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## RESEARCH STUDIES

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NFI undertakes research projects in identified priority areas and third party evaluation of major national programmes. A brief outline of some of the major Research Projects and Evaluation Studies is given in the following sections.

The Foundation undertakes research projects with the objective of:

- elucidation of causal factors underlying specific nutrition problems in the country;
- gaining insights into the epidemiology of under- and over-nutrition;
- identification of appropriate strategies to combat these problems; and
- identification of factors inhibiting the application of available knowledge for the control of specific nutritional deficiencies and methods to overcome these problems.

Priority nutrition problems to be studied are identified by the Foundation from available data, through extensive consultations with leading scientists with first-hand experience/knowledge of the subject area and through actual field visits to potential project sites. The problem so identified usually fulfills the following three major criteria:

- it is one of the major public health concerns, affecting large numbers of people,
- there are still some aspects of the problem that require further elucidation through carefully designed field studies, and
- such studies could provide concrete, feasible recommendations and leads for practical action, which could be actively taken up for implementation by the government.

The outline of the proposal for each study

is drawn up with the help of a Task Force consisting of participants from different institutions and experts from specific fields. These Task Forces act as Standing Committees which help to formulate and monitor the research projects. Task Forces which have assisted NFI in various projects are listed in the Appendix.



*A Task Force meeting being conducted*

As India is a vast and varied subcontinent, many of the research projects are multi-centre studies carried out in different parts of the country, using a uniform study design and protocol. The centres which participated in NFI collaborating studies are indicated in the map. The financial support to carry out the project is obtained from an appropriate agency. A list of completed research projects is provided in the Appendix.

A brief description of some of the major research projects carried out in the last 25 years on:

- Birth weight and growth during infancy
- Growth and development during childhood and adolescence
- Micronutrient nutritional status
- Overweight and obesity

is given in the following pages.

## COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMMES OF NFI

