

BASF Miconutrient News

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Stepping Up The Fight Against Hunger

The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and German companies plan to step up their cooperation in the fight against world hunger and to improve food and nutrition security. Their goal is to increase agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers, and to improve nutritional and economic outcomes for their families. A total of over 80 million euros is to be made available. Of this, about 20 million euros will be provided by the BMZ and around 20 million euros by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. German and international businesses have indicated their intention to match this amount with further funding of about 40 million euros. Two projects in the context of the German Food Partnership (GFP) with highly visible BASF commitments have been launched at the meeting (see right). This was the outcome of a meeting between BMZ Minister Dirk Niebel, Bill Gates and top German business representatives, among them Michael Heinz, member of the board of executive directors of BASF, that took place in Berlin in January.



Bill Gates (left) and Michael Heinz (right), member of the board of executive directors of BASF in Berlin on January 29, 2013

[> read BMZ press release](#)

German Food Partnership

BASF will participate in two key projects to improve the value chains of selected agricultural products in the context of the German Food Partnership (GFP). The African Oilseed Alliance has the objective to strengthen the local oil industry of up to five African countries by improving the quality of seeds, cultivation and harvesting methods as well as processing including the fortification of edible oil. The second project, the "Asian German Better Rice Initiative" focuses on the improvement of rice value chains. The projects' implementing partners consist of private sector participants of the GFP in the field of fertilizers and plant protection, irrigation systems, agricultural engineering, analysis as well as food processing technology. In both projects, BASF will contribute with its fortification and plant protection expertise. The projects are currently in their design phase and shall be implemented over 5 to 7 years.

The GFP is a voluntary alliance of around 35 German and European businesses and associations; under the umbrella of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), making concerted efforts to promote agriculture and the food industry in emerging and developing economies.

[> read more](#)



100 million more people have access to fortified staple foods

In the context of the Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, BASF committed to supporting access to fortified staple foods for an extra 60 million people a year. In 2012, approximately 100 million more people have been reached than in the previous year 2011.

Feeding the World Conferences

The challenges of feeding the world sustainably and nutritiously were assessed at the “Feeding the World” global conference series. The most respected names from industry, government and NGOs came together to generate fresh solutions for critical food security challenges. Between February 2012 and February 2013 BASF sponsored and contributed to the “Feeding the World” conferences organized by The Economist Group in Hong Kong, Johannesburg and Amsterdam.



Studies on Malnutrition Cure

Two studies on malnourished children offer major new scientific findings about the causes and treatment of severe malnutrition, which affects more than 20 million children around the world and contributes to the deaths of more than a million a year. The study published in the New England Journal of Medicine has been conducted in Malawi. It reveals that severe malnutrition often involves more than a lack of food, and that feeding alone may not cure it. Giving children a cheap antibiotic along with the usual nutritional treatment could save tens of thousands of lives a year, the researchers found out. The second study suggests that differences in the microbes found in the intestines contribute to why some children suffer more acutely from hunger than others. [> read more](#)

Hidden Hunger – From Assessment to Solutions

Hidden Hunger is an increasing problem even in the developed countries, whose potential negative consequences on long-term health are often overlooked and underestimated. Scientists, public and private sector representatives as well as members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) came together at the Hidden Hunger Congress to assess the current situation and the impact of hidden hunger as well as identify possible solutions including multisectoral approaches. BASF sponsored the congress organized by the University of Hohenheim, Germany, from March 6 - 9 2013. [> read more](#)



BASF employees support school feeding project in Cambodia

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Almost 40 percent of children under the age of five are chronically malnourished. BASF employees contributed a total of around 420,000 to the 2012 donation campaign in support of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) school meals programme in Cambodia. WFP school meals in Cambodia not only provide vital nourishment of students through regular meals but also encourage children to come to school for the chance for a brighter future.

Food and Nutrition Bulletin

The current Food and Nutrition Bulletin is focusing on large scale food fortification programs. The 33rd volume of the bulletin is giving recommendations on how to optimize the implementation of food fortification programs and shares country experiences and technical considerations.