

Who we are

Nutritional problems

Nutritional problems in developing countries can be deficiencies, imbalances or excesses.

Nutritional deficiencies

- *Energy and/or protein deficiency*

It is particularly important when it affects pregnant women, lactating mothers, and especially young children. Even a mild deficiency will affect growth (from the foetal period on, with as a consequence a low birth weight), infant development, resistance to infections. It also increases mortality in under-fives. A more severe deficiency is the cause of clinical malnutrition and high mortality. This type of nutritional deficiency is very common in emergency situations (refugee camps, natural disasters), and it can sometimes be spectacular. Yet it is generally less known by the public that chronic malnutrition is considerably more common: more than 190 million children are estimated to be malnourished. It is the "silent urgency" denounced by UNICEF in 1997.

- *Vitamins and minerals deficiency*

The World Health Organisation recognises three main deficiencies in this category, with global significance:

- *Iron deficiency* reduces resistance to infections and is a cause of anaemia. It is estimated that more than 2 billion persons suffer from anaemia in the world.
- *Iodine deficiency* is well known for its most visible consequence: goitre. An estimated 225 million persons are iodine deficient, 20 million suffer from various degree of mental development retardation, including 6 million cretins. It is estimated that a billion persons are at risk.
- *Vitamin A deficiency* affects the eyes : night blindness, eye dryness (xerosis of the cornea and the conjunctiva), and blindness through destruction of the eye in the most severe cases. The population at risk is estimated to reach 190 million of which 40 million would actually be deficient, including 14 million with eye lesions. Three to four million of the latter would become blind. It should also be noted that even a mild vitamin A deficiency increases child mortality because of a loss of immunity.
- *Other deficiencies*. There are many other deficiencies that can have serious health implications, if they are localised: vitamin D (rickets); vitamin B1 (beri beri); zinc (stunting); niacin (pellagra); etc.

Nutritional imbalances

They can be due to a combination of deficiencies or to the combination of one or more deficiencies with the excess intake of one or more nutrients. Field situations are therefore extremely diverse.

Excesses

It is mainly the excess of energy intake which, particularly in the absence of sufficient physical exercise, is a cause of obesity. Obesity in turn is a disease that favours diabetes, blood cholesterol, coronary heart disease, arterial hypertension, vascular brain damage (thrombosis or haemorrhage), and lastly some cancers (particularly breast and colon cancers).

This group of conditions sometimes called “the disease of affluence” is, taken together, the first cause of death in industrialised countries. It is however much less known by the general public that this group of diseases increases at a fast rate in developing countries. There are a variety of reasons for this: urbanisation, reduction of physical exercise, monotonous diet poor in vegetables and fruits, etc. But – and this is important – it is rising mainly among **the poor**: it is no longer the disease of the rich.

The consequences for the poor countries are extremely damaging:

- rising cost of care and of disability;
- danger of bankruptcy of the health system and/or appearance of a duality in health care: express train for the rich, suburban transport for the poor;
- increased inequality when facing illness or death.

Solutions exist, but they are difficult to put into practice. There is a need therefore to conduct applied research, adapted to each situation.

Applied Nutrition Research

What is applied nutrition research?

- Applied nutrition research provides a bridge between
 - (a) fundamental research; and
 - (b) interventions aimed at improving or solving nutritional problems of developing countries.
- It starts from observations and/or from results from fundamental or clinical research and then formulates hypotheses concerning the relevance of and the methods for applying such results in the field, in order to prevent, alleviate or correct nutritional problems.
- It focuses more on **how** to combat or prevent malnutrition, than on generating new knowledge on **what** to do (although it also generates new knowledge). In other words it translates the results of fundamental research (conducted in laboratories, hospitals, metabolic units, etc.) into feasible, efficient and acceptable practical action.
- For a more elaborate definition, see the [introduction of the Symposium Proceedings](#).

Why is applied nutrition research needed?

Applied nutrition research is needed because:

- The persistence of nutrition problems in developing countries requires interventions, at least in the short and medium term;
- Many organisations (governments, NGO's, international and bilateral agencies) strive to intervene, either by supplying services to the people or by running programmes and providing funds, food, training, and/or technical assistance;
- Situations in which malnutrition exists vary widely from one place to another, such interventions tend to be :
 - ill adapted or poorly accepted,
 - ineffective,
 - too costly,

- insufficiently comprehensive: they tend to ignore certain problems or important factors.
- In most cases the basic scientific knowledge is available, but it is not applied.

There is therefore a need to:

- **seek how** existing scientific knowledge can be applied to the solution of nutrition problems,
- **adapt** such solutions to the local circumstances,
- **scientifically test** interventions or components of interventions.

The major characteristics of NTW's applied nutrition research efforts

- NTW's applied nutrition research focuses on the nutritional problems in Africa, Asia and Latin America, different from those of industrialised countries. Such problems are not only expressions of underdevelopment, but also constraints for sustainable development.
- It is necessarily conducted locally, that is in the country or the region where the problem lies, preferably with participation of the population.
- It is conducted by trained researchers, belonging mostly to universities or research institutes.
- It rigorously meets all the criteria of scientific research, from the points of view of both the concepts and the methods it uses.

Recent developments

Please find recent developments under "[What we do](#)" the page under "Evaluation".

Board of Directors

Directors

Baron Philippson (Chairman)

Director, Bank Degroof

Dr. Patrick Kolsteren (Managing Director)

MD, Head of the Nutrition and Child Health Unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and Professor of Nutrition at the University of Ghent.

Dr. Ivan Beghin (Director)

MD, Honorary Professor and past Head of Nutrition, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp. Former nutrition expert at the World Health Organisation, member and past president of the Belgian Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences. past Managing Director NTW.

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Doctor of laws, bank manager, retired

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PricewaterhouseCoopers s.c.c/b.c.v., Réviseurs

d'Entreprises/Bedrijfsrevisoren, represented by **Mr. Jean Fossion**

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board members are

- distinguished persons from the business world or academic circles
- recognized for their scientific or managerial competence.
- accepting to provide critical advice on the structure and work of NTW, and
- accepting to contribute to the association's notoriety through their commitment.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

Baron Boone

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Former Rector, ULB, Brussels University

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Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee plays a key role in NTW's operations. Its members review all eligible proposals submitted to NTW. Only after a favourable recommendation by the Committee will the Board of Directors consider funding a research proposal.

The Committee members actively support the researchers with comments and/or literature. They directly strengthen the research capacity of the participating institutions, sometimes linking researchers who work in the same field. The quality of the research is thus enhanced. Over the years much useful advice has also been given to the Secretariat and the Board of Directors.

By the same token, the Scientific Committee's contribution offers a guarantee for the donors.

The present members of the Scientific Committee are fifteen internationally recognised personalities in the field of nutrition or allied disciplines, who provide their services on a voluntary basis.

Michel Andrien

FOREM, Coordinator Carrefour Emploi Formation de Liège

Former Director, Centre d'Enseignement et de Recherche pour l'Environnement et la Santé (CERES), University of Liège

Liège

Djamil Benbouzid

Paediatrician, former Faculty Professor in Algiers, former Senior Medical Officer of the Nutrition Programme at the headquarters of the World Health Organisation.

Geneva

Bernard Brabin

Professor of Tropical Paediatrics, Child and Reproductive Health Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Liverpool

Bart Criel

MD, MPH, PhD, senior lecturer, Health Policy and Financing Unit, Public Health Department at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp

Antwerp

Lena Davidsson

PhD, Head Nutrition and Health-related Environmental Studies Sector. IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

Vienna

François Delange (in memoriam*)

Francis Delpuech

PhD, Head of the "Nutrition, Food, Societies" Unit of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD – formerly ORSTOM), Correspondent member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences.

Montpellier

André Huyghebaert

PhD, former Head of the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition, former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ghent.

Ghent

Annamarie Kruger

PhD, Research Co-ordinator AUTHeR. Faculty of Health Sciences, North West University of Potchefstroom (South Africa)

Potchefstroom

Pierre Lefèvre

PhD, sociologist, scientific collaborator, Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, Department of Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine.

Antwerp

Richard Longhurst

PhD in Economics (thesis on nutrition in Nigeria), consulting expert with the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and FAO, main author of the major report on nutrition in the third world prepared for the ICN – International Nutrition Conference – in 1992, formerly senior civil servant of the Commonwealth, now evaluation consultant.

London

Peter Mamiro

PhD, Food Scientist and Nutritionist, Researcher in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania.

Ruth Oniang'o

PhD, nutritionist, Professor at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND), Member of the Kenyan Parliament. Correspondent member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences.

Nairobi

Leonor Pacheco Santos

PhD, nutritionist, formerly Professor at the Federal University of Bahia, Member of IVACG (International Vitamin A Consultative Group), now with the Federal Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger.

Brasilia

Wim Van Lerberghe

MD, PhD, Professor and formerly Head of the Department of Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp; coordinator, health systems policies and operations, World Health Organisation.

Geneva

* Dr. François Delange passed away on 15 June 2007. As professor of paediatrics at ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles), he combined clinical paediatrics and research on thyroid physiopathology, and was the author or co-author of 12 books and over 300 scientific publications. He was a member of the Board of ICCIDD (International Council for the Control

of Iodine Deficiency Disorders) since 1986, the ICCIDD coordinator for Europe (1986-2001) and it's Executive Director (1995-2001).

An internationally known specialist and consultant to WHO, IAEA, UNICEF, European Union, etc. professor Delange was a member of our Scientific Committee since its establishment, and he contributed immensely to the quality of NTW' sponsored research through his highly critical and demanding concern for excellence combined with a respectful and positive attitude towards young scientists in developing countries.

Financial Highlights

Nutrition Third World takes great pride in its financial efficiency, accountability and transparency.

The Association strives to maximise the use of every euro it receives. A modest percentage of expended resources goes toward administrative cost. All members work on a voluntary basis with the exception of a part-time secretariat.

The total current annual budget averages 200,000 Euros (see "[Annual report 2007](#)").

The organisation is funded by private donors and institutional organisations.

To optimise its actions and reach, NTW actively seeks financial partners willing to co-fund research projects. One of the greatest successes of the Association is its "multiplier effect", the fact that NTW's grants have often enabled researchers to obtain funding from other sources. (see "[Co-financing](#)")

Since 1995, NTW has been recognised by the Belgian Ministry of Finance and benefits from tax deductibility of donations made to the organisation.

NTW's external auditor is [PricewaterhouseCoopers](#), represented by Mr. Jean Fossion.

As mentioned earlier NTW is a member of AERF ([Association pour l'Ethique dans la Récolte de Fonds / Belgian Association for Ethics in Fund Raising](#)).

Co-financing

The vast majority of research projects supported by NTW also benefit from other funding sources. The researchers usually apply to various potential sponsors, including NTW. The association has for years been interested to share projects costs with other sources ([click here for some examples](#)).

Advantages

For the researchers

- it helps the researchers, especially the younger ones to become more competitive in the area of fund raising
- it stimulates the admission of researchers from the South into networks
- there is quite often a "seed money" effect: a small NTW grant attracts broader support from a larger sponsor

For NTW

- it has a multiplying effect on every euro or dollar by NTW
- it sometimes provides an opportunity for extending NTW's mission to other components of sustainable development

For the co-sponsors. It gives them the opportunity to :

- benefit from our experience and notoriety
- take advantage of our major asset : our [Scientific Committee](#)
- use our flexibility and independence

Forms of co-financing

NTW is engaged in three types of cost sharing :

- Sharing project costs with other sponsors without a formal agreement with such sponsors. This is the most common case.
- Indirect agreement with the co-sponsor : generally it is the researcher who conducts the discussion and reaches mutual agreement. Examples: CEMUBAC (Burkina Faso); Ellison Foundation (Zambia); Nestlé Foundation (Bangladesh); Sight and Life (India)
- Direct co-financing agreement between NTW and the co-sponsor. Examples : IFS (Cameroon); ICCIDD (West Africa)

What we do

Support to applied nutrition research

NTW's main activity is to provide financial assistance to researchers in developing countries in the field of applied nutrition.

NTW only supports research that translates the results of fundamental research into practical action.

The emphasis is thus on actual application: utilisation of the findings in programmes concerning health, education, rural development, training, advocacy, etc... Consequently, NTW also supports methodological research regarding the planning, implementation, management and evaluation of nutritional programmes as well as regarding the training of executive and implementing staff.

Research projects that benefit from NTW support are therefore mainly conducted in developing countries, in the field and in contact with deprived populations.

As a corollary to its main activity, NTW is also interested in the training of promising young scientists from developing countries, who are not yet sufficiently established to benefit from traditional research funding sources but possess real potential. NTW contributes to their professional development by providing them with the means to conduct their research and ensuring they are duly supervised.

NTW does not grant fellowships.

The originality of NTW's approach is that it lies between:

- actual assistance to malnourished populations or groups of persons, an activity which falls under the responsibility of governmental, bilateral and international agencies, and of non-governmental organisations;
- fundamental research conducted in laboratories and hospitals and benefiting from an easier access to different sources of financing.

Nevertheless the researchers are required to submit their results to scientific journals.

Since its inception NTW has adopted a basic philosophy of respect for the researchers of the Third World: a concern for the preservation of their independence; taking into account their financial, institutional, supervision and communication requirements; consideration of their need for moral support and recognition by their peers and by their fellow countrymen.

NTW also supports an online African journal ([AJFAND](#)).

The 20th anniversary symposium on "Research in Applied Nutrition: Challenges and Expectations"

This international symposium was jointly organised in December 2004 by Nutrition Third World and the [Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences of Belgium](#). Guest speakers were all present or past grantees of NTW.

[click here to find more information on the Symposium](#)

[click here to download a summary of the Symposium Proceedings](#)

Research projects supported by NTW:

- are exclusively **applied nutrition research**, conducted in developing countries.
- the research topic is selected by the researcher on the basis of his/her local experience.

NTW does not take initiatives.

- the research must clearly lead to practical applications for the benefit of the people.

See also - [20th Anniversary](#)

Current research projects (May 2007)

Title	Principal investigators	Country
Efficacy of instant noodle fortified with iron, vitamin A and iodine on micronutrient status and cognitive performance of Vietnamese school children	Cao Thi Thu Huong	Vietnam
Micronutrient supplementation in pregnant women	Patrick Kaboré	Burkina Faso
Metabolic syndrome in adolescents	Ana Bayá	Bolivia
School gardens and vitamin A	Mieke Faber	South Africa

Mycotoxins in food and child growth	Martin Kimanya	Tanzania
Street foods and nutrition of school children	Eunice Nago	Benin
Enriching complementary foods with dessicated beef liver to combat micronutrient deficiencies in Mongolia children	J. Batjargal and Ts. Enkhjargal	Mongolia
Vitamin D in low birth-weight	Geeta Trilok Kumar	India
Management of child nutrition in primary health care	Laetitia Nikiema	Burkina Faso

[Click here for short summaries of these projects](#)

Past Projects

Research projects that received support from Nutrition Third World 1995-2006 (completed) [Last update December 2007]

- Evaluation of interventions aimed at improving nutrition among the rural poor – The Philippines.
- Home-management and treatment of malnourished children in Kapolowe – Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Participatory formulation of nutrition education messages – Nepal.
- A participatory approach to the planning of nutrition interventions – The Philippines, Indonesia.
- Effectiveness of vitamin A supplementation on anemia in pregnant women – Bangladesh.
- Effectiveness of weekly administration of an iron supplement to correct iron deficiency anaemia in school children – Edgar **Sejas** – Bolivia. (1)
- Actors and evaluation of development project – Pierre **Lefèvre** – The Philippines.
- Evaluation of an iodine deficiency control programme through the use of ambulatory echography, the “Thyromobil project”, phase 1 – Théophile **Ntambwe-Kibambe** – Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo.
- Developing a planning method for the district level – Francis **Byekwaso** – Uganda. (2)
- A new approach to the promotion of growth and development in young children – Félicité **Tchibindat**, Edgar **Sejas**, E. Rubin **de Selis** – Congo, Bolivia and Peru.
- Effect of adding zinc to vitamin A in hypovitaminosis A prevention programmes – Alcides **Diniz** – Brazil.
- Bio-availability of iron and evaluation of complementary food for young children: The case of Kilosa district – Peter **Mamiro** – Tanzania. (3)

- A study of iodine deficiency in Togo – Laore Agnélé **Bahun-Wilson** – Togo.
- Prevention of intra-uterine growth retardation in the Houndé District – Dominique **Roberfroid** – Burkina Faso. (4)
- Evaluation of an iodine deficiency control programme through the use of ambulatory echography, the “Thyromobil Project”, phase II - Théophile **Ntambwe-Kibambe** – Ivory Coast, Ghana and Niger. (2)
- Exploitation of household budget surveys for the estimation of changes in food and nutrient consumption patterns – Armando **Pérez-Cueto** – Bolivia. (2)
- Bio-availability of iron and zinc – Anselimo **Makokha** – Kenya.
- Iron deficiency anaemia and HIV/AIDS in pregnant women – Joseph **Waweru** – Kenya.
- The usefulness of ferric fumarate and ferric pyrophosphate as food fortificants for infants and young children in developing countries – Shafiqul **Sarker** – Bangladesh. (2)
- Assessing the contribution of locally occurring and consumed vitamin A rich foods in alleviating vitamin A deficiency in the Butere-Mumias District – Ruth **Oniang'o** – Kenya.
- Nutrition status and feeding practices of people living with HIV/AIDS and of orphans of HIV/AIDS – Elizabeth **Kuria** – Kenya.
- Physical activity and food intakes of Bolivian adolescents – Armando **Pérez-Cueto** – Bolivia.
- Street foods, morbidity and school performance of secondary school students in Western Cameroon – Robert **Ngouffo** – Cameroon.
- Energy requirements, nutrient intakes, and growth of Zambian infants: potential benefits of feeding a multi-micronutrient fortified maize-bean complementary porridge – Moses **Sinkala** – Zambia.
- Bioavailability of vitamin A in commonly used vegetables – Innocent **Gouadou** – Cameroon. (5)
- Traditional weaning foods – Kana **Sop** – Cameroon. (5)
- The influence of perceptions and marketing practices on utilisation of traditional foods by rural households in Matungu division, Western Kenya – Beatrice **Ekesa** – Kenya.
- A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the nutritional status and lifestyles of Vietnamese adolescents - **Le Thi Hop**- Vietnam.
- Underlying causes for nutrition insecurity amongst black South African farm workers in the North West province - **Annemarie Kruger** - South Africa.

["Click here for the geographical distribution of projects"](#)

(1) From 1999 on the name of one researcher, generally the principal investigator, is provided although most of the projects were implemented by teams, and eventual publications shared by various authors.

(2) This project was reported by the principal investigator at the 20th anniversary Symposium organized jointly by Nutrition Third World and the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences of Belgium, Brussels, December 2004.

(3) Project presented at the Symposium by Martin Kimanya.

(4) Project reported at the Symposium by Herman Lanou

(5) These two research projects in Cameroon were co-funded by the International Foundation for Science (IFS)

Geographical distribution of projects

< The map with the geographical distribution of the projects has been omitted from this document, please consult the website for this >

List of countries where NTW now supports – or previously supported – research projects

Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Congo (Brazzaville)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Mali
- Niger
- Republic of South Africa
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia

Latin America

- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Peru

Asia

- Bangladesh
- Vietnam
- Nepal
- The Philippines
- Mongolia

Twentieth anniversary (1984-2004)

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary: the Symposium on "Research in Applied Nutrition in Developing Countries: Challenges and Expectations"

Time and place December 3, 2004, Brussels, Palais des Académies

Organisers Nutrition Third World & Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences of Belgium

Financial sponsors Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) & Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO-VL)

Keynote address Mr. Armand De Decker, Minister of Development Cooperation. The Minister emphasized the originality of the meeting and showed how it fitted the Belgian policy of development aid.

Three objectives

- To improve the understanding of the concept of "applied nutrition research"
- To show that good research in that area is actually performed successfully in the South by local scientists
- To give those scientists the opportunity of expressing their perceptions and expectations regarding the difficulties of research in their countries.

Scientific programme

Part 1. Presentations Six scientists, present or past grantees of NTW, presented their research, answered questions and briefly commented on their challenges and expectations.

The symposium was unusual in that all invited speakers were researchers from developing countries endeavoring to answer the challenges posed by the different forms of malnutrition prevalent in their countries. In the ample time foreseen for questions and discussions the public participated actively.

Part 2. Round Table NTW grantees and members of NTW exchanged views, which they shared with the public during a lively discussion.

Attendance About 80 participants from public and private organisations active in development (including NGO's, foundations, universities, private companies, Belgian and foreign researchers on the subject). High level of attendance by researchers and students from the Third World, 31 of whom represented 20 different countries.

Proceedings The Symposium's proceedings were published in 2005 by the Academy (see "Proceedings").

[Click here to download the Summary of the proceedings](#)

[Lessons from the Symposium](#)

< The photograph section has been omitted in this document. Please consult the site for pictures of the symposium >

Reference

"Research in Applied Nutrition in Developing Countries: Challenges and Expectations".

RoyalAcademy of Overseas Sciences & Nutrition Third World

Brussels, 3 December 2004

Published in the orange series of the Academy, Brussels, 2005, 134 pages

ISBN 90-75652-38-0

D/2005/0149/2

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F. Byekwaso *et al.* – Nutrition planning at the district level in Uganda: challenges and expectations

T. Ntambwe Kibambe *et al.* – Evaluation rapide des troubles dus à la carence en iode: le projet ThyroMobil dans six pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

A. Perez-Cueto *et al.* – Tracking the nutritional transition in Bolivia. A descriptive study

M. Kimanya *et al.* – Influence of complementary food on the growth and iron & zinc nutritional status of children 6 months- 1 year old in Kilosa district, Tanzania

H. Lanou *et al.* – Le projet MISAME. Prévention du retard de croissance intra-utérine dans le district de Houndé, Burkina Faso

R. Oniang'o. – Challenges and expectations in the Third World applied nutrition research: the Kenyan experience

I. Beghin. Round Table: – Challenges and expectations. Synthesis

Availability

Proceedings on sale from the Academy of Overseas Sciences

A few free copies are still available for researchers in the Third World, on written request. Please write on letterheaded paper to the Nutrition Third World Secretariat, providing your full postal address

[click here to download a summary of the proceedings](#)

Lessons from the Symposium

For the researchers

- Opportunity for NTW grantees to make themselves known, to exchange views, and to speak at an international scientific meeting

- Opportunity for the researchers, students and teachers who attended the Symposium to discover new openings
- Clarification and better acceptance of the concept of “applied nutrition”
- Better understanding by all participants of the challenges and expectations of researchers in the South, and of possible ways of meeting such expectations
- Relevance and quality of the papers, both in the scientific sessions and at the Round Table – all speakers being NTW grantees from developing countries

For Nutrition Third World

- Evidence that NTW's selection of research grants is adequate
- Lessons for its policy in the future

Round Table : Challenges and expectations . Synthesis

- Researchers in applied nutrition face the same difficulties and challenges as other researchers in developing countries :

- Isolation
- Lack of adequate research infrastructure
- Low competitiveness in getting financial support
- Research priorities often established in the North
- Difficulties in disseminating, popularising, and especially operationalising results

- More specifically, with reference to applied nutrition research, the Symposium emphasized the following points:

- Poor understanding and/of lack of recognition of applied nutrition research
- Shortage of researchers trained in applied nutrition research
- Rapidly changing scene of nutrition in developing countries
- Difficulties and ethical problems of studying people if there is no sustainable intervention to assist them
- Difficulties in applying results

- Details on these issues, as well as the researchers' specific expectations can be found in the [Symposium Proceedings](#).

Since its foundation in 1984, Nutrition Third World (NTW) has supported applied scientific research by emerging researchers from the South. In 2007, researchers that benefited from NTW grants were contacted to get feedback on NTW's support and to review the actual impact their research had. A questionnaire-based survey was carried out to see how the research results have been applied and what the benefits there were for the target population.

[click here to download the evaluation report](#)

Recent developments

- In the last 10 or 15 years, applied nutrition research has undergone quite a promising development, thanks to the increasing involvement of established researchers from both the North and the South.

Areas covered

- the prevention and treatment of child malnutrition;
- micronutrient deficiencies (mainly iodine, iron, vitamin A, and zinc);

- young child feeding;
- the “food based” approach in tackling nutritional deficiencies;
- the planning and evaluation of nutrition interventions;
- the promotion of growth and development of young children;
- maternal health and nutrition;
- the prevention of intra-uterine growth retardations;
- the “nutritional transition” phenomenon;
- the training and management of village level workers;
- etc.

- NTW's efforts also contributed successfully to the strengthening of research capacity in the South.

- Lastly, substantial progress was achieved in the development of methodologies for studying nutritional problems and for assisting operational agencies methods.

- for conducting applied nutrition research;
- for training doctors and other health personnel;
- for planning and implementing interventions;
- for evaluation.

- This is documented in the [2007 Evaluation Report](#), the “[Annual report 2006](#)”, “[Lessons from the Symposium](#)” and “[Round Table Summary](#)”.

How to apply

Research proposals submitted to NTW are reviewed by its [Scientific Committee](#). They are then presented to the [Board of Directors](#) which examines them according to two essential criteria:

- their relevance to Third World nutrition problems; and
- their scientific quality.

To apply for a grant, please take the following steps:

- [Review eligibility and selection procedure](#).
- If you believe your project meets our eligibility criteria, submit a [letter of intent](#).
- Once you have submitted your letter of intent, NTW will review it. If the proposal meets the eligibility criteria and falls within NTW's mission, you will be invited to [submit a full proposal](#).
- If your letter of intent is declined, the reason will be shared in a response letter.

NTW encourages [cofinancing](#) of project applications.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, a research proposal should meet the following criteria:

- Relevance to the country's nutritional problems
- Originality and scientific quality
- Focus on practical implications of recent scientific knowledge
- Contribution to sustainable development
- Likelihood that the results will be applied for the benefit of the people

Among eligible proposals, preference will be given to:

- Research aiming at developing practical applications of recent scientific knowledge for the benefit of governmental and non-governmental organisations fighting malnutrition, without necessarily being themselves development interventions
- Projects co-funded by other agencies, or for which a NTW financial grant will facilitate obtaining additional funds from other sources
- Projects explicitly contributing to the training and professional advancement of young researchers and/or to strengthening in a sustainable manner the local research capacity
- Projects submitted and carried out by a group of researchers working as a team.

Letter of intent

A researcher who wishes to apply for a grant is required to write a letter of intent of **maximum 2 pages**. No special format is required.

He/she should describe briefly the research contemplated, explaining the idea of the research and pointing to the practical applications of the results.

The size of the research project and a tentative time frame should be provided.

A short CV of the applicant should be attached.

He/she should also indicate whether the research is an individual proposal or that of a team.

The letter of intent can be sent to NTW's secretariat at all times, by e-mail or post ([contact](#)). NTW will acknowledge receipt of all applications.

NTW will then examine the letter of intent and correspond with the applicant if necessary. If the proposal meets the eligibility criteria and falls within NTW's mission, NTW will invite the applicant to submit a full proposal.

Submitting a full proposal

Introductory remark

If selected for funding, applicants accept an obligation to:

- make all efforts toward the practical application of their findings;
- publish research results in peer reviewed journals;
- disseminate the results to the broadest audience through general articles, books and chapters in books, manuals and guidelines, educational material, etc., as appropriate.

Procedure

NTW only considers complete, well documented and properly presented proposals. It does not impose a special format for grant applications. The full proposal should contain:

- **Summary** of less than one page.
- **Justification** of the research, the present state of knowledge, and a thorough review of literature.

- **Research objectives.** If the research is a part of a broader programme, the objectives of such a programme will be presented, and the authors will explain how the proposal submitted to NTW fits into that more general programme;
- **Material and methods,** including sampling procedures, statistical methods for analysing results, etc. A special paragraph would specify how the researchers intend to keep a "procedure book" (i.e. a diary of all data collection and other operations, nowadays mandatory for every research involving human subjects).
- **Plan of operations** (Who is going to do what? Where? When? etc.), if necessary in narrative form.
- **Calendar** of operations.
- **Budget.**
 - Budget items to be justified by providing unit costs (or estimates of such costs),
 - The amount of financial support received from other sources (with clear indication of such sources) should also be given.
 - The budget should be presented in either EUR or USD.
- List of bibliographical **references.**
- A short **C.V.** of each of the researchers.
- A copy of the report of the **ethical committee** of the senior investigator's institution.
- The name and title of **the person who will manage** the funds.
- A **statement** on how the investigators intend to disseminate their results (scientific publications, organising seminars or training sessions, participation in congresses, writing of manuals and guides, etc.).
- An **assessment** of the probability that the investigation's results will be put into practical application (by an NGO, the government, other agencies), and a statement on how the investigators will endeavour to achieve this goal.

Researchers are encouraged to consult with the secretariat, request additional information, explain their difficulties, etc. NTW will be happy to assist them. One of the organisation's tasks is to assist the investigators in all possible ways.

If you send your application by e-mail, don't forget to give your full postal address and phone and fax numbers.

Format for budget presentation

The budget items should be grouped under the following headings (per year, and total over the grant period):

- Personnel: local and in Belgium
- Travel: local and international
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Miscellaneous
- Overhead (maximum 10 %)
- Grand total

Knowledge sharing

Publications of NTW

NTM funded research is published in peer reviewed articles in international journals and chapters in Books. A full list with references of published research results will be made available soon. For the time being, please find a short description of NTM funded research in the summaries of the Abstracts of our 2004 Symposium.

Other sources of funding

[Aga Khan Foundation](#)

[Bernard Van Leer Foundation](#)

[CEMUBAC](#)

[CUD \(Commission Universitaire pour le Développement\)](#)

[IFS \(International Foundation for Science\)](#)

[Nestlé Foundation](#)

[Neys van Hoogstraten Foundation](#)

[Nutricia Research Foundation](#)

[Thrasher Research Fund](#)

[VLIR-UOS \(Flemish University Development Cooperation\)](#)

Multilateral agencies

[FAO \(Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations\)](#)

[IAEA \(International Atomic Energy Agency\)](#)

[ICCIDD \(International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders\)](#)

[UNICEF \(United Nations Children's Fund\)](#)

[UNU \(United Nations University\)](#)

[WHO \(World Health Organisation\)](#)

Other

[AERF \(Association pour une Ethique dans la Récolte de Fonds\)](#)

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Development Co-operation Prize

This annual prize aims to encourage students and young researchers. It rewards scientific research that strongly contributes to generate knowledge which could benefit development in the South.

In the field of Applied Nutrition, Mrs. Lalani Munasinghe from Sri Lanka, won the prize in 2005 for a study on "Iodine status assessment in females".

The winners receive a prize in cash and they are invited to attend the award giving ceremony and to comment their work.

A summary of each winner's report is available on the Prize's site www.devcoprize.africamuseum.be

The next call will be announced still this year. The limit for filing applications will be around October 2008.

Annual competition RAOS

The Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences of Belgium organizes annual competitions and puts forward every year 6 questions in its fields of competence.

Scientists worldwide are invited to submit a scientific paper answering one of the questions. Submitted papers are reviewed by committees appointed by the Academy, and the best answer to each question is awarded a prize of 1.000 euros, and allows the winner to bear the title of "Prize-winner of the Academy".

For the 2009 competition one of the six questions is: "*A study in the field of **applied nutrition** is requested concerning one or more interventions aimed to prevent or to treat a nutritional problem, or to promote good nutrition in an overseas country.*"

Works submitted for the competition should reach the Academy before 1 March 2009.

The competition rules, and additional information can be obtained from the Academy:

E-mail: kaowarsom@skynet.be

Website : <http://www.kaowarsom.be/en/concours.html>

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Tax relief

According to Article 104 of the Income Tax Code, donations to the Association of more than EUR 30 are deductible from taxable income in Belgium.