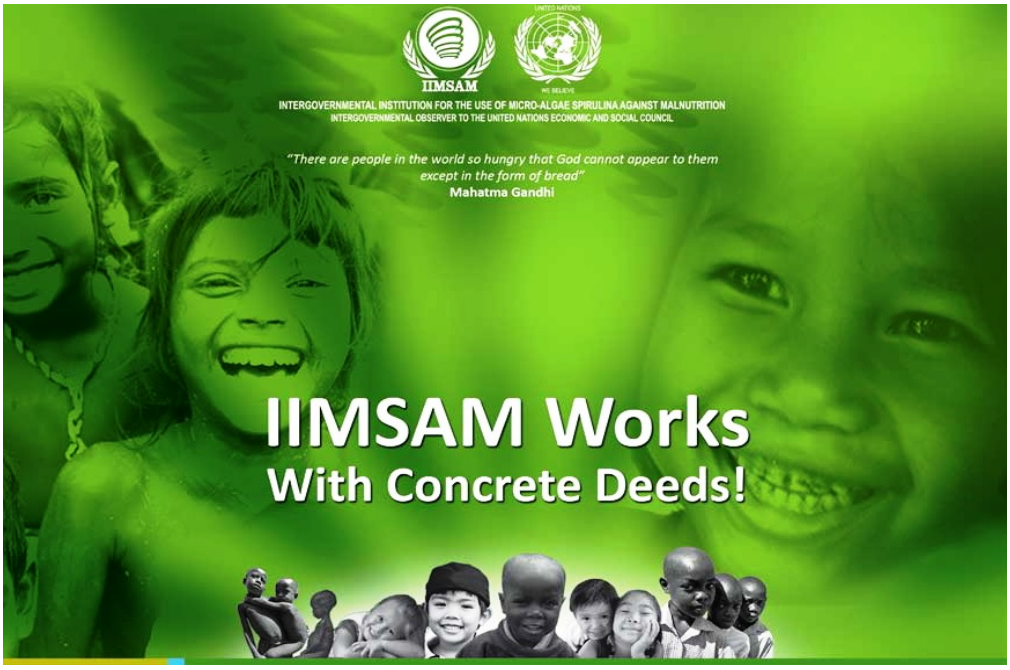

WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS SAYS ABOUT SPIRULINA

About The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO`s) 2008 Report on the Potentialities of Spirulina?

IIMSAM Making a Difference by initiating through rigorous lobbying efforts at United Nations Headquarters in New York a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/60/ L.14/Rev.1/) *" On the uses of Spirulina to combat Hunger and Malnutrition and help achieve sustainable development"* in 2005 during the 60th Session of the UN-General Assembly-Second Committee Agenda Item 52, which was submitted by ***Burundi, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Paraguay***. Although, resolution was withdrawn by a diplomatic impasse. Nonetheless, as a follow up of this withdrawn draft resolution. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) was **requested** to present a draft position paper on Spirulina. Which three years later resulted in:

FAO`s REPORT PRESENTED IN 2008 and includes the following selected recommendations listed:

- There is a need for both national governments and inter-governmental organizations to re-evaluate the potential of Spirulina to fulfill both their own food security needs as well as a tool for their overseas development emergency response efforts"- The UN-Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Report on Spirulina 2008.

- To improve technical and economic solutions to spirulina production in environmentally impoverished conditions, as well as to prepare tested production packages for rapid deployment in emergency situations. Providing nutritional supplements for use in rural and urban communities where the diet is inadequate; allowing diversification from traditional crops in cases where land or water resources are limited; as a short and medium-term solution to emergency situations where sustainable supply of high protein/vitamin foodstuff is required.

- This implies the ability to rapidly install systems in variety of environments that can be sustained by local communities to cover both short-term food needs and to supplement longer-term national requirements especially once other forms of food relief cease to be delivered.

- For WHO, Spirulina represents an interesting food for multiple reasons, rich in iron and protein, and is able to be administered to children without any risk. We at WHO consider it a very suitable food" - United Nations World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland June 8Th, 1993.

- Spirulina- was declared by the United Nations World Food Conference of 1974 as the best food for the future-

  - **To download the full FAO-Report and Draft Resolution go to the IIMSAM Website: www.iimsam.org** ***or www.fao.org (for report.)***

SPIRULINA - A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION

IIMSAM IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

With only few months left until the 2015 target date for achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals IIMSAM is leading a collective effort to accelerate progress towards the goals and in particular: ***Goal#1 to eradicate extreme Poverty and Hunger.*** Towards this end, IIMSAM has been playing a proactive role in providing humanitarian aid. IIMSAM has been successful with its strategic partnerships around the world in the distribution of *Spirulina platensis* to countless of people in need. IIMSAM recognizes that hunger and malnutrition are a major impediment to sustainable development, and reaffirming that reducing hunger is a primary goal of the *UN-Millennium Development Goals: # 1. Eradicate hunger and poverty* in order to disseminate and implement food security programs in feeding centres for poor people with the use of foods fortified with Spirulina to combat acute malnutrition worldwide.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF SPIRULINA:

1. Spirulina is effective: one gram per day is sufficient enough to correct severe malnutrition in a child in a few weeks. New studies suggest that Spirulina not only improves the physical development of the child but also cognitive performance.
2. Moreover, Spirulina helps people affected by HIV/AIDS to gain weight and feel better in their daily life.
3. It is a relatively simple process and requires a low investment of only US$ 500 per tank (18 m2) to produce 150 grams per day.
4. It empowers women: spirulina cultivation is labour-intensive, hence an ideal job for rural women and others.
5. It is a local business: spirulina production can be organized as a decentralized rural industry and can involve local people. Individuals can generate an income through producing, processing and selling spirulina as a business. It is thus a sustainable long-term solution.

(Upon the availability of funding.) The IIMSAM Spirulina Nutritional Programme Centre in the Nyanza Province of Kenya has served thousands of dosages of spirulina since 2009. The Centre helps physically challenged orphans/children, with feeding, medical care, education etc. The programme, which is the first of its kind in Kenya, aims at making the cultivation of Spirulina self-sustainable. In addition we provide special services to HIV/AIDS infected adults and children. The IIMSAM Spirulina Programme long term plan is to expand to other regions of Kenya. It aims at becoming a self-sustainable solution that can be duplicated throughout Kenya, Africa and worldwide.

In eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the U.N. Millennium Development Goal #1, sustainable and long term solutions are essential. These are imperative not only in emergency situations but also as an investment in a productive society to make a change in people's everyday life. How can society end poverty and achieve prosperity, if its children are underdeveloped, mentally retarded or too weak to attend school? One such sustainable solution is Spirulina, blue-green microalgae which can serve as a vital source of nutrition.

Spirulina is an algae growing naturally under tropical conditions in alkaline water and can be cultivated in small ponds with little investment. In the long run, there are no cheaper and better ways to sustainability than creating local businesses which make use of the knowledge and skills of local women. A truly sustainable solution will emerge if rural women can be profitably involved in the eradication of malnutrition and, in the process, make a living out of it. Spirulina can become a sustainable long-term solution if programmes can be designed which enable profitable enterprises that are capable of combating malnutrition as a business.

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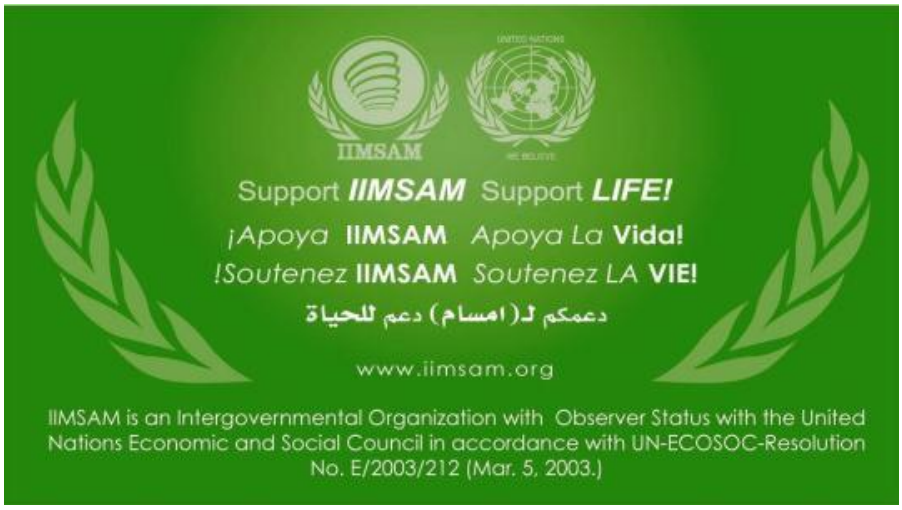
For information media • not an official record



For more information on the benefits of Spirulina and the concrete deeds of IIMSAM go to our official website:
WWW.IIMSAM.ORG