VITAMIN A FORTIFICATION OF PALM COOKING OIL: A CONTINUING CONTROVERSY

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ABSTRACT:

Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) has been recognized as a public-health problem in Indonesia especially associated with low serum vitamin A concentrations. In order to combat VAD problem, in 2012, Government of Indonesia (GOI) has issued Indonesia National Standard on Palm Cooking Oil, which required palm cooking oil to be fortified with Vitamin A (SNI 7709-2012). The main problem with SNI 7709-2012 is associated with the definition of palm cooking oil. Palm cooking oil may declare itself as palm cooking only after the addition of vitamin A. The naturally occurring pro-vitamin A in palm cooking oil was not considered at all as a potential source of vitamin A. Without considering the revision on the definition of palm cooking oil, the GOI went further with the issuance of Ministry of Industry Regulation (Number 87/M-IND/PER/12/2013), to make the SNI 7709-2012 mandatory. This paper argues that both the SNI 7709-2012 and the Regulation Number 87/M-IND/PER/12/2013 are discriminating against palm cooking oil. Furthermore, this policy is not encouraging the industry to utilize the local resources (pro-vitamin A) and potentially will create dependency on imported vitamin A. This paper also discusses that revision of SNI 7709-2012 (and the Regulation Number 87/M-IND/PER/12/2013) is needed to assure that the stated objectives of SNI 7709-2012 may be achieved in a cost-effective way, and at the same time increase the competitiveness of palm cooking oil. The revision should be done by promoting the industry to utilize pro-vitamin A of palm oil in combating the VAD in Indonesia.

See presentation:  [Vitamin A Fortification of Palm Cooking Oil - Continuing Controversy](http://phariyadi.staff.ipb.ac.id/2014/07/01/vitamin-fortification-palm-cooking-oil-continuingcontroversy/)