National Nutrition Strategy

of social change.

5.6 DECENTRALIZATION AND FLEXIBILITY

Contextually relevant, decentralized approaches will be promoted, with greater flexibility at State, district and local levels for greater and sustained programme effectiveness and impact, in harmony with the approach of cooperative federalism. This will also enable utilization of opportunities provided by the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission with greater devolution of resources to States- mobilizing and catalyzing state resources and action for Nutrition.

5.7 OWNERSHIP OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS AND URBAN LOCAL BODIES

Strengthening the ownership of Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies is a key principle - to ensure that local self governments own, promote, monitor and sustain nutrition initiatives - effecting convergence of action at the grass roots. This is essential as the subjects allocated in the 73rd Amendment include those addressing the immediate and underlying determinants of undernutrition such as Health and Sanitation, Family Welfare, Drinking Water, Women and Child Development, Public Distribution Systems, Agriculture, Education, Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare, among others. This is even more relevant in the light of the Fourteenth Finance Commission Recommendations.

5.8 FOSTER INNOVATION

Innovation will be encouraged and recognized - including through quality circles which encourage a cluster of frontline teams to identify best practices and replicate the same - with a ripple effect and widening of the innovation. Best practices will be identified and local adaptation and replication or adapted to local conditions.

5.9 INFORMED BY SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE

Programme strategies will be evidence based, informed by the state of the science (as well as by the state of the practice) and updated as new evidence emerges related to nutrition, health and development.

5.10 ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

An underlying principle of action is that policy development and programme implementation must be transparent, open to public scrutiny and kept free from conflict of interest, with requisite safeguards. (This includes ensuring that representation on policy, technical advisory groups and various management committees at different levels is free from conflict of interest.)