

BRAC Salt crushing mill aims to give people access to an affordable source of iodised salt. Through BRAC's health programme, we identified that a large number of people were suffering from iodine deficiency. In response to this discovery, we launched the salt enterprise in 2001.

At the time, there was a large gap between the supply and demand of iodised salt. Moreover, much of the salt available in the local villages was not properly iodised, and only sold in bulk after going through an unhygienic production process and therefore was not suitable for human consumption. BRAC began distributing iodised salt through its own community health volunteers who sold the salt along with other health products to villagers for a small commission. This also ensured that BRAC would be able to reach people in remote areas that usually had no other access to properly iodised salt.

A salt manufacturing plant was set up in 2004 in collaboration with UNICEF and the Micronutrient Initiative in Islampur, Cox's Bazar.



packets of salt at salt manufacturing plant in Islampur, Cox's Bazar

Photo credit: BRAC

BRAC Salt today

Today, we produce and distribute 10,000 metric tons of iodised salt annually in Bangladesh. In the last two decades, Bangladesh made immense progress in reducing iodine deficiency and expanding the usage of iodised salt. The success is attributed to favourable government policies combined with the efforts of organisations like UNICEF, the Micronutrient Initiative and BRAC. BRAC health volunteers continue to reach the poorest and most remote regions of the country, ending iodine deficiency one salt packet at a time.

At a glance

Total land area:
1.5 acres

Number of workers:
120 (88 men, 32 women)

Yearly purchase of raw salt:
approximately 12,000 metric tons

Yearly sale:
approximately 10,000 metric tons