

Adoption of the Nutri-score system in France to reduce the incidence of noncommunicable diseases

Sir,

Consumption of unhealthy food has been associated with detrimental effects on the health status of individuals and a significant burden on the health-care delivery system.^[1] Furthermore, the choice of food products plays a defining role in the development of various noncommunicable diseases and obesity.^[1]

In order to respond to the public health concern of foodborne illnesses, stakeholders from the European region have developed an action plan for the period 2015–2020.^[2] This plan identifies the priority areas which require attention and also implement measures to improve the overall quality of the diet and nutritional status of the European population.^[2] In fact, with an aim to increase the pace of activities and to supplement other actions to establish a healthy food environment, the policy makers from France have decided to adopt the Nutri-score system.^[2,3] This simplified system employs color coding principle to assist people in understanding the nutritional value of different food products by just a glance.^[3]

Moreover, it has been envisaged that all European nations should devise and implement a labeling system on the front-of-pack, which should be easy to comprehend and assist people in their understanding about nutritional information.^[3] In fact, the findings of a randomized trial concluded that the five-color nutrition label system is extremely effective in motivating people to make a healthier food option in heterogeneous settings.^[4]

Further, the practice of food labeling not only guides people for adopting healthier food products but also encourages food operators to bring about reforms in their products, and thus, it becomes a

critical intervention in regions with high incidence of noncommunicable diseases.^[2,3] The proposed Nutri-score system will be categorizing food products and drinks under five categories of nutritional quality.^[3] In addition, it has been observed that the presence of a color-coded nutrition label on the front-of-pack acts as a key factor in augmenting the attention of consumers, when compared to traditional nutrition facts label.^[5]

To conclude, it is anticipated that the adoption of color coding in the labeling of food products will play a significant role in assisting people to make an informed healthy choice, meet the demands of people to have better information about healthier food products, and in minimizing the intake of energy-dense foods or foods rich in saturated fats, sugar, or salt.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Saurabh RamBihariLal Shrivastava,

Prateek Saurabh Shrivastava, Jegadeesh Ramasamy

Department of Community Medicine, Shri Sathya Sai Medical College and Research Institute, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Saurabh RamBihariLal Shrivastava,
3rd Floor, Department of Community Medicine,
Shri Sathya Sai Medical College and Research Institute,
Ammappettai Village, Thiruporur - Guduvanchery Main Road,
Sembakkam Post, Kancheepuram - 603 108,
Tamil Nadu, India.
E-mail: drshrishri2008@gmail.com

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