by focusing on machineries and equipment for food processing. Learning from his experience started own trading company, and became one of the pioneers' in private businesses in Ethiopia, that imported spare parts and machineries, and worked with clients in setting up equipment for food processing operations. A valuable experience that led to be a co-founder for Guts Agro in 2005.

Engidu is actively engaged in various business and public private partnership activities, a steering committee member in "Land for Life-Ethiopia", Chair person for SBN-Ethiopia and the Advisory Board of Jimma University's Agri-Business MBA Program.

He is a volunteer-mentor for US Embassy, Growth Africa and ICE-ADDIS to support start up agribusiness projects in Ethiopia helping groups of the young generation.



SPEAKERS

Dr Felix Phiri

Director of Nutrition, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Ministry of Health, Malawi; SUN Focal Point and member of SUN Executive Committee

Mr. Phiri is the Director for Nutrition, at the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, at the Malawian Ministry of Health. He is responsible for policy and technical guidance, leadership, oversight and high-level advocacy for nutrition programs. This included developing a Nutrition Strategic Document and legal frameworks like the Nutrition Bill for Malawi.

He brings over 16 years of experience in technical, programmatic and policy development from the public sector at different technical, senior and policy levels. He has a wealth of experience in working on projects and programs supported by international partners such as World Bank, USAID, EU, Global Fund, Irish AID and UN agencies. He had been instrumental in ensuring that Nutrition is highlighted as a priority in the National Development Agenda for Malawi and he's been influential in bringing different stakeholders in one platform. Mr. Phiri has championed the development of the web based multi-sectoral Monitoring and Evaluation and resource tracking system. He recently completed a PhD at University of Nottingham United Kingdom.

