

आचार्य एन. के. गांगुली
महानिर्देशक

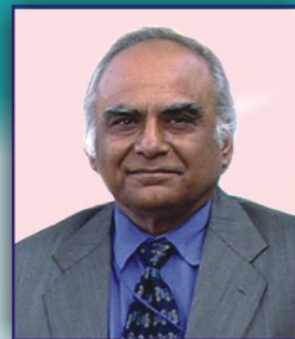
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MESSAGE

The Eleventh Five Year Plan places firm emphasis on alleviation of major nutritional problems prevalent in the country today, especially those arising due to micronutrient deficiency. Dietary inadequacy of certain micronutrients like iron, iodine and vitamin A among our population groups has been a major issue. This silent hunger having deleterious effect on the physical as well as economic health of our people, especially women and children, has become a major cause for concern to the academicians as well as policy makers. The need for well-devised research programmes to provide cost-effective, pragmatic solutions to combat multifactorial nutritional problems is being largely met through the research endeavors of NIN.

The laboratory, clinical and community studies being carried out at this premier nutrition research institute are indeed need-based and aim at providing much awaited answers to several nutritional complexities affecting our society.

I am happy to state that the institute has readily responded to assist in disaster management programme by assessing health and nutritional status of Tsunami-affected population groups. Their studies on tribal population groups also speak of the priority accorded to the health of the underprivileged sections of our society. There is a lot to deduce from the studies carried out at NIN on the molecular basis of non-communicable degenerative diseases such as link of -Crystallin protein between diabetes and cataract and role of resistin in diabetes. This year's research has unearthed some interesting facts relating to the prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cancers and other degenerative diseases in the rural communities. Some basic studies involving micronutrients, dietary fats and food fortification hold the potential of impacting on large-scale nutritional interventions in the country. NIN's studies in the areas of pre-clinical toxicology, laboratory animal science and nutrition extension also help to devise better research models for wider use.

I earnestly hope that the institute's research programmes turns out to be more need-based in the coming years and help solve different nutrition-related problems affecting our communities.

Prof. N.K. Ganguly