

# SternVitamin GmbH & Co. KG Mühlenchemie GmbH & Co. KG's Overview

## **Overall Performance**

# SternVitamin/ Mühlenchemie's Profile

Headquarter Parent Company
Germany Stern-Wywiol Gruppe

Supplies for LSFF Type of Ownership

Yes Private

Supplies in India/Kenya? Millers for Nutrition Partner

India, Kenya

Supplies in other markets?

Globally

Micronutrient/premix applications

Baked Goods, Bars and Breakfast Cereals, Beverages, Condiments, Confectionery, Dairy, Dietary Supplements, Emergency and Therapeutic Foods, Flour, Rice

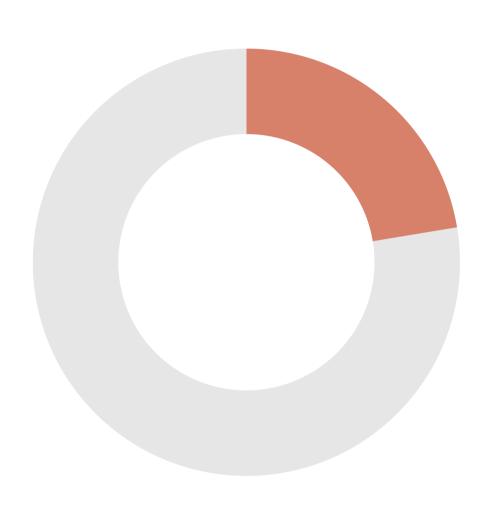
Fortificant Production Site Locations (Nr. of GPF-certified sites out of total sites) <sup>2</sup>

China (Unknown)
Germany (Unknown)
Malaysia (Unknown)
Mexico (Unknown)

### Footnotes:

- 1. Large-scale food fortification
- 2. The company has at least 1 GPF-certified site globally



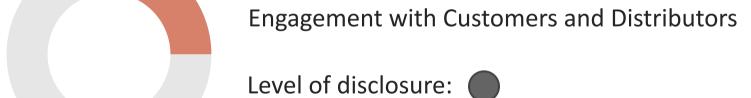


Company engagement: Opted Out

Important - The findings of this Assessment regarding companies' performance and their profile rely to a large extent on information shared by companies, in addition to information that is available in the public domain. Several factors beyond the companies' control may impact the availability of information. Therefore, in the case of limited or no engagement by such companies, this Assessment may not represent the full scope of their efforts or their profiles.

# Company's performance across 4 thematic categories









- Relevant information found was fully disclosed
- Relevant information found partially disclosed (i.e. some information is confidential)
- O Relevant information was fully confidential



# Commercial Nutrition Strategy Analysis

| Findings  |
|---|
| □ Commitments to address nutrition  |
| SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie acknowledges its role in addressing malnutrition and global public health challenges through broad statements on its website. For example, the company states its support for the Flour Fortification Initiative, which aims to reduce vitamin and mineral deficiencies through flour fortification.  |
| The company also publicly commits to supplying high-quality vitamin and mineral mixes for food aid in countries affected by acute malnutrition.   |
| However, it does not clearly describe whether these efforts are integrated into a structured corporate strategy with specific, measurable, and time-bound targets, or whether related governance systems are in place.  |
| ☐ Responsible sales of fortificants   |
| SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie discloses on its website that it markets fortificants for confectionery, such as soft caramels, fruit bars and chewing sweets, which are marketed as "particularly suitable for children".  No public information was found or shared indicating whether the company prioritizes fortificants sales for products considered healthier by national or international public health authorities—relative to total fortificant sales in market-driven food fortification. |
| □ Nutrition-related business risks  |
| No relevant information was found or shared by the company; therefore, it is unclear whether SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie recognizes nutrition as a material risk for its business.  |



# Commercial Nutrition Strategy Analysis

| Recommendations   |
|---|
| □ Commitments to address nutrition  |
| SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to assess all aspects of its business operations that can positively impact public health and nutrition, and to establish specific, measurable, and time-bound commitments to act on these opportunities.   |
| To strengthen transparency and accountability, the company is encouraged to embed these commitments into a clear, cohesive nutrition strategy that aligns with its core business objectives and is publicly disclosed on its website.   |
| By integrating nutrition and fortification efforts more formally into its corporate responsibility agenda, the company can more effectively leverage both its commercial operations and broader initiatives to enhance its impact on public health and nutrition. This would ensure that nutrition is treated as a central component of the company's value proposition and long-term sustainability.   |
| ☐ Reporting on nutrition progress   |
| To drive accountability, transparency and recognition, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to regularly track and publicly report on the progress of its nutrition-related commitments or nutrition strategy against clear, well-defined metrics.   |
| □ Nutrition governance  |
| SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to set governance structures in place, such as board-level reviews—supported by clearly assigned responsibilities from executive staff and accountability mechanisms like remuneration—to effectively deliver progress on its nutrition-related targets.  |
| ☐ Responsible sales of fortificants   |
| To support healthier diets, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to prioritize the sales of fortificants for use in products that align with national and international public health guidance—particularly in market-driven fortification beyond government-mandated staple food fortification. This includes stimulating fortification in products that contribute positively to nutritional outcomes and refraining from promoting the fortification of less healthy products that are high in sugar, salt, or unhealthy fats.  By aligning its sales strategy and customer engagement with public health goals, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie can help ensure that fortification efforts contribute meaningfully to improved nutrition and long- |
| term health outcomes.     Nutrition-related business risks  |
|   |
| SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to explicitly assess whether nutrition constitutes a material risk within its overall risk portfolio. Public disclosure of such risks aligns with corporate governance best practices, demonstrates a proactive stance on public health, and reinforces accountability to stakeholders.   |
|   |



**Engagement with Customers and Distributors Analysis** 

# Findings Technical support to customers SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie's website and brochures describe various forms of technical assistance offered globally, including customized micronutrient premix development, premix quality control (e.g., concentration and homogeneity tests), and knowledge transfer through seminars and workshops. However, no information was found or shared by the company demonstrating that this support is delivered systematically through a structured implementation plan with defined targets. Instructions on proper handling and use of fortificants No relevant information was found or shared by the company; therefore, it is unclear whether SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie provides instructions to its customers and distributors to support the proper handling and use of the supplied fortificants down the value chain.

### **Recommendations**

### □ Technical support to customers

To strengthen its support for effective fortification practices, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to develop a structured technical assistance plan with measurable targets or key performance indicators. This would ensure consistent and systematic support for all customers, through training, research and development, and other forms of guidance.

In line with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Code of Practice for Food Premix Operations, the company is also encouraged to collect detailed information on both the fortificant and the intended end-product including micronutrient specifications, processing conditions, packaging, labelling, and shelf life of the end-product. Gathering this data helps ensure that fortificants are appropriately formulated to meet specific customer needs and national fortification regulations and dietary requirements.

In addition, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to publicly disclose on its website its efforts to support effective fortification, and related outcomes, to promote transparency, accountability, and recognition

### ☐ Instructions on proper handling and use of fortificants

SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to provide clear, consistent, and comprehensive instructions to both customers and distributors on the appropriate handling and storage of fortificants. These guidelines should align with recognized guidance—such as the PAHO Code of Practice for Food Premix Operations—to promote proper fortificant use and effective fortification practices.

The company is also encouraged to explicitly reference fortificant handling and storage instructions in formal distributor agreements. This would help prevent mishandling that could compromise product quality and ensure accountability.



**Nutrition-Sensitive Activities Analysis** 

### **Findings**

### Nutrition-sensitive activities

The company states on its website that it supports global fortification practices not only through its commercial operations—by supplying micronutrient premixes and dosing systems—but also by offering technical advice and partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Company brochures highlight collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and the Food Fortification Initiative to support government-led flour fortification programmes through education and consultancy. They also report that, as a founding member and technical partner of Millers for Nutrition (M4N), the company helps millers produce stable, high-quality fortified flour.

The brochures provide examples of efforts in East Africa, where Mühlenchemie developed a micronutrient mix that specifically addresses the needs of small millers who require smaller premix packages. They also describe donations from Mühlenchemie that enabled the installation of 29 Sanku dosifiers in small mills in Tanzania.

### Recommendations

### **☐** Nutrition-sensitive activities

To strengthen its role in advancing global fortification efforts and ensure meaningful impact through its partnerships, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to jointly develop structured implementation plans, with measurable targets aligned with both public health priorities and the company's strategic objectives.

Transparency and accountability can be strengthened by publishing details of these partnerships—through its annual reports or corporate website—including implementation plans, progress metrics, and outcomes. This not only demonstrates commitment but also highlights the shared value and collective impact achieved.



# Workforce Nutrition Analysis

# **Findings Recommendations Workforce nutrition programme** Workforce nutrition programme No evidence of a formal workforce nutrition programme was found. SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to build on its current efforts to support employee health by developing a more cohesive workforce nutrition programme Healthy food at work: According to its parent company website, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie offers addressing healthy food at work, nutrition education, and nutrition-focused health well-filled fruit baskets as part of preventive health care. However, it is not clear whether this checks. The programme should have clear goals and objectives, with each pillar service is provided to all employees across all markets where the company operates. consisting of multiple elements. Practical guidance can be found in the Workforce Nutrition Alliance guidebook series. These programmes should ideally be made available No other relevant information was found or shared by the company; therefore, it is not clear in all countries and to all employees, including those at manufacturing sites. whether SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie offers programmes that address nutrition education, Breastfeeding support in the workplace nutrition-focused health checks, or breastfeeding support. SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie should establish a comprehensive, company-wide policy to Paid maternity and secondary caregiver leave support breastfeeding mothers and promote maternal and child health. This policy No relevant information was found or shared by the company; therefore it is unclear whether should apply across all markets and work sites and include provisions for private, SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie offers paid maternity and secondary caregiver leave to all employees. comfortable spaces for milk expression during paid breaks, refrigeration for storage, access to breastfeeding support services, and flexible work arrangements such as adjustable hours or on-site childcare. In addition, the company is encouraged to foster a supportive workplace culture through breastfeeding awareness initiatives. **☐** Paid maternity and secondary caregiver leave SternVitamin/Mühlenchemie is encouraged to develop a comprehensive policy offering at least 18 weeks of paid maternity and primary caregiver leave as recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and, ideally, 26 weeks as recommended by WHO. This policy should apply consistently across all countries and for all employees, including those at manufacturing sites, even where this goes beyond national regulatory requirements. The company is also encouraged to offer secondary caregiver leave to exceed current national regulations.