

Women and Food

Better health, better business

Senegal Salt farming

Senegal exports large amounts of iodized salt but the local market is served by small producers with limited capacity to iodize. One in three Senegalese households still does not have access to iodized salt. Lack of iodine can cause mental retardation in infants and goitre in adults.

WFP is supporting women's groups to produce and sell iodized salt that will also benefit the health of neighbouring communities. Salt production is traditionally a job for women, but men often manage the producer associations. WFP has supported women's leadership training to ensure they have a greater say in running the business.

"We women work well together. There is a solidarity between us. And we are good managers of the business!"

Selby Diouf, 28, collects raw salt in a bucket in the Fatick region of Senegal, and brings it ashore to dry. She works at Ndiémou where some 700 mainly female salt producers harvest around 500 tonnes of salt per month.

Thanks to iodization machines and training provided by WFP and its partner MicroNutrient initiative, groups like Selby's are earning more and helping the health of their community.



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