



Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition
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“There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread”

Mahatma Gandhi



Official Press Release

IIMSAM underlines the importance of eradication of malnutrition through Spirulina to secure lasting peace and the UN MDGs on the International Day of Non-Violence



(H.E. Ambassador Manish Uprety, Special Envoy to South Asia with the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and IIMSAM Goodwill Ambassador, Mr. Tushar Gandhi of the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation, in Mumbai, India)

(IIMSAM Headquarters, New York, 2nd October 2009) Realizing the importance of the eradication of malnutrition by the international community to achieve lasting peace and secure a Culture of Non-Violence, IIMSAM celebrated the United Nations International Day of Non-violence at its headquarters in New York.

Malnutrition which according to the United Nations Select Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) is the biggest challenge to achieve the UN MDGs shall further aggravate in the future unless immediate steps are taken by the international community to address the issue. A recent report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) titled,

Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation, projects that in the year 2050 there will be 25 million additional malnourished children along with increase in prices and decrease in yields of staple crops.

This scenario as the United Nations Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki Moon mentioned clearly on the 29th of April in Berne, Switzerland shall also lead to the spread of wide spread hunger and social unrest on an unlimited scale unless these emergency situations are fully addressed.

Food fortification through Spirulina which was declared by the United Nations World Food Conference of 1974 as *the best food for the future* holds tremendous potential to avoid such a situation.

IIMSAM's successful implementation of its Spirulina Nutritional Initiative in the Republic of Kenya when the country declared the national food emergency in early 2009 attests to the significant potential in the micro-algae Spirulina to eradicate malnutrition and counter various pathologies associated with it.

The success story of the *IIMSAM Dar al Muamineen Center* in the Republic of Kenya has convinced the governments from various countries including Uganda, Burundi, Iraq and the Dominican Republic that are urging IIMSAM to establish centers in areas affected by malnutrition whereas simultaneously the organization is also advocating incessantly with various countries to declare Spirulina as a strategic crop to counter malnutrition.



Addressing an in-house gathering at the IIMSAM Headquarters on the occasion, Director General H.E. Ambassador Remigio Maradona, stated- *Peace and Non-violence are mere lofty aspirations until the basic needs of the humankind are fulfilled by the international community. Unless the loss and deprivation of life unleashed by the scourge of malnutrition is stemmed immediately, death and decay shall be prevalent amongst*

the most vulnerable and the marginalised, especially in the developing and the least developed countries.

I am a firm believer in the Gandhian values and have prioritized the need to address the issue of malnutrition in the developing and the least developed countries through the initiatives of IIMSAM. I urge the international community and the United Nations system to declare Spirulina as a strategic crop to address the issue of malnutrition and deliver nutritional security to the peoples of the world in a year when the global food crisis shall impact over a billion people.