



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Publication

### **Access to Nutrition Initiative set to launch the second edition of the India Spotlight Index**

*16 large food and beverage companies will be assessed based on their efforts to improve nutrition and making it accessible to all*

**New Delhi, June 2019:** Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI), hosted by an independent international not-for-profit organization called the Access to Nutrition Foundation, is to release the **second edition of India Spotlight Index** that evaluates food and beverage manufacturers on their policies, practices, and performance related to improving nutrition, making it accessible to all. The initiative is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The sixteen largest companies in India's food and beverage sector are being assessed with the aim to encourage these companies to improve their nutrition practices. The industry can do so by increasing consumer access to nutritious products and responsibly exercising their influence on consumer choice and behavior through actions in areas such as, fortifying foods with essential micronutrients to prevent undernutrition, marketing, labeling and promoting healthy diets and active lifestyles.

The sixteen companies that will be included in the Spotlight Index 2019 are:

AMUL- Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, Britannia Industries Limited, Coca- Cola India, Hindustan Unilever, Mondelez India Foods Private Limited, Mother Dairy- Fruit & Vegetable Private Limited, Nestlé India Limited, Parle Products Private Limited, Pepsico India,(these nine companies were also assessed in the first India Access to Nutrition Index in 2016)

AAVIN-Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, Adani Wilmar, Emami Agrotech Ltd, Hatsun Agro Product Limited, ITC Limited, Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (Nandini), Marico Limited. (These seven companies are being assessed for the first time this year).

Speaking about the India Spotlight Index, **Inge Kauer, Executive Director, Access to Nutrition Foundation** said "*The 2016 iteration of the Index showed that the largest food and beverage manufacturers in India were making efforts but falling short of grasping the opportunity to make and sell healthier products and responding adequately to fight the enduring and mounting double burden of malnutrition in India. With the India Spotlight Index 2019, we aim to highlight that it is critical that F&B companies assume a central role in Government's Eat Right India movement. It is encouraging that most companies actively engaged in our 2016 research and are ready to engage again this year.*"

The research phase for the 2019 Index commenced in March. The companies have been formally notified about their inclusion in the index based on their 2018 sales revenues of packaged foods and beverages. The companies will be invited to see the first results and are given the opportunity to provide additional information relevant for the analysis. However, the final analysis and scoring is done by researchers of ATNI. The methodology for the upcoming Index has been adapted with input from Indian experts and a wide variety of stakeholders to reflect recent developments in India. The final results and company scorings are scheduled to be published in November.



Speaking about the challenge of malnutrition in India and the importance of an independent nutrition index, **Mark Wijne, Senior Program Manager, Access to Nutrition Foundation** said, "*The private sector has a crucial role to play in tackling the mounting nutrition challenges in India. This Index will tap into the competitive nature of the private sector and spark a race to the top in improving nutrition among food and beverage companies in India.*"

Of the 10 assessed companies in 2016, seven actively engaged in the research and recognized the Index' value as a benchmark of their performance on nutrition. The impact of 2016 index is that nutrition is now higher up the agenda of the largest F&B manufacturers in India. The results of the Product Profile, an assessment of the healthiness of companies' product portfolios, prompted some companies to review their Nutrient Profiling systems and the Indian government expressed its commitment to improve labelling regulation and fortification standards to fight micronutrient deficiencies amongst the undernourished.

Raising nutrition standards globally is a social responsibility but it is also in the companies' best interests as consumers worldwide are increasingly demanding healthier foods with high nutrition value. Better nutrition is needed for all consumers, but especially for those groups that are vulnerable to malnutrition. ATNI is convinced that companies who understanding this and that are contributing to better nutrition will also have better business.

#### **About ATNI:**

The Access to Nutrition Initiative is an independent, not-for-profit organization. It publishes consistent, standardized analysis and commentary on food and beverage manufacturers' efforts to improve consumers' access to nutritious foods and beverages, both globally and in Spotlight countries. Additionally, ATNI collaborates with the investment community to ensure the Indexes are a useful tool as they engage with and invest in food and beverage companies.

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