

Popularization of iodized salt and prevention of endemic disease in Xinjiang

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Abstract: Xinjiang is a serious iodine deficiency area, and iodine deficiency is one of Xinjiang's endemic diseases that endanger the health of the mass. Therefore, Taking a variety of measures to popularization consumption of iodized salt is an important means to prevent and control the harm of iodine deficiency effectively.

Key words: Iodized salt, Iodine deficiency, Endemic disease prevention

INTRODUCTION

Iodine is a trace element and is essential to the human body, which is an important element in the synthesis of human thyroid hormone. Because iodine is an essential to the growth of human nervous system and is closely related to our health, it was affectionately called "intelligence element". Endemic iodine deficiency can cause typical symptoms of goiter (commonly known as big neck disease) and endemic cretinism, which directly result in severe harm including children physical stunted and intellectual barriers permanently. People describe as "First generation is lubber, second generation is foolish, and the third and fourth generation are breaking root and buds".

Iodine deficiency disorder is a general term for a group of endemic diseases, which shown as human body malnutrition caused by the iodine deficiency of natural environment, including not only endemic goiter, endemic cretinism and sub-clinical cretinism, but also simple dumb, fetal abortion, premature birth, stillbirth and congenital malformation. 1/3 of the world population threatens by iodine deficiency disorder. Iodine deficiency has hidden and extensive damage to intelligence, and mild deficiency is sufficient to damage mental. When people found that iodine deficiency is the main causes of mental retardation in the world, the international community paid a growing concern to it. The United Nations held a world summit meeting for children in September 1990, published "Universal declaration of child survival, protection and

development", and brought forward the goal of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder in 2000. Consumption of iodized salt is the main measure to achieve the goal.

Status of the elimination of iodine deficiency disorder in Xinjiang

Xinjiang is located in the northwest frontier of China, with an area of 1.6 million square kilometers. The population is more than 2000 million, 61.42% of which is minorities. Xinjiang is an under-developed region of minorities, which is away from the sea, surrounded by high mountains, and iodine in soil and water is little. This specific geographical area in Xinjiang resulted in widely iodine deficiency and was threaten to large population, which is the major public health and social problem to affect the quality of the population and economic development in Xinjiang. To strengthen the food salt monopolization, to eliminate of iodine deficiency, and to improve the population quality is a comprehensive long-term strategic task to promote Xinjiang's social and economic development.

Since 1995, autonomous regional party committee and people's government attached great importance to taking the intervention measures of universal salt iodization and fight against iodine deficiency disorder. Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has achieved remarkable results in prevention and treatment of endemic disease through several decades of hard work of local people's governments, the departments concerned as well as the endemic disease prevention

workers. Through the integrated control measures of the implementation of salt iodization, the prevalence of endemic diseases, iodine deficiency disorder, has been prevented and controlled effectively, which ensured the people's health, and promoted the development of economic and social, improved the national quality. Control of iodine deficiency disorder achieved remarkable results. The ratio of children goiter in 1995 was 43.3%, which decreased significantly to 15% in 2005. Patients of iodine deficiency disease was decreased significantly, the occurrence of neonatal cretinism was basically controlled.

Taking a variety of measures to achieve the goal of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder

We should insist food salt monopoly and universal iodized salt to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder. For a long time, the salt industry in Xinjiang seriously implement the policies and regulations of food salt monopoly of Xinjiang and China, and has done a lot of work and achieved certain results in elimination of iodine deficiency disorder. Sale of salt increases steady year after year, and coverage of iodized salt in Xinjiang was less than 30% in 1996, which was increased to 91.56% in 2008. Specific measures are as follows.

Recognition of leaders and support of all levels of government is the key to eliminate of iodine deficiency

The leaders of the party and state, the regional party committee, and people's government attached great importance to elimination of iodine deficiency disorder in Xinjiang. General secretary Hu Jintao instructed Xinjiang to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder well. Member of the political bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the party committee secretary of the autonomous region Wang Lequan personally working on eliminating iodine deficiency disorder, and made specific arrangements. President of autonomous region people's government Noor • Chris White and vice-chairman chaired meetings of iodine deficiency prevention and control work in autonomous region, and endemic disease prevention, and decided to take 18 million yuan from regional financial every year for the iodine deficiency prevention and control work. This fully demonstrates the party and state leaders concern and care the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

Xinjiang Party Committee, the national people's congress and people's government also attaches great importance to the elimination of iodine deficiency disorder. "Some regulations on implementation of iodized salt to prevent iodine deficiency in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region" and "Salt management ordinance of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region" was promulgated and implemented in July 1998 and December 1999, respectively. These promulgated and implemented local laws and regulations set effect on strengthen the management of the Xinjiang salt market, ensuring of effective implementation of salt iodization work, ensuring that the normal salt production, transportation and sale, ensuring the supply of qualified iodized salt, preserving the stability of the salt market order.

In order to enhance the leadership to region's work of eliminate iodine deficiency disorder, and achieve sustained objection of elimination of iodine deficiency, the regional people's government held a number of meetings to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder, and signed project contract about prevention and control disease with counties and townships. Specific requirements were projected on food salt monopoly and speeding up the process of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder. Elimination iodine deficiency di-

sorder was put into the national economic and social development planning and was applied. Leaders at all levels attached great importance to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder in our area and laid a solid foundation for the work.

Actively promoting Xinjiang salt industry restructuring and network construction is the major way to popularization iodized salt and to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder

There is a very rich salt resource in Xinjiang, it is one of the important lake salt producing areas in China, with more than 200 points. But the distribution of salt resources is not balance, resource condition in southern of Xinjiang is poor, and the distribution of soil salt is wide. The national salt industry implemented iodized salt project and established and improved the supply network of iodized salt nationwide in 1996. Accordingly, Xinjiang officially launched the project of iodized salt and determined the region's 12 salt production enterprises. Over the past decade, Xinjiang salt Industry implemented the " guidance of

restructuring of the national salt industry" in-depth, to promote structural adjustment and optimize salt industrial structure to promote industrial upgrading. Through the closure of small enterprises, holding or share stock with state enterprise with ripe conditions and settled salt production enterprises, in accordance with the principle of "clear property, clear rights and responsibilities, and scientific management", establishment modern enterprise system, increase technological transformation of iodized salt production line, setting up new high-quality refined salt production lines, Xinjiang has been basically formed a one-stop business model of production and sales to ensure the production and quality of iodized salt. Reorganization of China's salt industry corporation was implement successfully, which increased industrial concentration. Sweeping economy of salt industry was achieved to meet the need of a steady supply of salt in Xinjiang market through integration of assets.

We should increase setting of food salt monopoly organizational network. Through the efforts of more than ten years, 10 prefectures, 87 counties and cities of Xinjiang set up the salt bureaus or salt management offices, with 433 enforcement officers for salt, established near 30,000 retail outlets. Salt network coverage level in our district or state, county or city is 100%, salt retail outlets in rural towns and townships cover 96.235%, production passing rate of iodized salt factory is up to 100%. By unremitting efforts of expanding the sales network and improve service quality, the salt sales grow steadily year-on-year. Sales of iodized salt was 40,000 tons in Xinjiang in 1996, which was increased to 115,000 tons in 2008. This actively promotes the elimination of iodine deficiency.

Strong management is the fundamental guarantee for universal access of iodized salt

Food salt monopoly is the fundamental guarantee to eliminate iodine deficiency, and carried out management well is the fundamental guarantee for food salt monopoly smoothly. Only strengthen executing the salt law will ensure the realization of universal access to iodized salt to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder.

The competent authorities at all levels in Xinjiang implement the salt monopoly policy conscientiously, actively set up law enforcement personnel at the core

of autonomous regions, prefectures salt bureau, the county or city salt enforcement unit. Regulating salt production, transportation and wholesale effectively ensure the qualified rate of iodized salt according to "approach of food salt monopoly", "management approach of food salt monopoly license", "management ordinance of Xinjiang salt " and other laws and regulations.

Xinjiang Turpan and Shanshan area is the major source of sell private salt. Salt bureau of autonomous region held special meetings, and confirmed their work will focus on crackdown sell activities of private salt. Deployed experienced staff of the salt around the state to establish a joint law enforcement team to raise funds, joint departments of industry, commerce, police, health, transport, technical supervision to carry out several times of special training activities to rectify and standardize salt market order, and strongly attacked the arrogance of private salt traffickers of process, trafficking, sale of non-iodized salt. Establish a information-sharing mechanisms of salt industry market regulation with departments of industry, commerce, police, health, transport, and technical supervision to create long-term working mechanism of rectifying and standardizing the salt market, to form a social atmosphere of government support, working closely with various departments, participating community-widen.

Establishment a more comprehensive salt distribution network and greatly purified the salt market in Xinjiang by strengthening the food salt monopoly, increase law enforcement, and standardized salt wholesale business behavior. Protected the supply of iodized salt promoted the prevention of iodine deficiency in Xinjiang effectively.

Step up publicity to combat iodine deficiency is the most important and permanent measure

Take the control policies and strategies of national and autonomous regions to iodine deficiency prevention as a guide, and vigorously promote the attention, care and support of the CPC central committee, state council, the regional party committee, and the government's work to combat iodine deficiency disorder. Promote the significance of work of prevention and control of iodine deficiency, and the serious harm caused by iodine deficiency, promote the basic knowledge of prevention of the iodine deficiency disorder and promote awareness of diseases. Promote

the active role of promoting the economic and social development, building a well-off society, protection of people's physical and mental health, promoting national unity and social stability through combat iodine deficiency disorder.

In order to strengthen the publicity and carry out health education to all the people, salt and health sector organizations bring out activities of "awareness day of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder" on May 15 annually since 1994. Unified planning and operations, use various forms including media campaigns, community awareness, release poster or single means for wide publicity of the hazards of iodine deficiency disorder and the role of consumption iodized salt to eliminate iodine deficiency disorder, and dissemination health knowledge of iodized salt to consumers has played an important role in universal iodized salt supply and improving the people's consciousness in the use of iodized salt.

Give full play to power and advantages of all localities, all departments and all sectors of society, and intensify the publicity and education to combat iodine deficiency disorder further, so that publicity and education to combat iodine deficiency disorder will get into the community, schools, the rural areas and farmers in depth. Give full play to the role of patriotic religious people, hold training courses about the knowledge of prevention and control of iodine deficiency to religious people, propaganda through Friday preaching by them. Put the harm of consumption of soil salt and non-iodized salt on the human body and the benefits of consumption of qualified iodized salt for human into the curricula of primary and secondary schools through the education sector, and develop the play of "big hand led little hand" to influence the parents through children, and to achieve the purpose of publicity. At the same time play the role of women's federations of all levels, education and publicity the harm of iodine deficiency disorder to women of child-bearing age. Mobilize the strength of the whole society including religion, women's federations, disabled and education, etc. to give wide publicity to raise the people's self-protection awareness and ability to make combat iodine deficiency disorder as conscious action of broad people, to control and elimination the hazards of iodine deficiency disorder,

and to ensure that achieve the target of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder in our region.

Broad mass of the people should improve the knowledge to combat iodine deficiency disorder continuously and enhance awareness of self-protection through public healthy education. Mobilize the whole society to participate actively in the prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorder to create a good atmosphere of society-wide concern and attention to prevention and control of iodine deficiency to curb the prevalence and spread of iodine deficiency disorder.

Future of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder

For more than a decade, China has made encouraging results in supply of universal iodized salt to eliminate iodine deficiency disease, but the goal of elimination of iodine deficiency disorder also face severe challenges. Meeting our aim of 95% of the counties being comprehensive standards in 2010 promised from us is still discrepant.

Xinjiang is short of iodine serious, the elimination of iodine deficiency disease is a large problem related to prepotency, improving the quality of the population, and the economic development and social progress. Xinjiang is a relatively backward region of ethnic minority. The area is wide but underpopulated, people live scattered, and economic is backward. These combined with traditional ethnic habits and other reasons made the form even more severe. There is still a process for the mass to be aware of iodine deficiency disorder. Consumption of iodine salt is not a conscious behavior, but the supply of iodized salt is a government action. Therefore, we should focus on the following aspects in the future. First, further popularization of iodized salt in Xinjiang with a focus on rural and pastoral areas. Second, to further establish and improve the salt supply network to improve coverage of logistics distribution system in Xinjiang. Third, to establish a sound legal system and salt enforcement system to ensure the healthy development of salt market. Fourth, to take seriously on price subsidies of iodized salt consumption for poverty, farmers and herdsmen, pushing iodized salt consumption, to ensure elimination of iodine deficiency disorder by 2010.

Full realization the goal of elimination of iodine deficiency in Xinjiang still has a long way to go.

Ensuring the supply of qualified iodized salt to protect the region's more than 2000 million people to eat qualified iodized salt is our duty-bound responsibility. Universal supply of qualified iodized salt and sustained elimination of iodine deficiency disorder is a long-term and arduous task. We believe that under the correct leadership and concern of the autonomous regional party committee and the people's government, and the strong support of governments at all levels, the salt industry sectors will closely collaborate with relevant local departments, effectively take up the major responsibility to ensure supply of

iodized salt and eliminate iodine deficiency disorder, effectively prevention and control of endemic diseases in the epidemic, and make its due contribution to the broad mass of people's health and quality of the Chinese nation.

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