The objective of the “German Initiative for Agribusiness and Food Security in Emerging and Developing Economies” (GIAF) is to promote sustainable growth in the agricultural and food sectors in emerging and developing countries.

Only nine out of 78 national iron fortification programs have a positive impact – Omar Dary and Philip Harvey come to this result in their latest commentary published in the journal “Public Health Nutrition”. The success and efficacy of fortification programs depends on the bioavailability of the iron form, cost and food technology that must be considered in designing the formula. Moreover, the additional intake of the specific micronutrient must be high enough for correcting the nutrient gap of the population group that is targeted.

BASF strengthens its commitment to contribute to achieving global food security by actively supporting GIAF (read more).

BASF will support access to fortified staple foods for an extra 60 million people a year by 2015 and thereby helping to combat malnourishment in developing countries.

This voluntary commitment has been pledged by BASF in the context of the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June. In the context of the Rio +20 conference, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), in partnership with the UN Global Compact (UNGC), called on the global business community to take the lead in advancing sustainable development.

The fortification formulation is key to success
SAFO (Strategic Alliance for the Fortification of Oil and other Staple Foods) successfully supported Tanzania’s food fortification program, resulting in mandatory fortification of edible oil with vitamin A in the country. People at risk of malnutrition now have access to vitamin A–fortified edible oil which helps to reduce vitamin A deficiency. SAFO is a development partnership of BASF and GIZ on behalf of the Ministry of Economic cooperation and Development (BMZ).

BASF is further increasing its presence in the growing African markets. On July 24th, the company opened a new regional office in Lagos to serve customers in Nigeria and other West African countries.

Last July, Transparency International ranked BASF as the world’s most transparent chemical company and also the most transparent company headquartered in Germany.