

NUTRITION RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN MALAYSIA

FOR 10TH MALAYSIA PLAN
(2011-2015)

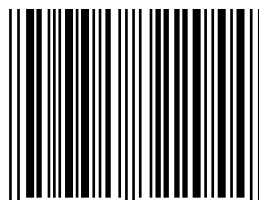


TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON NUTRITION RESEARCH
NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA
2009



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The documentation of the Nutrition Research Priorities in Malaysia for 10th Malaysia Plan (2011-2015) has been coordinated by the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Nutrition Research which is under the National Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCCFN), Ministry of Health Malaysia with secretariat from the Nutrition Research Division, Institute for Public Health and Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia.

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The Nutrition Research Priorities Technical Committee and the members of the Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research under the governance of the National Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCCFN) have established the nutrition research priorities through a series of workshops and meetings. The members of these Technical Working Groups are the representatives from various government agencies, the academia, professional bodies and non-government organizations (NGOs). The close collaboration within this multisectoral framework has led to the success and completion of this document.

Therefore, the contributions and high commitments in the publishing of this document are greatly acknowledged. The warmest appreciation and gratitude go to the:

- ◆ Director General of Health Malaysia, Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia (Research and Technical Support), Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia (Public Health), Director of Nutrition Division and Director of Institute for Public Health.
- ◆ Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition, Chairman of the Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research and Chairman of the Nutrition Research Priorities Technical Committee.
- ◆ Directors of Food Safety and Quality Division, Family Health and Development Division, Disease Control Division and Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia.
- ◆ Directors of State Health Departments of Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Sabah and Sarawak.
- ◆ Chief Secretariat of the National Institutes of Health, Directors of the Institute for Public Health, Institute for Medical Research, Institute for Health System Research and Institute for Health Behavioural Research.
- ◆ Director's General of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Regional and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and Malaysia Palm Oil Board.
- ◆ Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Science, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Dean of the Allied-Health Science Lecture, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Dean of the Health Science Study Centre, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Dean of the Faculty of Agrotechnology and Food Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Dean of the School of Food Science and Nutrition, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Dean of the Pharmacy and Health Sciences, International Medical University.
- ◆ All the chairpersons, rapporteurs, facilitators and participants of the workshops and all the individuals that have directly and indirectly contributed to the completion of this document.

One of the major research challenges in evidence-informed policy making is lacking of timely and comprehensive data needed by the relevant policy makers. However, with limited resources at various levels, research activities need to be prioritised based on the needs that would bring the greatest impact on the quality of health and nutrition of the nation. Thus, research is required to advance the understanding of issues related to nutrition and health which should somehow have commercial potential in line with national research policy.

It is hoped that the implementation of the National Medical Research Registry (NMRR) will strengthen the coordination and monitoring of the research activities in the Ministry of Health Malaysia. Strengthening of research communication, primarily between researchers and policy makers, will subsequently stimulate more application of research findings and activities into evidence-based policy making decisions and practices.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research under the National Coordinating Committee on Food and Nutrition (NCCFN) for taking the initiative and challenge to produce this document. I would also like to thank and express my sincere appreciation to all who have contributed significantly and successfully to the completion of this document.

Hopefully, this document will give a clear direction of nutrition research in the country which will enable them to effectively plan in allocating and managing its resources for research. Therefore, policy makers, funding agencies and researchers are encouraged to give priority to issues that have been highlighted in the nutrition research priorities established based on the National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia (2006-2015).

Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd. Ismail Merican
Director General of Health Malaysia
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First of all, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to Nutrition Research Priorities Technical Committee and the Institute for Public Health for taking the challenge to set up the nutrition research priorities for the country. The Research and Technical Support Programme of the Ministry of Health is indeed committed in ensuring the implementation of the evidence-based policy and support. In this respect, the needs and roles of research in evidence-based policy making are very crucial.

One of the major thrust areas of the Ministry of Health in the 9th Malaysia Plan (MP) and 10th MP is to achieve optimum health via research and development. In the 9th MP, the allocation for health research has been increased to RM90 million. The government and the Ministry of Health commitment in research and development is portrayed by setting up specialised fields of research institutes under the umbrella of National Institutes of Health and increasing research funding especially for the 10th MP. Therefore, there are great opportunities for the health staff to carry out research in the health sectors primarily those that are highlighted under the National Health Research Priorities.

More collaborative research with various international and national organisations and institutions within the national health and nutrition research priority areas are greatly encouraged to ensure optimisation of the resources and research findings which are relevant and of great importance to the country's needs.

Hopefully, this document will help the policy makers, funding agencies and researchers in prioritising the research activities in the country.

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I would like to thank Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Hj. Mohd. Ismail Merican, the Director General of Health Malaysia, Y.Bhg. Dato' Dr. Maimunah A. Hamid, Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia (Research and Technical Support), Y.Bhg. Dato' Dr. Hj. Ramlee Hj. Rahmat, former Deputy Director General of Health Malaysia (Public Health), Rokiah Don, Director of Nutrition Division and Dr. Hj. Yahya Baba, former Director of Institute for Public Health, for their invaluable support and guidance.

I would also like to thank and express my greatest appreciation and acknowledgement to all that have significantly contributed to the success and completion of this document.

One of the main tasks of Technical Working Group on Nutrition Research is to set up a nutrition research priority for the country. This document is established with its primary aim to ensure that nutrition research carried out in the country is in accordance with the national priorities and needs. This nutrition research priority setting process is the result of comprehensive review of the scientific literature and gaps of nutrition knowledge in the country. This has led to the call partnerships with experts from various institutions, universities, professional bodies and non-governmental organisations.

It is hoped that this document is a useful guide for policy makers, funding agencies and researchers in the country.

Rusidah Selamat

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ABBREVIATION

CPG	: Clinical Practice Guideline
CRM	: Certified Reference Materials
CVD	: Cardiovascular disease
FCT	: Food Composition Table
FSQD	: Food Safety and Quality Division
HACCP	: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
IYCF	: Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices
MANS	: Malaysian Adult Nutrition Survey
MDGs	: Millennium Development Goals
MNT	: Medical Nutrition Therapy
MP	: Malaysia Plan
NCD	: Non-communicable disease
NGOs	: Non-governmental organisations
NHMS II	: Second National Health and Morbidity Survey
NHMS III	: Third National Health and Morbidity Survey
NPANM	: National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia
QAP	: Quality Assurance Programme
SOP	: Standard Operating Procedure
UNICEF	: United Nation Children Education Fund
WHO	: World Health Organisation

