

Conflict of Interest, private sector conduct to influence food and nutrition sector and the safeguards needed

Lecture By: Dr. Arun Gupta, BPNI

Students of “Food and Nutrition Justice” at
National Law School Odisha

17 March 2025

Overview

- About myself, BPNI founding and journey 1980s onwards
- The Baby Food Law 1993/2003
- Alliance Against Conflicts of Interest(AACI)- 2010
- Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi)-2016
- How these 2 alliances work
- Examples of Conflicts of Interest- scenario in India and globally
- Safeguards needed

Personal Journey

- From a government doctor to private practice
- Baby food battles
- 1979, 1981- Birth of a girl and a boy- Lacked support for breastfeeding and lactation
- Shift to public health- Founding of BPNI
- Moved to Delhi closed 30 bedded hospital
- Joined IBFAN 1989
- Public Health Activism

Birth of BPNI

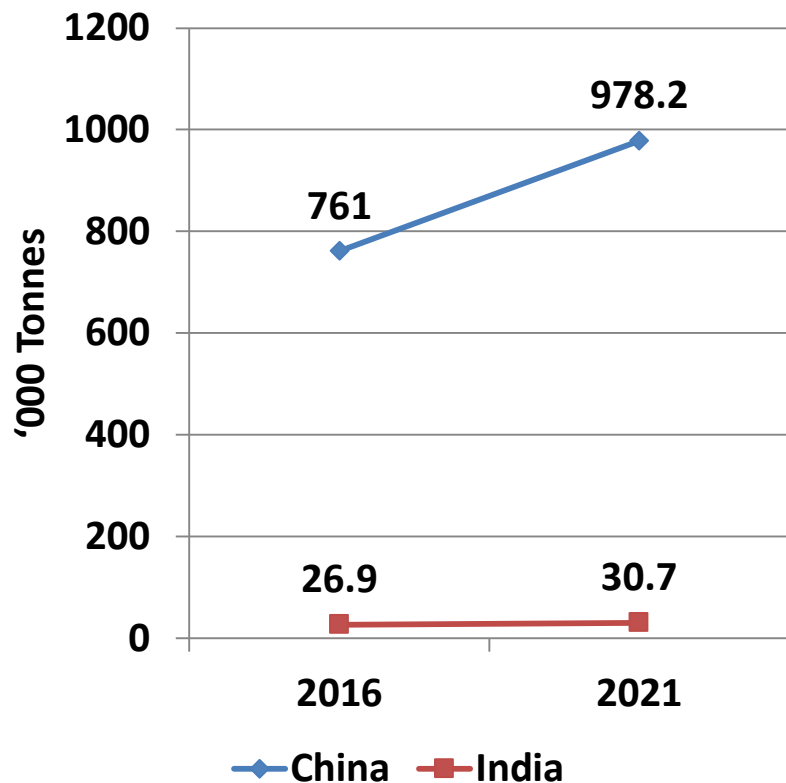
- 1991 December 3, BPNI was born at Wardha, Gandhi Ashram as a result of training of lactation support trainers.
- Major victory in 1993-Baby food law
- Work : Monitor Baby Food law, lactation training, advocacy for maternity protection, baby friendly hospitals....

Major contribution of BPNI and its allies' work

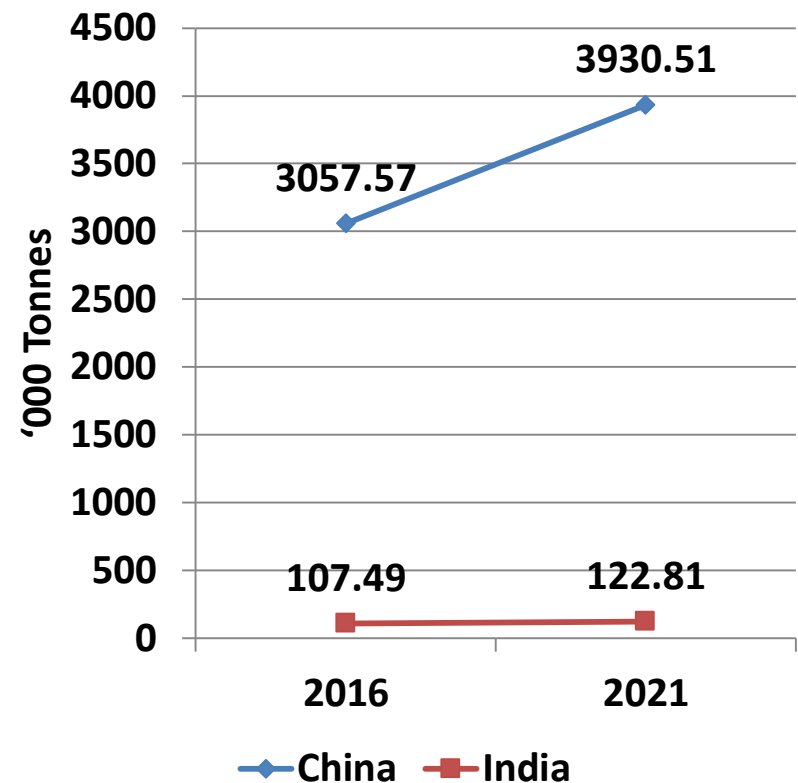
- Baby food law that flattened the growth of infant formula- it bans its promotion
- Maternity leave 12 to 26 weeks
- Cash support to economically weaker women
- Breastfeeding rates begin to rise in 2015
- The Nestle Case 1994-2013
- Ongoing struggle

Sales of Breastmilk Substitutes India and China

Sales of BMS in 2016 and projected sales in 2021 ('000 Tonnes)



GHG Emissions due to BMS in 2016 and projected emissions in 2021 ('000 Tonnes CO₂)



Nestle Sponsored Clinical Trial with ICMR (2019)

Press release 3rd August 2019

Health Ministry enforces prohibition against sponsorship of research by baby food company in response to BPNI's complaint.

Nestlé sponsors research in five hospitals of India in violation of the law to protect and promote breastfeeding.

The Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) was recently alerted to the fact that Nestlé, a leading manufacturer of infant milk substitutes and infant foods, is brazenly flouting the stringent Indian law that prohibits such manufacturers from sponsoring or funding medical research or otherwise financing any part of the health care system. On examining the ICMR Clinical Trial Registry maintained by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), BPNI confirmed that Nestlé India Limited, a producer of *infant milk substitutes and infant foods*, is sponsoring research titled "Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Preterm hospitalized infants".

Nestlé India Ltd. is listed as the primary sponsor and source of monetary or material support. Five premier hospitals benefiting from this sponsorship include: Cloud nine Hospital, Bangalore, Institute of Child Health, Kolkata, Manipal Hospital, Bangalore, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi, and the Calcutta Medical Research Institute Kolkata. According to ICMR documents, the research is approved by the ethical committees, which are clearly NOT independent.

Nestlé is a leading manufacturer of *infant milk substitutes and infant foods* covered under the scope of the *Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003, (IMS Act)*. Section 9.2 of the IMS act clearly forbids any benefits for research to health workers who are caring for mothers and babies. <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/IMSamendact2003.pdf>

Posted at: Aug 4, 2019, 6:44 AM; last updated: Aug 4, 2019, 6:44 AM (EST)

Govt orders probe into Nestle-led clinical trial

Directs ICMR to look into matter after evidence that baby food-maker is in violation of an Indian law which prohibits infant milk substitute producers from funding any medical research or hospitals

17
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Aditi Tandon

Tribune News Service

New Delhi, August 3

The government today ordered a probe into a clinical trial being sponsored by Nestlé India, asking the apex medical research regulator ICMR to investigate the matter and take action.

The directions were issued by the Health Ministry after evidence that Nestlé India was in alleged violation of the Indian law that prohibits producers of baby foods from extending pecuniary benefits or other contributions to health workers or associations of health workers namely doctors and hospitals caring for mother and infants.

Also in this section

Constitution Bench begins day-to-day hearing on Ayodhya

106 central laws to be applied to UT of J&K

Pak Foreign Minister Shah Qureshi wrote to UN on Kashmir issue last week

Bishan Singh Bedi tried to get 'undeserving son' in Delhi team, alleges Gambhir

"Unconstitutional tragedy": Manish Tewari on scrapping of Article 370

Source: [Govt orders probe into Nestle-led clinical trial](#)

Struggle continues 2025

Times Evoke Cancer Patriarchy Maharashtra Delhi Karnataka

Paeiatricians' summit sponsored by infant formula maker in violation of law

Rema Nagarajan / TNN / Updated: Mar 5, 2025, 15:12 IST

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Abbott Nutrition is sponsoring a national paediatrics summit in Dehradun, despite laws prohibiting baby food manufacturers from funding medical conferences. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics had previously taken funding from Abbott, claiming i ... [Read More](#)



The law prohibits baby food manufacturers from funding or sponsoring conferences and meetings of doctors. Yet, Abbott Nutrition, an infant formula manufacturing company, is sponsoring a 'national paediatrics summit' in a five-star hotel in Dehradun on March 8 and 9.

In 2020, the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), the largest association of paediatricians in India, had admitted taking funding from Abbott India Ltd for its conferences claiming that the pharmaceutical division was a different company from Abbott Nutrition, though the multinational, Abbott Laboratories, had clarified that Abbott Nutrition was its subsidiary. The union health ministry too flagged it as

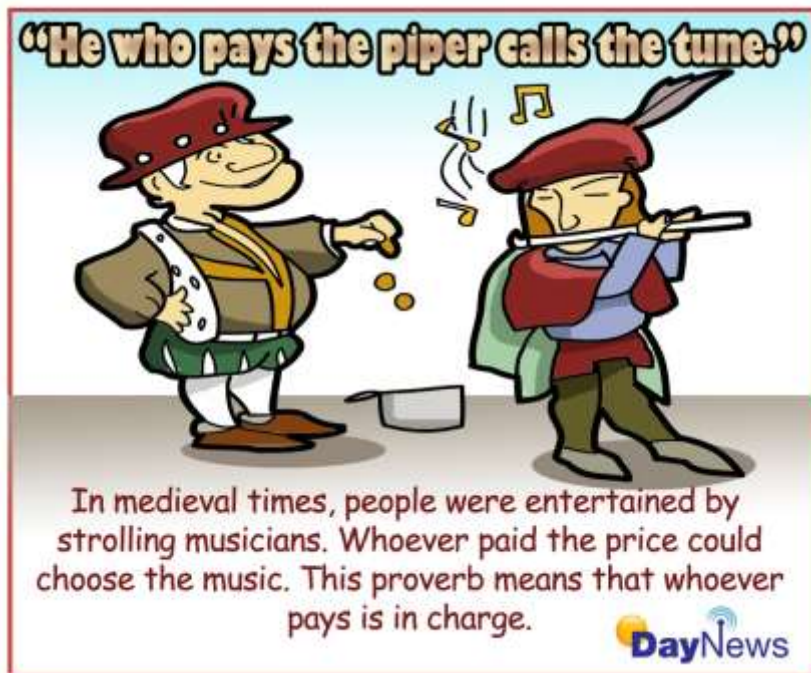
Nestle on social media Promotion of baby foods



Focus on policy flaws, COI

- During the work of BPNI (while working on breastfeeding and complementary feeding of children-0-24 months),
- We encountered disturbing situations of COI.
- Interest grew in this work

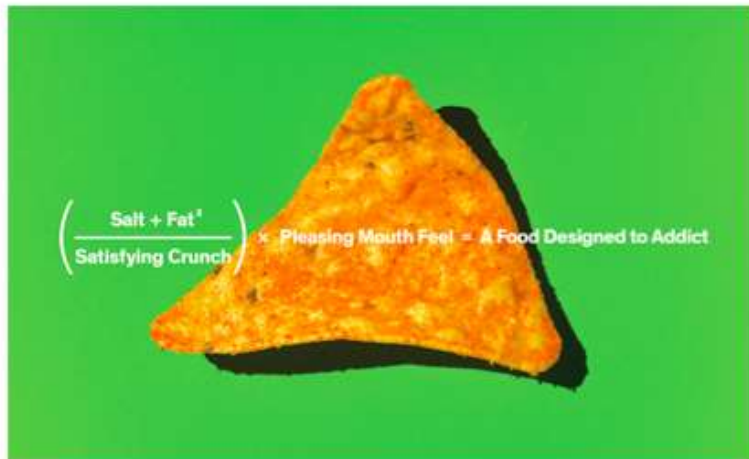
Peoples' perceptions concerning financial Col



- 1970 the term began to be used, esp. in medical science.
- Based on principles of corporate law : Duty Of loyalty by the fiduciaries who must put the corporation's interests ahead of their own
- Same can be applied to government officials or lawmakers towards citizens

New York Times, 2013 presented an investigation of a meeting in 1999

The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food



By [MICHAEL MOSS](#)

Published: February 20, 2013 [1347 Comments](#)

On the evening of **April 8, 1999**, a long line of Town Cars and taxis pulled up to the Minneapolis headquarters of Pillsbury and discharged **11 men who controlled America's largest food companies**. Nestlé was in attendance, as were Kraft and Nabisco, General Mills and Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola and Mars. Rivals any other day, the C.E.O.'s and company presidents had come together for a rare **private meeting**. On the agenda was one item: the

How the “public interest” got swayed

- Accountability shifted to corporate social responsibility(CSR), self-regulation, and “Voluntary Codes”
- Tools such as Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and “Stakeholder dialogues”, flourished

(Utting and Clapp 2008)

- Stakeholder “a person with an interest or concern in something, especially a business”- (Google meaning)

Use over time for: stakeholder



Definitions from Oxford Languages

Definition of conflicts of interest

“A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest . Institutional conflicts of interest arise when an institution’s own financial interests or those of its senior officials pose the risk of exerting an undue influence on decisions involving the institution’s primary interests”

(IOM, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK22942/>)

Definition as used in the law

"A **conflict of interest exists** where an individual has an **obligation to serve a party or perform a role** and the individual has either:

- 1) **incentives** or
- 2) **conflicting loyalties,**

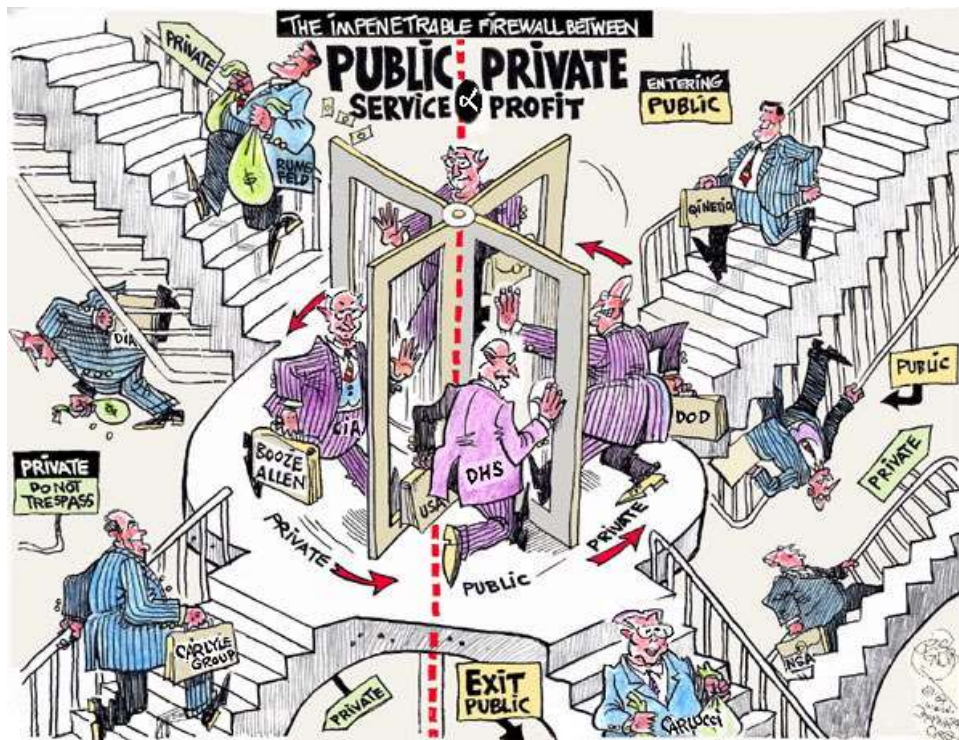
which encourage the individual to **act in ways that breach his or her obligations.**"

•Rodwin, M. (2017). *"Conflicts of interest in medicine: Should we contract, conserve, or expand the traditional definition and scope of regulation?"*
Journal of Health Law and Policy.

COI Stems from.....

- Revolving door phenomenon
- Inclusion of experts from food industry in policy making bodies/expert committees
- Incentives for public servants/regulators/policy-makers
- Stock holding of companies by the regulators
- And so on...

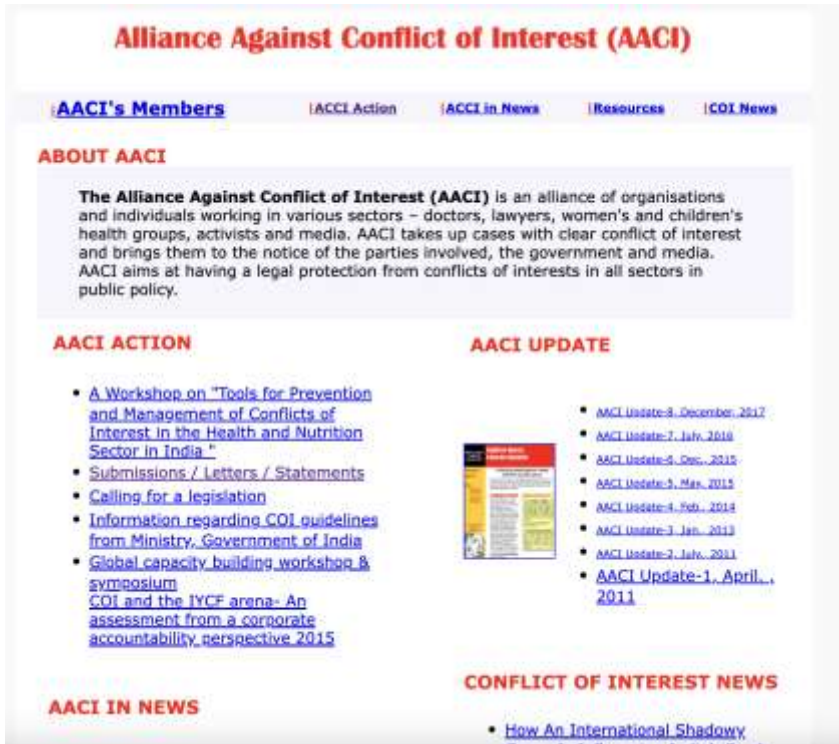
Revolving Door



- Govt lawyer Gopal Subramaniam joins multinational pharmaceutical company
- Health Secretary Naresh Dayal joins GSK
- Retired Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramaniam joins MI
- Veena Rao, earlier with MoWCD, joins Britannia Industry as Advisor
- PV Bhide retired as revenue secretary, got permission to join 5 companies-NOCIL Ltd, Heidelberg Cement India Ltd, L&T finance Ltd, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

- We began to identify conflicts of interest as a situation both nationally and globally
- Corporates are slowly entering into our lives at the cost of our health, nutrition and well-being. It included public policy, new vaccine introductions, and grabbing infant and young child feeding and nutrition policy
- It is then the idea of convening AACI struck
- 2010 I gave this call to about 15 persons joined

AACI work



Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI)

[AACI's Members](#) | [AACI Action](#) | [AACI in News](#) | [Resources](#) | [COI News](#)

ABOUT AACI

The Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI) is an alliance of organisations and individuals working in various sectors – doctors, lawyers, women's and children's health groups, activists and media. AACI takes up cases with clear conflict of interest and brings them to the notice of the parties involved, the government and media. AACI aims at having a legal protection from conflicts of interests in all sectors in public policy.

AACI ACTION

- [A Workshop on "Tools for Prevention and Management of Conflicts of Interest in the Health and Nutrition Sector in India"](#)
- [Submissions / Letters / Statements](#)
- [Calling for a legislation](#)
- [Information regarding COI guidelines from Ministry, Government of India](#)
- [Global capacity building workshop & symposium COI and the IYCF arena- An assessment from a corporate accountability perspective 2015](#)

AACI UPDATE

- [AACI Update-8, December, 2017](#)
- [AACI Update-7, July, 2018](#)
- [AACI Update-6, Dec., 2015](#)
- [AACI Update-5, May, 2015](#)
- [AACI Update-4, Feb., 2014](#)
- [AACI Update-3, Jan., 2013](#)
- [AACI Update-2, July, 2011](#)
- [AACI Update-1, April., 2011](#)

AACI IN NEWS

- [How An International Shadowy](#)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NEWS

- The Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI) is an alliance of organisations and individuals working in various sectors – doctors, lawyers, women's and children's health groups, activists and media. AACI takes up cases with clear conflict of interest and brings them to the **notice of the parties involved**, the government and media. AACI aims at having a legal protection from conflicts of **interests in all sectors in public policy**.

RTI INFORMATION ON COI

Q: Please provide copy of any guidance that exists to prevent, manage and avoid conflicts of interests in formulation of public policy, and implementing programmes



Ministry /Department	2013	2018
MOHFW	MOHFW - Refers to Art 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control in setting public health policy	
	MOH/CH Donor DIV -No such policy, subject matter does not relate to its work.	Child Health division 'No information on the points raised by you is available with Child Health Division of This ministry'
	MOH JSY Div -No such policy	NUHM Division- 'NIL'
	MOH/NRHM II Div -Does not deal with this issue	National Programme For Health- "NIL"
		NCD -II Division- "NIL"
Ministry of Women and Child Development	MWCD- Refers to a document "How to prepare Cabinet Note", which does not talk about conflicts of interests	
	MWCD STEP Scheme - No such policy	
	MWCD CD I, II,II -There are no guidelines in existence which prevent, manage and avoid conflicts of interests in formulating of public policy	
	MWCD ME unit - No such policy	
Govt. of Delhi NCT, Food and Consumer Policy Div -	No clear guidelines are available on this Issue	
Ministry of Food Processing	No such separate guidance that exists to prevent, manage and avoid	NIL

AACI's work made some impact

- It highlighted COI in all sectors
- COI was now being talked about in media
- Member Parliament got involved and proposed a private members Bill to prevent COI but it did not get through.



Safeguards Bill in Rajya Sabha 2011

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 27TH APRIL, 2012

Bill No. LVII of 2011

THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BILL, 2011

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

CLAUSES

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.

CHAPTER II

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. Duty of public authority or body.
4. Duty of individual.
5. Disclosure of insider information.

NAPi's work <https://www.napiindia.in/>



Major work on policy analysis and monitoring marketing

Policy Documents

In this section, you will find recommendations, Policy Brief, Position Statements, Policy documents about ultra-processed food (UPF), front of package labelling systems (FOPL), malnutrition, etc.



NAPI Statement on McDonald's Partnership with CFTRI to Create

Millet-Based Buns

Language: English

Published: September, 2024

[Download](#)



Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI)

Applauds Economic Survey 2024-25 for Acknowledging the Need to Reduce UltraProcessed Food Consumption for Public Health

Language: English

Published: February, 2025

[Download](#)



Statement by NAPI & BPNI

Stringent Legal Reform in Food Policy- A Public Health Imperative

Language: English

Published: April, 2024

[Download](#)



Position Statement "Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL)

Language: Hindi

Published: May 4, 2022

[Download](#)



Position Statement "Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL)

Language: English

Published: May 4, 2022

[Download](#)



Policy Brief on Warning Labels for Unhealthy Food

Language: English

Published: Feb 2022

[Download](#)



Concept Note on Inclusion of ultra-processed foods within the regulatory framework

Language: English

Published: Feb 14, 2022

[Download](#)

Contd.



Statement and Call to Action on Consumption of Ultra- Processed Foods

Language: English

Published: May 4, 2022

[Download](#)



NAPI's Statement on Bournvita Row

Language: English

Published: April 18, 2023

[Download](#)



Report: The Junk Push_ Rise of Junk Food Consumption in India-Policy, Politics and Reality

Language: English

Launched: September 22, 2023

[Download](#)



"50 Shades of Food Advertising-Seductive and Luring, Misleading People to Consume Unhealthy Foods"

Language: English

Launched: July 5, 2024

[Download](#)



Position Statement Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

Published: October 2019

[Download](#)



NAPI's Statement on the Rise of Diabetes in India Prevention is Better than Cure

Language: English

Published: June, 2023

[Download](#)



Executive Summary : The Junk Push_ Rise of Junk Food Consumption in India-Policy, Politics and Reality

Language: English

Launched: September 22, 2023

[Download](#)

Concrete examples and case studies

**How FSSAI Exempted Food Industry
from the Baby food law**

Our Members

The Infant and Young Child Nutrition Council is comprised of the following founding members.



Abbott Nutrition India



Danone Nutricia India



Mead Johnson Nutrition India



Nestlé India

1/16/2018



Policy Exempts FSMPs from IMS Act

Will the IMS Act and the regulations thereunder be applicable to these foods?

No. These foods are neither infant milk substitute nor infant food but are intended to meet special medical needs arising out of rare disorders/medical conditions. Further, these foods are required to be consumed under medical supervision. These foods are covered under special category of foods defined as Foods for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) which are out of scope of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992.

Danone and Abbott SPONSORED Annual Convention of NNF 2017



Rising use of infant formula harming environment: Study

11m | Dec 15, 2018, 12:26 AM IST

Mumbai: Consumption of milk formula (breast milk substitutes) is not just resulting in poor nutrition in infants and younger children, it is now also being linked to a detrimental impact on the environment.

BusinessLine

BSESENSEX 36,050.43 **▲** **5007.10 (1.4%)** **Nifty**, January 24, 2019 33 mins delay **Asian Pacific** **NIFTY** 10,800.35 **▲** **26.10 (0.24%)** **Midcap M** 694.30 **▲** **1.5**

HOME **NEWS** **MARKETS** **COMPANIES** **ECONOMY** **INDIA-TECH** **OPINION** **SPECIALS** **MARKETFOCUS (PERSONAL)** **DE STOCK** **MORE**

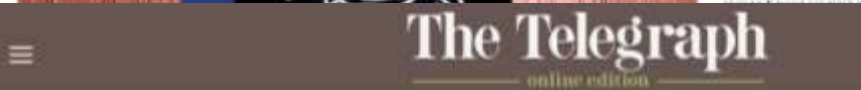
Companies

Nestle Nutrition accused of breaching IMS Act by sponsoring doctors' workshop

Maitri Porecha | Updated on January 18, 2019



Multinational food giant Nestle is facing another controversy as it



18-17 Feb, 2019
THE RALLY OF YOUR LIFE!
The Hyatt, Chandigarh
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THIS WORLD'S DRIVE

Health

Doctors raise baby food alert

Call to govt to act against covert promotion

By G.S. Mudur in New Delhi

Published 26.12.18, 3:50 AM - Updated 26.12.18, 7:58 AM

3 min read **A-** **A+**



Advertisement

Health

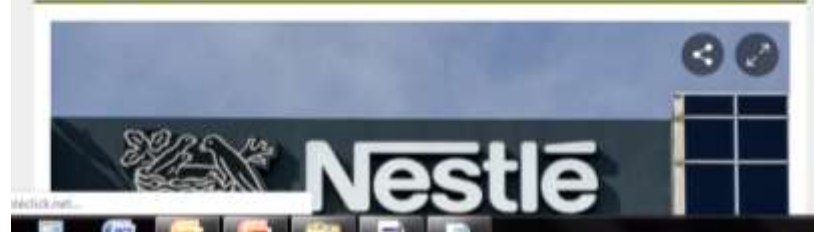
Nestle drops scientific meet on baby food

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India sees no science in the session, just industry promotion

By G.S. Mudur in New Delhi

Published 17.1.19, 2:51 AM - Updated 17.1.19, 9:46 AM

2 mins read **A-** **A+**



Thursday, 24 January 2019

HOME **POLITICS** **GOVERNANCE** **SECURITY** **ECONOMY** **OPINION** **CULTURE** **EVENTS** **HINDI**

Nestlé in trouble for 'influencing doctors to prescribe baby food' in India

ANMAN CHADHA • 10 January 2019





Will new FSSAI rules undercut baby food law?

TNN | Mar 6, 2016, 04:47 AM IST



Does special infant food for certain rare medical conditions have to be kept out of the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act — a law to prevent predatory marketing practices by baby food companies — to ensure their availability? This question sparked a tussle between public health activists and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Ostinately to deal with three very rare medical conditions in infants, FSSAI decided to exempt several products from the IMS Act. Baby food companies used this to sponsor doctors and market these special foods, which the IMS Act prohibits. Following protests from health activists, FSSAI clarified that the Act's provisions on marketing, promotion and sponsorship would apply to these special foods, but they would otherwise remain out of its ambit.

The Act is hailed globally as one of the most effective laws to protect breastfeeding against unethical marketing by baby-food companies. As a result, the sale of baby food formula in India is a tiny fraction of that in China, which does not have a similar stringent law.

So why is FSSAI keeping these special foods out of the Act? FSSAI says that since the Act says all baby food labels have to carry a statement "mother's milk is best for your baby" in capital letters, special foods for inborn metabolic errors have to be kept out of the legislation. However, according to the WHO and the American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP), there are only three inborn metabolic diseases in which breastfeeding can harm the baby. Of these, AAP says breastfeeding is an absolute no-no in just one, galactosemia. In the other two, phenylketonuria and maple syrup urine disease, breastfeeding is allowed along with special formula under medical monitoring.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Will-new-FSSAI-rules-undercut-baby-food-law/articleshow/52017642.cms>

Is India's food safety authority above Parliament?

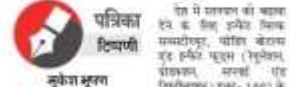
By Arun Gupta | 25 February, 2018



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working in partnership with the baby food industry, which is in the limelight for violating an Indian law enacted to the safety and health of children in 1992. If whose interest?

<http://www.sandysguardianlive.com/news/12897-india-food-safety-authority-above-parliament>

'मां के दूध' का विकल्प और कारोबारी सुगमता



मां में कारका की कमी के लिए उनके निक समसामयिक, पौष्टिक बेटाएं खुद उनके पालन (नियंत्रण, पोषण, स्वच्छता) पर ध्यान देना शुरू किया। 1992 के पास स्वास्थ्य पर कानून लागू करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। इस कानून के अंतर्गत के निर्देशों को लागू करने के लिए सरकार को बड़ा काम करना पड़ेगा। यह काम निश्चित रूप से ही कारोबार को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा (एकपक्षीयता)। यह निर्देशों को लागू करने का अर्थ है कारोबारियों को बचाने के लिए। सरकार को बचाने के लिए कारोबारियों को बचाने के लिए। सरकार को बचाने के लिए कारोबारियों को बचाने के लिए।

पत्रिका Tue, 27 February 2018 09:49:13 AM
<http://patrika.com/india/2018/02/27/india-food-safety-authority-above-parliament/>



BPN's STATEMENT OF CONCERN

FSSAI's ACTION TO EXEMPT SPECIAL FOODS FROM IMS ACT

BPNI supports government's efforts to support children born with inborn metabolic errors (IEM) and to ensure availability of special foods for these children. However, BPNI condemns the continued efforts of the FSSAI to keep foods for special medical purposes (FSMPs) out of the IMS Act. We believe the exemption to FSMPs is a flawed policy as we believe all baby foods should be under the purview of IMS Act.

The exemption for FSMPs came out of the FSSAI steering committee at a time when a front organization of the baby food industry (which also manufactures FSMPs) IYNCI was part of this committee. Infant Young Child Nutrition Council of India (IYNCI) was formed by the four big baby food multinationals Nestle, Danone, Abbott and Mead-Johnson. We appreciate the fact that the FSSAI has now heeded out cautionary advice regarding conflict of interest and removed IYNCI from the Steering Committee.

BPNI respects the *Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003*. IMS Act is a strong law that restricted the growth of milk formula in India. According to the Euromonitor reports, in India sales of baby formula from the years 2008 to 2012 grew from 24,428 to 27,783 Tonnes; whereas during the same period, in China, where the law is not that stringent, sales went up from 294,800 to 560,000 Tonnes. When we curtail the promotion of baby foods it results in enhancing breastfeeding and save babies.

A recent global report [1]"Don't Push It: Why the formula milk industry must clean up its act " has hailed IMS Act to be one of the most effective tool to curtail promotion of baby milk. **The report shows the deterrent value of IMS Act in India.** Major food companies like Abbott, Danone and Nestle have been heavily implicated in this report for violating norms in many countries pushing their milk formulas. These companies continue to look for ways to escape the jurisdiction of the IMS Act in India.

FSSAI indicates that special foods for IEMs fall under the category of foods for special medical purposes (FSMP) and in January 2018 listed four types of foods under FSMP category these are: i) foods for low birth weight babies, ii) for babies with an allergy to cow's milk, iii) for babies with lactose intolerance and iv) babies with inborn errors of metabolism (IEM).

BPNI's analysis reveals that FSSAI has allowed import of 93 products including foods for IEMs (66), hypoallergenic infant formulas for use in cow's milk allergy, (18), infant formulas for lactose

Reach us at: www.bpni.org

It led to exemption to special foods from existing law, and we had to fight for 2 years to reverse the decision.

Our vision is that market-based solutions and actions will reduce malnutrition.

[About Us](#)

[Our Members](#)



Award-winning approaches to solving nutritional challenges in Africa and Asia

Shining a spotlight on agri-food entrepreneurs from across Africa and Asia, winners of the 2020 Global SUN Pitch Competition were announced...

[Read more](#)



Solving global malnutrition: investing in innovations for local food systems

Cherrie Atilano, CEO of AGREA, is a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group and is supporting...

[Read more](#)

Our Global Movement



Our Co-Convenor



Our Co-Convenor



More Resources



GAIN wanted to control Infant and young child feeding 2008

The Frontline
Volume 25 - Issue 09 :: Apr. 26-May. 09, 2008
INDIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE
from the publishers of THE HINDU

<http://www.flonnet.com/stories/20080509250912700.htm>

PUBLIC HEALTH

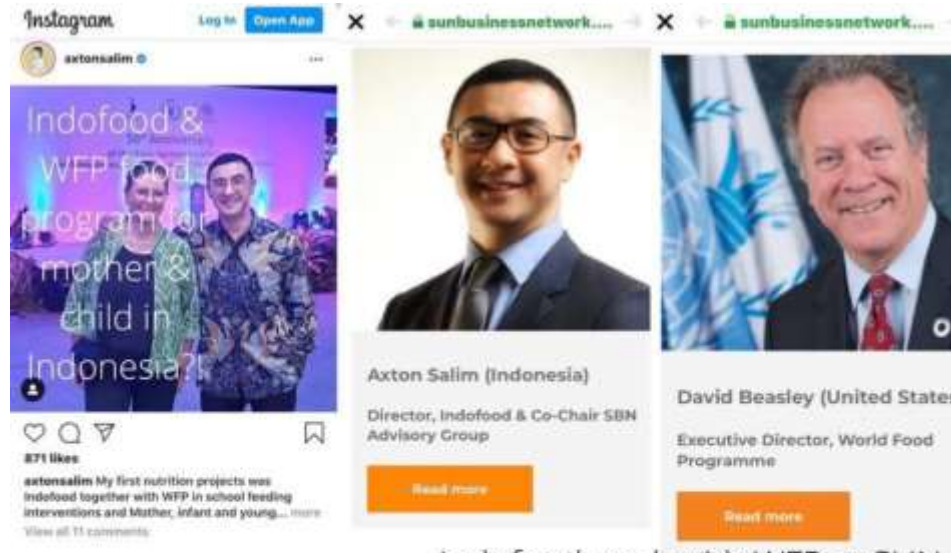
The food question

T.K. RAJALAKSHMI

**Moves to float a corporate alliance to promote
"complementary" baby food evoke protests.**



How baby food industry is in hand and gloves with UN via SUN



Indofood work with WFP at SUN
Business Network?!

Indofood VIOLATE
the WHO Code in
Timor-Leste!





Robert Black

Member

Nestle

**Creating Shared Value
advisory committee,
received financial
remunerations from
Nestle**

**Lead author of the article
'Maternal and child
undernutrition and overweight
in low-income and middle-
income countries' in the
Lancet Series on Maternal and
Child nutrition, 2013**

Food Industry Domination in Policy Development on food labelling on front of the pack

The consultative Group at FSSAI

- 22/28 persons who attended the meeting from the food industry e.g.
- Coca Cola, Dabur, Haldiram,
- Kellogg's, Mondelez, General Mills,
- Nestle, Danone, Pepsico, Marico and HUL.

List of Participants:

1. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Executive Director, CII
2. Ms. Nirupama Sharma, Joint Director & Head - Food Processing & FMCG, ASSOCHAM
3. Ms. Mallika Verma, PHDCCI
4. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Bikano
5. Ms. Mili Bhattacharya, Coca Cola India Ltd.
6. Dr. Richa Pritwani, Dabur India Ltd.
7. Dr. Neelu Khurana, DGM-QA, Haldiram
8. Mr. Arun Mishra, HUL
9. Ms. Parna Das Gupta, Director Regulatory and Government Affairs-South Asia-Kelloggs
10. Ms. Anshu Gupta, Genmills
11. Ms. Agatha Betay, Mondelez India
12. Ms. Mami Mishra, Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetables Pvt. Ltd.
13. Dr. Anirudha Chhonkar, Head Regulatory Advocacy, Nestle India Ltd.
14. Mr. Vikas Jain, PMV Nutrients
15. Mr. Kajal Debnath, DFM
16. Mr. Krishna Kumar Kalpam, Mother Dairy
17. Ms. Poonam Aggarwal, Danone
18. Ms. Priyanka Sharma - FICCI
19. Dr. Sangeeta Chadha, HUL
20. Mr. Shaminder Pal Singh, Pepsico
21. Ms. Shreya Pandey, AIFPA
22. Ms. Meenu Yadav, Marico
23. Ms. Anindita Mehta, CERC
24. Mr. George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International.
25. Mr. Ashim Sanyal, CEO, Consumer Voice
26. Mr. Amit Khurana, Director, CSE
27. Ms. Sonal Dhingra, CSE
28. Ms. Rachita Gupta, WHO

Annexure

How Big Food Operates

27/05/2024, 10:28

'Deny, denounce, delay': the battle over the risk of ultra-processed foods

The Big Read **Food diet**

'Deny, denounce, delay': the battle over the risk of ultra-processed foods

Despite a growing body of evidence, Big Food is trying to dampen fears about the health effects of industrially formulated substances

Madeleine Speed, Ella Hollowood and Sarah Neville in London MAY 23 2024



When the Brazilian nutritional scientist Carlos Monteiro coined the term “ultra-processed foods” 15 years ago, he established what he calls a “new paradigm” for assessing the impact of diet on health.

Monteiro had noticed that although Brazilian households were spending less on sugar and oil, obesity rates were going up. The paradox could be explained by increased consumption of food that had undergone high levels of processing, such

2002 : Global move by Gates

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Gates Fights Malnutrition With Cheese, Ketchup and Other Fortified Food Items

By Rachel Zimmerman Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

May 9, 2002 12:31 am ET

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BIG FOOD and GAIN

- Signed up with **Kraft Foods Inc., Procter & Gamble Co., H.J. Heinz and vitamin manufacturers Roche and BASF Corp.**
- **To add nutrients**, such as iron, folic acid and vitamin A, to food products they sell in poor countries.
- Provide governments with **technical assistance** for fortifying food staples, such as rice, maize meal, wheat flour, oil, sugar, soy sauce and salt.
- **GAIN helps in favorable tax rates and friendly regulations**
- Fund public relations campaigns for a governmental "**seal of approval.**"
-

Food Fortification centre created at FSSAI

All BIG food part of it, and policy came into being despite science and public health noise.

- WFP
- DSM
- Cargill
- Sight and Life
- Tata Trusts
- GAIN

Britannia Nutrition Foundation partnering with MoWCD and Education in 9 States



NOURISHING CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND WOMEN
TOWARDS BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Source: <https://www.britannia.co.in/article/britannia-nutrition-foundation>

FSSAI partners with Nutraceutical Company Herbalife and CII for Eat Right Summit (2023)



Source: https://fssai.gov.in/event_info.php?ei=18

McDonald's greenwashing through CSIR-CFTRI collaboration and roping Chef Sanjeev Kapoor



[Source: Why is NAFI accusing McDonald's of greenwashing - condemning CSIR-CFTRI collaboration? - The South First](#)


ILSI Coca Cola seemed to have influenced the labelling policy

The New York Times

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A Shadowy Industry Group Shapes Food Policy Around the World

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Food Processing Ministry 19 members committee includes industry representatives (2025)

Union Govt sets up committee to tackle 'misleading' advertisements on processed foods

The newly formed committee comprises representatives from key ministries, including Health and Consumer Affairs, along with stakeholders from industry bodies such as **FICCI, CII, and ASSOCHAM**.

19-member committee under Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan to develop strategy on food advertising, labeling practices.

Written by **Harikishan Sharma** [Follow](#)

New Delhi | February 7, 2025 11:23 IST

 NewsGuard

 3 min read



Freepik

Source: Union Govt sets up committee to tackle 'misleading' advertisements on processed foods | India News - The Indian Express

The food processing sector has emerged as a significant driver of growth in recent years, recording an average annual growth rate of around 5.35 per cent in 8 years through 2022-23. (Source: Freepik)


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 **EXPRESS** Shorts



Kunal Kumar takes a break

Mondelez makers of High Sugar products and Govt partners

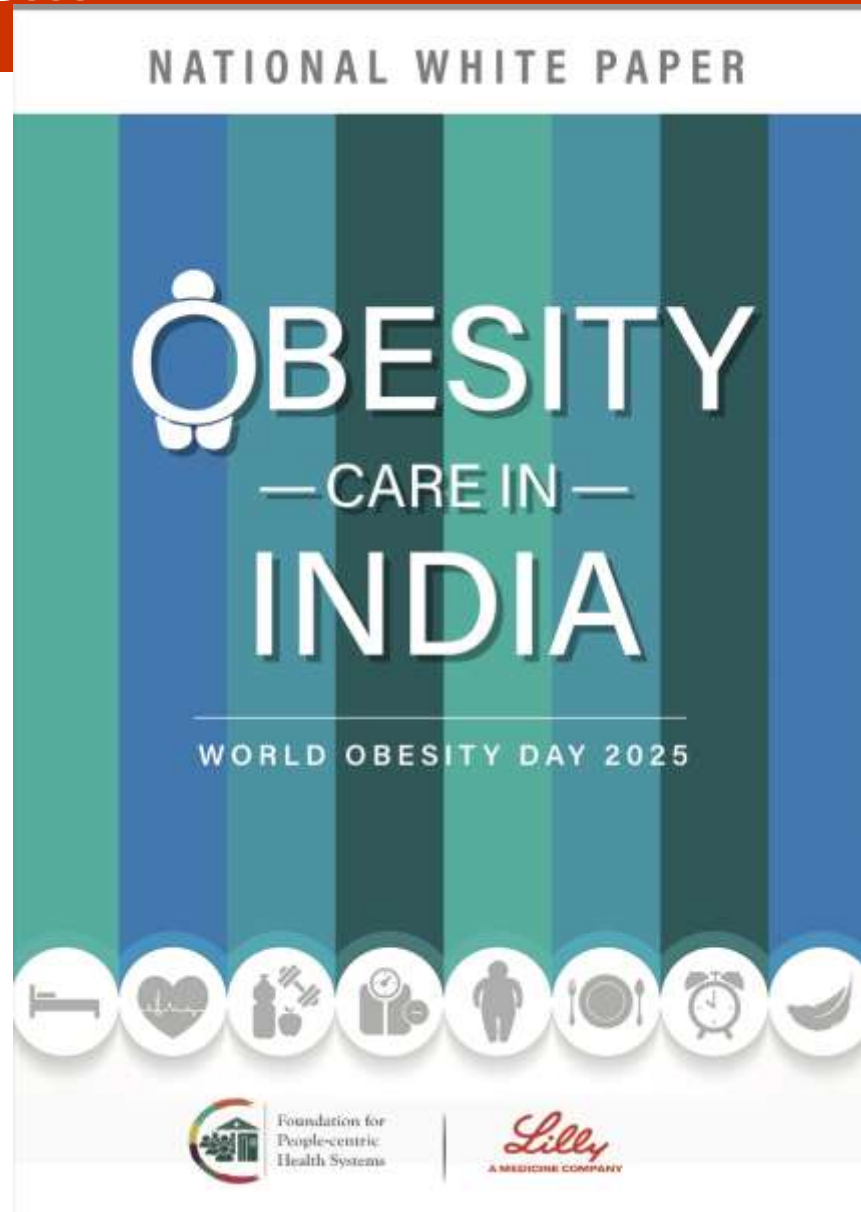


Mondelez India strengthens healthcare access for 1.45 million people by supporting 200 Health & Wellness Centres

- The initiative led to a 58% rise in patient footfall, with 11,000+ high-risk pregnancies and 7,800+ children under five referred for specialized care
- Quality healthcare improvements include 12 Health & Wellness Centres earning *Kayakalp* accreditation, 10 receiving NQAS certification, and 1,028 healthcare workers trained
- The program reduced out-of-pocket medical expenses by 21% and provided gender-inclusive healthcare service training to 817 healthcare staff

10, March 2025: Mondelez India, through its decade old CSR program, *Shubh Aarambh*, helped strengthen primary healthcare by supporting 200 Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) across four states – Solan(Himachal Pradesh), *Bhopal*(Madhya Pradesh), Tirupati(Andhra Pradesh) & Pune(Maharashtra). This effort has strengthened essential medical services in over **800 villages**, reaching more than **1.45 million people** who previously had limited access to healthcare. By improving maternal and child health, supporting the management of non-communicable diseases, and encouraging community involvement, the initiative makes a tangible difference in people's lives, ensuring more families receive the care they need.

Lilly and Foundation for Peoples centric Health System



Slater et al. *Globalization and Health* (2024) 20:16
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-024-01020-4>


Globalization and Health

RESEARCH

Open Access



Corporate interest groups and their implications for global food governance: mapping and analysing the global corporate influence network of the transnational ultra-processed food industry

Scott Slater^{1*} , Mark Lawrence^{1,2}, Benjamin Wood³, Paulo Serodio⁴ and Phillip Baker^{1,2}

Mess of Food Corporations

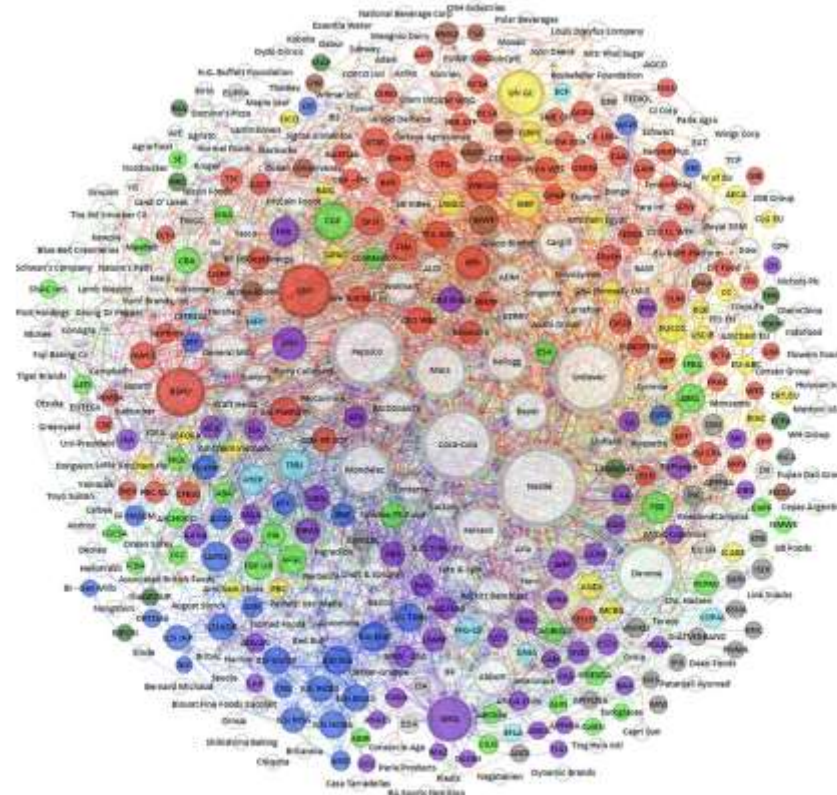


Fig. 3 The UPF industry's global corporate influence network of corporations, organizations and interest groups. Notes The lines represent the links between UPF corporations, food system actors and the UPF system influence network. The circle size is proportionate to the number of links the organization has with others in the network. White circles - UPF corporation; Purple circles - branding and advertising; Yellow circles - General business and trade; Green circles - Food manufacturing and retail; Light grey circles - Primary production, processing and ingredients; Red circles - Sustainability/CSR/MS; Blue circles - Research and science communication; Brown circles - Other; Dark green circles - Lobbying, legal and public relations; Dark grey circles - Specialized nutrition and baby food; Light blue circles - General food industry. This figure was generated using Gephi version 0.10.1.

What are safeguards?

Solutions

- Civil Society : oppose the use of term “Stakeholder” “Multi stakeholder platforms”
- Demand for legal frameworks and guidelines to prevent and manage Conflicts of interests.
- The State has the duty to protect public interest

Safeguards – Tools to identify

The OECD Guidelines Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service (2003) summarise as key to a modern approach to CoI policy among others, the duty to:

- “Identify the risks to the integrity of public organisations and public officials”
- ensure that effective procedures are deployed for the identification and disclosure, as a general rule, of conflicts of interest prior to the start in a field of interest situations



How to identify, assess and adequately address a CoI situation?

Enclosed a draft checklist by Professor Marc Rodwin
with adaptations by Judith Richter
20.11.2015

ANALYZING (primarily INDIVIDUAL) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: A CHECK LIST

D) Is there a conflict of interest? – Identifying a CoI

- 1) Who is the actor and what is his/ her designated role? (actor: e.g. a) a person in a position of trust such as a nutrition/medical professional, civil servant b) a professional organization; a public institution etc.)
- 2) To whom does the actor owe a legal or ethical duty? (e.g. physician to patients, research subjects etc depending on their role; UN bodies: to the “peoples”/public)
- 3) What is the nature of that duty or obligation? (e.g. the duty to protect, promote and fulfil peoples’ human rights to health; adequate food and nutrition including freedom from hunger)
- 4) Does the actor have a **financial (or other close) tie, a secondary role or a secondary activity** that creates a risk that the actor will not fulfill their duty or have a split loyalty? (e.g. via sponsorships of activities or initiatives; a physician or nutritionist also acting as researcher; or a public official, scientist or public interest NGO member also being on the board of a health related transnational corporation)
- 5) When the actor exercises professional discretion [his/her freedom to act on his own judgement]² can the actor promote his/her own financial interest or the financial interest of a third party?

¹ OECD (2003). *Managing conflict of interest in the public service: OECD Guidelines and country experiences*. Paris, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, executive summary, p. 15, <http://www.oecd.org/gov/ethics/48994419.pdf>

² Based on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discretion>

Guidelines by OECD

Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Sector

A TOOLKIT



It has all the tools for any Nation to develop its guideline

Thank you !