The World Iodine Association (WIA) represents iodine producers, processors, distributors and end users in relevant industry and government bodies. The association offers a central information platform on uses, applications and benefits of iodine for industry and health of humans and animals.

Membership in WIA is also composed of companies and members not involved in the industry, such as non-profit organisations and civil societies working on projects concerning iodine from their scientific interest.
Need for Iodine

Iodine is an essential element for human and animal health, growth and development. Lack of iodine can cause iodine deficiency disorders. Iodine and its derivatives are indispensable in a wide range of nutritional, pharmaceutical and industrial applications.

WIA Mission:

- To support and represent iodine producers, processors, formulators, distributors and end users in relevant industry bodies, and in relevant official government bodies around the world with respect to guidelines and regulations on iodine and its derivatives
- To develop, support and promote the use of iodine and its derivatives in existing and novel uses and applications in the domains of human and animal health and industry
- To provide information about the purposes, uses and applications of iodine and its derivatives to interested parties
- To help eradicate global iodine deficiency

Iodine Deficiency among School-Aged Children

Iodine and uses

**Nutrition**

Iodine is an essential constituent of the thyroid hormones. Lack of iodine in the diet leads to mental and physical retardation or increased size of the thyroid gland (goiter). Iodine deficiency is especially serious for pregnant women and young children. Globally, this affects more than 30% of all school-aged children. Most deficiencies can be prevented by consuming food rich in iodine, or adding iodine to table salt.

Iodine is added to lick blocks or feed supplements to keep livestock healthy. Thyroid function of animals is also impaired by a lack of iodine, leading to reduced reproduction and productivity.

Iodine can be added to the nutrition of crops, improving plant growth and increasing the amount of iodine in human food and animal feed (agronomic biofortification).

**Healthcare**

Iodine and iodine-preparations are included in dietary supplements or as active ingredients in antispasmodics, coronary vasodilators and neuromuscular blocking agents. Iodine is also used as a reagent in the synthesis of various pharmaceutical compounds or incorporated in intermediate molecules.

Iodine containing tablets are recommended in case of nuclear incidence to prevent damage of the thyroid by the radioisotope I-131. Other radioisotopes e.g. I-125 are used as markers in various fields of research.

Iodine compounds are used as contrast media for X-ray exams, using the relative density difference of iodine versus soft tissues and fluids. This includes intravenous pyelography, angiography, CT scan, gastro-intestinal series and cholecystography.

Iodine can penetrate quickly through the cell wall of microorganisms, causing disruption of proteins and nucleic acid. Applications of iodine containing biocides are found in hospitals, laboratories, food industries, chemical plants, cattle and poultry houses, wherever sanitation is a concern.

**Industry**

Elemental iodine is easily reduced or oxidized and this makes it particularly suitable as catalyst in chemical synthesis. Iodine plays an important part in many industrial processes: Photography, LCD polarizing films or chemical synthesis of polymers. Iodine is incorporated in organic compounds as final or intermediate reagent. It is used in heat stabilisation of nylon and production of colorants and dyes.
Members

WIA members are united to provide objective information on iodine and its uses to interested bodies. The aim is to kindle public awareness on the benefits of iodine and facilitate research and development. Novel uses or applications of iodine can promote human and animal health and nutrition and aid to improve industrial processes.

Membership is open to partners in the private sector and non-profit organisations with an interest to further our mission.

WIA welcomes Effective members and Associated members.

Effective Members are producers, processors, formulators, distributors or end users of iodine in relevant industry bodies of iodine and iodine derivatives.

Associated Members are involved in the industry, as non-profit organisations and civil societies working on projects concerning iodine from their scientific interest. Associated members can be involved in the regulatory aspects of iodine and its derivatives, development of new uses for iodine, or are dedicated to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders.

Member Benefits

- Become part of an association that can act as a representative of the iodine industry in aid of discussions with authorities on aspects such as health interventions or regulatory guidelines
- Combine forces to provide accurate information in discussions with international governmental organisations such as EU-directorates, WHO or FAO
- Contribute to harmonization of guidelines within the international regulatory architecture concerning iodine
- Expand and strengthen your network through our community, embracing expertise in all fields of application
- Contribute to the realization of an information platform on benefits and novel uses of iodine, in collaboration with the international academic community

For more information please visit our website or send a mail to info@worldiodineassociation.com.