ROLE OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF SALT IODIZATION LEGISLATION IN IMPROVING THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADEQUATELY IODIZED SALT

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To explore the relationship between the number of enforcement visits to the salt production sites and the production of adequately iodized salt in the Senegalese regions of Kaolack and Fatick.

Methods: Data on the number and frequency of enforcement activities in the productions sites, the amount of fine paid by defaulters, and total production of adequately iodized salt were collected for the period 2008-2012 in two regions of Senegal.

Results: In Kaolack, the level of enforcement visits decreased sharply from 138 field controls in 2008 to 35 in 2012. In Fatick, enforcement activities increased from 30 in 2008 to 140 in 2012. Fines paid by defaulters from 2008 to 2012 are to 600,000FCFA in Kaolack versus 4,075,000FCFA in Fatick. In Kaolack, the proportion of adequately iodized salt (≥30 ppm) declined from 74% (20,000 MT) in 2008 to 34% (12,000 MT) in 2012 while in Fatick it steadily increased from 26% (6,000 MT) in 2008 to 66% (25,000 MT) in 2012.

Conclusions: Whatever the resources used in mentoring and training small salt producers, as well as in raising their awareness and communicating for their behavior change, the objective of Universal Salt Iodization will be difficult to achieve without a commitment of the authorities responsible for enforcing regulations.

BACKGROUND

- Senegal is the biggest salt producer in West Africa with about 200,000 MT out of its 500,000 MT salt annual yield produced by thousands of small salt farmers spread throughout 6 salt producing zones.
- Small salt producers mainly supply the local market and neighboring countries.
- The production and distribution of non-iodized salt is banned by the legislation. The Ministry of Trade (MoT), supported by the police forces and the Department of hygiene of the Ministry of Health (MoH) is mandated to enforce this legislation.
- However, the proportion of households consuming iodized salt is less than 70%, leaving one third of the population unprotected against iodine deficiency disorders.

OBJECTIVES

To explore the relationship between the number of enforcement visits to the salt production sites and the production of adequately iodized salt in the Senegalese regions of Kaolack and Fatick.

RESULTS

- In Kaolack, the level of enforcement decreased sharply from 138 field controls in 2008 to 35 field controls in 2012. In Fatick, enforcement activities increased from 30 in 2008 to 140 in 2013 (Figure 1).
- Fines paid by defaulters were 600,000 FCFA in Kaolack against 4,075,000 FCFA in Fatick during the period 2008 -2012.
- In Kaolack, the proportion of adequately iodized salt (≥30 ppm) declined from 74% (20,000 MT) in 2008 to 34% (12,000 MT) in 2012 while in Fatick it steadily increased from 26% (6,000 MT) per year in 2008 to 66% (25,000 MT) in 2012 (Figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

In the regions of Kaolack and Fatick there is a positive relationship between the number of enforcement visits to the production sites and the percentage of adequately iodized salt produced during the period 2008 -2012.

An active commitment from the authorities responsible for enforcing regulations seems instrumental in achieving the objective of Universal Salt Iodization.

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