NUTRITION LABELLING TO HELP TACKLE NCDs

'A call for action in response to the NCD Action Plan of the World Health Organisation'

Derived from: EUFIC Global Update on Nutrition labelling, February 2016; Choices International network.
To make healthy food choices, consumers first have to be well-informed about the products they buy. That in so many countries standard nutrition information is made available via the nutrition panel and/or Guideline Daily Amounts is great progress. But this may not be enough. Consumers are asking for more than transparency, they also indicate benefits from guidance. Authorities consider or already implement labelling systems that go beyond being informative. In all regions, interpretative systems guiding healthier food choices, are presented. In most cases this guidance is given by positive logos, but also traffic lights and warning labels are used. This development follows pressure by the World Health Organization (WHO), scientists and NGOs to increase efforts on halting non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and obesity through new labeling instruments.

Choices International calls upon all stakeholders to develop and implement guidance systems in cooperation, to mobilize the energy of all parties involved. These systems should be based on independent science. They also should be voluntary, product-group specific, positive and internationally applicable. In this way we can make a difference to help prevent NCDs and obesity.