

WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS SAYS ABOUT SPIRULINA

“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](#)

“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-](#)



IIMSAM Photo From: The IIMSAM Dar al Muamineen Centre, Kenya

SPIRULINA - A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION ***Achieving the U.N. MDG's***

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.

How can spirulina eradicate extreme poverty and hunger?

- Spirulina is affordable: to feed a child in India costs between one and two Rupees a day (U.S. \$ 6 to 12 per year). Many other feeding solutions are more costly and less sustainable.

- 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.
- Moreover, Spirulina helps people affected by HIV/AIDS to gain weight and feel better in their daily life.
- 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.
- It empowers women: spirulina cultivation is labour-intensive, hence an ideal job for rural women and others.
- 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.

The IIMSAM Dar al Muamineen Centre – a success story in Kenya (2009-Present)



The IIMSAM Spirulina Nutritional Programme in the Nyanza Province of Kenya has served over 100,000 Spirulina Feeding Visits for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. The Centre works to help physically challenged orphans/children, with housing, 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 is in the process of rapid expansion to the *Kogelo, Turkana and Mombasa* regions it aims at becoming a self-sustainable solution that can be duplicated throughout Kenya, Africa and worldwide.

SELECTED SPIRULINA-DISTRIBUTION PILOT-PROJECTS PROJECTED FOR 2011-12

Upon Availability of Funding



Iraq

The IIMSAM Spirulina Fallujah project aims at helping the children and adults in need and raises the health profile of the citizens in Fallujah, Iraq. The project's primary focus is on the cultivation and distribution of Spirulina and the providence of micro credit loans, to start small private Spirulina pool enterprises. In addition, the programme will provide children with a new type of nutritional and health education, enabling them to increase their environmental and social awareness.



IIMSAM's Initiative for Dominican Republic/Haiti

IIMSAM will provide immediate emergency relief for the areas where nutritional and medical assistance is most needed. Based on IIMSAM's preliminary analysis, this would be the northern part of the country and the area on the border with the Dominican Republic. In the initial phase IIMSAM will be able to provide relief to peoples suffering from severe malnutrition. However, the emergency relief program will be expanded to the whole area as well as other regions based on need. IIMSAM's IMAP Program (International Medical Assistance Program) a team of highest quality medical doctors and practitioners provided Specialised Medical Services after Haiti was struck with a devastating earthquake on 16 January 2010. IIMSAM will be treating malnourished children, primarily with ready-to-use spirulina, that includes all the minerals, vitamins, and nutrients that rapidly growing young children need.



Democratic Republic of Congo

IIMSAM will be initiating an emergency Spirulina distribution pilot-project in the Maniema Region which is suffering from severe crises situation where people are forced to eat from the bushes. IIMSAM will also be proving under its IMAP Programme emergency medical relief services to the local population of Maniema. IIMSAM will be treating malnourished children, primarily with ready-to-use spirulina, that includes all the minerals, vitamins, and nutrients that rapidly growing young children need.



Peru- IIMSAM will be initiating a Spirulina based Affirmative Action Programme to counter malnutrition for the indigenous and other populations in Peru along with the cooperation of the national and local authorities. IIMSAM will be treating malnourished children, primarily with ready-to-use spirulina, that includes all the minerals, vitamins, and nutrients that rapidly growing young children need.



Colombia- IIMSAM will be initiating a Spirulina based Affirmative Action Programme to counter malnutrition along with the cooperation of the national and local authorities. IIMSAM will be treating malnourished children, primarily with ready-to-use Spirulina, that includes all the minerals, vitamins, and nutrients that rapidly growing young children need.

For additional Information on Spirulina and IIMSAM go to: www.iimsam.org