

# **National Nutrition Conclave - A concept note**

## **Background**

India is at an important “tipping point” with respect to nutrition and public health. The National Family Health Survey III shows that nutritional status for vulnerable groups like women and children has not improved commensurate with increases in general economic growth in the country. Seventy percent of pregnant women are anaemic while 46% of children below three years are undernourished. There is increasing evidence that current approaches are not adequate to achieve the desired objectives and need refinement. There is a critical need for agreement, leadership and collaboration on the way forward in nutrition security. There is currently momentum, which includes increased political, public and health sector interest in the issues of malnutrition in India and and public sector financial and human resources available to address these problems.

## **Objective**

The present conclave is being organized to facilitate new and creative thinking and produce a short list of priority actions for improving nutrition security in India and also suggest ways of taking it forward.

## **The Approach**

The conclave would adopt the ‘open space technology’ a meeting characterized in part by the lack of a predetermined agenda. It does not rely on presentations, speeches or formal leadership. It invites the participants to consider a critical question or issue, set the agenda, and identify the best way forward. Much of the meeting will be spent in small group work, with participants having maximum freedom and choice about which groups to participate in. The conclave would result in the participants short listing a set of actions and identifying ways of taking it forward.

## **Organizers**

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Indian Council of Medical Research

USAID

