THE VITACEREAL STORY

National and international surveys reveal that Guatemala has the highest chronic undernutrition rate in Latin America and fourth in the world.

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy is approved and the Food and Nutrition Security Secretariat is created.

WFP, FAO, and the Ministry of Agriculture initiate programs to support projects to promote quality maize production and direct purchase from small farmers.

Vitacereal® is made using locally produced white maize.

WFP begins working with local maize farmers to produce high-quality white maize.

Two new industries join the first industry in producing Vitacereal®.

What is chronic undernutrition?
It refers to stunting in children under five years of age, that is, children do not reach the expected height for their age.

These two girls are the same age, but one of them did not grow properly.

Why and when does chronic undernutrition happen?

...when exclusive breastfeeding is interrupted by feeding babies with breast, water or soups before 6 months of age

...when children are born with low birth weight

...when children suffer from frequent episodes of diarrhea or respiratory diseases and food intake is reduced

...when children are fed water or diluted foods instead of nutrient dense foods and breast milk

...when there is little access to health services, safe water, sanitation, food and family income

...when children are fed water or diluted foods instead of nutrient dense foods and breast milk

How do chronic undernutrition effects go beyond infancy?

...during pregnancy. Women who were or are undernourished can have low birth weight infants

...during adulthood. Productivity is reduced leading to lower salaries

...during school years there is less learning ability and cognitive development

What is Vitacereal®?

It is a blended food made with maize and soy flour and fortified with vitamins and minerals. It is provided to all children from 6 to 35 months of age, pregnant, and lactating women living in municipalities with very high prevalences of chronic undernutrition (>55%).

Complementary feeding is one of the six components of the National Strategy to reduce chronic undernutrition.

Vitacereal® is specially designed for growing children, it provides essential micronutrients such as iron, zinc, folic acid, and vitamin A, which play a very important role in growth and protection against disease.

Who is Dr. Ricardo Bressani?
Guatemalan research scientist worldwide recognized for his contributions to the improvement of human nutrition in IAC. Recipient of many awards including The "Albert Einstein" World Award of Science. Member of the US National Academy of Science.