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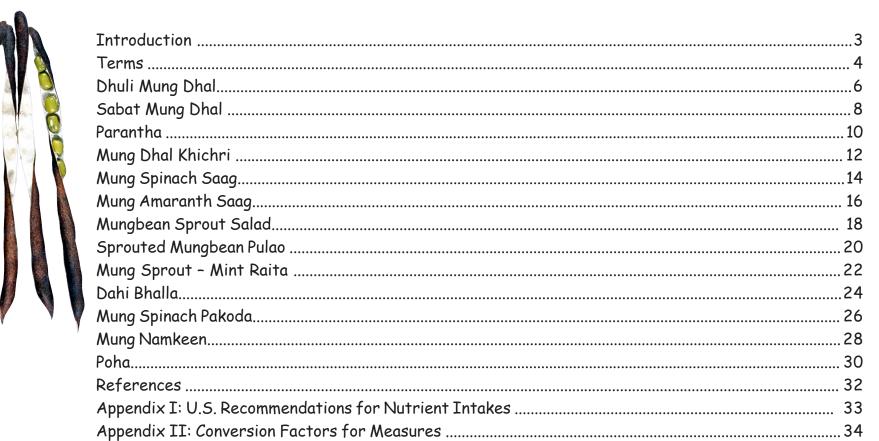
High-Iron Mungbean Recipes for North India

Kiran Bains, Ray-yu Yang, and S. Shanmugasundaram





Contents



Mungbean is an important source of protein and iron in Indian diets

Introduction

Mungbean is widely grown and consumed in India. The pulse is an excellent source of protein (20%) and a fair source of iron (4-7 mg per 100 g), but the presence of phytate and tannin in mungbean reduces its iron bioavailability significantly. This loss of nutritional value is critical since iron deficiency anemia is the major micronutrient deficiency problem in India, affecting more than 320 million people. Estimates are that 40–80% of pregnant women, 60–70% of children, and 50% of adolescent girls in India suffer from anemia. Vijayalakshmi et al. (2003) have shown that a food-based approach using improved mungbean recipes is a sustainable way to reduce this nutritional disorder. The bioavailability of iron from mungbean may be enhanced through sprouting (AVRDC, 1994) or by cooking it with vegetables such as tomato and cabbage (AVRDC, 1998). Vegetables exerting iron bioavailability-enhancing effects were further reported by Yang et al. (2002). Subramanian and Yang (1998) have prepared improved mungbean/vegetable recipes for South India. These recipes were developed with an emphasis on simple cooking methods, locally available and inexpensive ingredients, and consumer acceptability.

Although India has achieved self-sufficiency in cereal food grains during the past two decades, there has been a reduction in the production of pulses such as mungbeans. This reduction has resulted in a decline in pulse consumption especially among poor families. The rice-wheat cropping system in the Indo-Gangetic Plains of India is primarily responsible for the enhanced cereal production in India; however, this cropping system has resulted in a number

of problems, including a degradation of soils and increased dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. To overcome these problems, diversification of the system by introducing fast maturing mungbean varieties between two cereal crops or instead of the rice crop has been proposed. The Department for International Development-sponsored project, "Improving income and nutrition by incorporating mungbean in cereal fallows in Indo-Gangetic Plains of South Asia" successfully incorporated short duration mungbean varietes in the rice-wheat cropping system. Such crop diversification enables the farmers to improve their household income and at the same time ensure nutritional security and enrich their soils.

The high-iron recipes developed in this book were prepared to suit the palate of North Indians. The selected ingredients are inexpensive and easily accessible to rural families as well as the urban poor. The iron bioavailability of mungbean has been substantially improved to 7.2–11.3% through cooking practices such as soaking, pressure-cooking, fermenting, sprouting, and using ironand vitamin C-rich vegetables as ingredients. Iron content of each recipe was determined by the atomic absorption method. Iron bioavailability was measured with the in vitro digestion/dialysis method described by AVRDC (1995). The other micronutrient values were referred from the Food Composition Table listed in Huang et al. (1992). The sensory qualities such as flavor and appearance were given due importance in preparing the recipes. By popularizing these recipes among the target population, the iron status of millions of vulnerable families in India can be substantially improved.

Terms

Amaranth	Amaranthus viridis, a high-iron leafy	Mung dhal	Split dehulled mungbean	
	vegetable	Mungbean	Green gram, Vigna radiata var. radiata	
Coriander	Coriandrum sativum, a high-iron leafy herb	Mustard	Brassica juncea, an herb used in the form	
Cumin	Cuminum cyminum, a spice used in the		of seeds	
	form of seeds	Namkeen	Fried and crispy snack prepared from	
Curd	Milk cultured with <i>Lactobacillus</i> species;		legumes	
	yogurt	Pakoda	Fried snack prepared from vegetables	
Dahi bhalla	Fermented and fried ball of mungbean in		coated with legume flour paste	
Divi	curd	Parantha	Pancake	
Dhal	Preparations made of split dehulled or whole pulse (see next page)	Poha	Dish prepared from rice flakes and veg-	
Dhuli mung dhal	Cooked dehusked and split mungbean		etables	
· ·	· ·	Pulao	Rice cooked with vegetables	
Fenugreek	Trigonella foenum-graecum, a locally available leafy vegetable also known as	Raita	Fermented curd with vegetables and spices	
	Greek hay	Saag	A preparation of leafy vegetables	
Garam masala	Powdered mixture of Indian condiments	Sabat	Whole	
	and spices	Tamarind chutney	Sweet and sour preparation made from	
Ghee	Melted butter	•	tamarind fruit in the form of a thick liquid	
Iron bioavailability	Iron available to the human body	Turmeric powder	Spice ground from the root of Curcuma	
Khichri	A combination of rice and legume		longa that gives yellow color to food	
Mint chutney	Mint leaves ground into thin paste	Tawa	Iron pan to make pancakes	



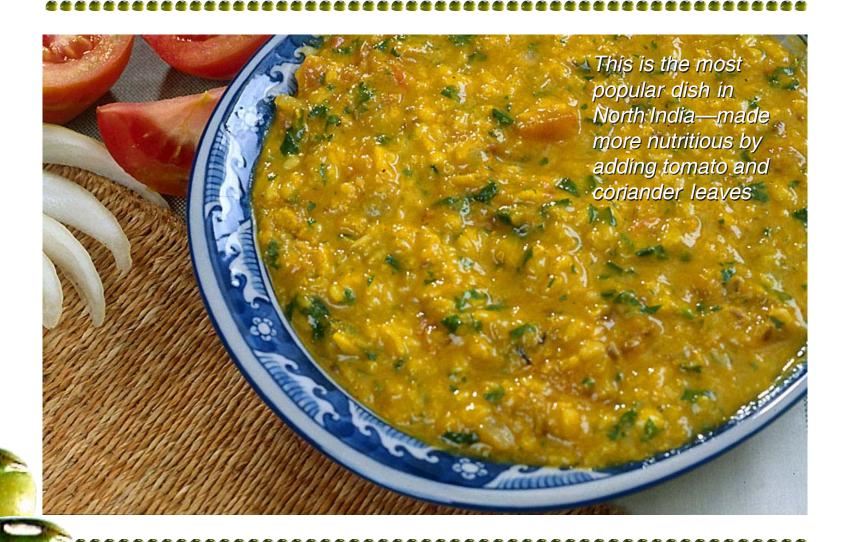


Mungbean is commonly sold in three forms: whole mungbean, split dehulled mungbean called mung (or mungbean) dhal, and split dehulled mungbean sold with hulls. Many of the recipes in this book contain mung dhal, which calls for split mungbean with the hulls removed. Some recipes in this book call for mungbean sprouts, which are produced from whole mungbean.

Several of the recipes call for pressure cooking mungbean dhal. When this initial cooking is complete, other ingredients are some-

times added to the same pot and the mix is cooked altogether. Note that pressure is used only for the initial cooking and that subsequent cooking with the combined ingredients does not require pressure unless otherwise indicated.

You will also notice that metric measures are used, but that teaspoon and tablespoon conversions are often supplied in parentheses for convenience. If you wish to convert grams to ounces, you'll find a simple conversion table in Appendix II.



Dhuli Mung Dhal

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

Mung dhal : 100 g
Tomato : 75 g
Onion : 50 g
Garlic : 3 to 4 cloves

Oil/ghee : 20 g

Coriander leaves : 10 g (1 tbsp)

Cumin seeds : 1/4 tsp Turmeric powder : 1/2 tsp

Salt, to taste

Red chillies, to taste Garam masala, to taste

 Energy
 : 570 kcal

 Protein
 : 26 g

 Calcium
 : 200 mg

 Iron
 : 5.29 mg

(bioavailability 10.20%)

Phosphorus : 611 mg

β-carotene : 0.90 mg (150 μg RE)

Thiamine : 0.69 mg
Riboflavin : 0.27 mg
Niacin : 2.55 mg
Ascorbic acid : 35 mg

Serves three

- 1. Wash the mungbean dhal and cook it in a pressure cooker with chopped garlic, turmeric powder, red chillies, salt, and 2½ cups of water for 5 minutes.
- 2. Fry finely chopped onion in oil/ghee until the onion turns golden brown.
- 3. Add cumin seeds and sauté for a few seconds.
- 4. Add chopped/pureed tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes are done and mixture leaves the sides of the pan.
- 5. Add garam masala to dhal and garnish it with finely chopped coriander leaves.



Sabat Mung Dhal

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

Mung dhal: 100 gTomato: 75 gOnion: 50 gGarlic: 4 to 5 cloves

Oil/ghee : 20 g

Cumin seeds : 1/4 tsp
Turmeric powder : 1/2 tsp

Coriander leaves : 10 g (1 tbsp)

Salt, to taste

Red chillies, to taste Garam masala, to taste Energy : 584 kcal
Protein : 26 g
Calcium : 151 mg
Iron : 4.79 mg

(bioavailability 8.15%)

Phosphorus : 481 mg

 β -carotene : 0.90 mg (150 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.70 mg
Riboflavin : 0.30 mg
Niacin : 3.0 mg
Ascorbic acid : 35 mg

Serves three

- 1. Wash the mungbean dhal and cook it in a pressure cooker with chopped garlic, turmeric powder, red chillies, salt, and 4 cups of water for 5 minutes.
- 2. Fry finely chopped onion in oil/ghee until the onion turns golden brown.
- 3. Add cumin seeds and sauté for a few seconds.
- 4. Add chopped/pureed tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes are done and mixture leaves the sides of the pan.
- 5. Add garam masala to dhal and garnish it with finely chopped coriander leaves.



Parantha

Ingredients:

Mung dhal flour : 50 g
Wheat flour : 100 g
Spinach/fenugreek leaves : 50 g
Onion : 50 g
Oil/ghee : 20 g
Cumin seeds : 5 g

Salt, to taste

Chilli powder, to taste

Nutrient composition:

 Energy
 : 730 kcal

 Protein
 : 26 g

 Calcium
 : 166 mg

 Iron
 : 8.27 mg

(bioavailability 11.32%)

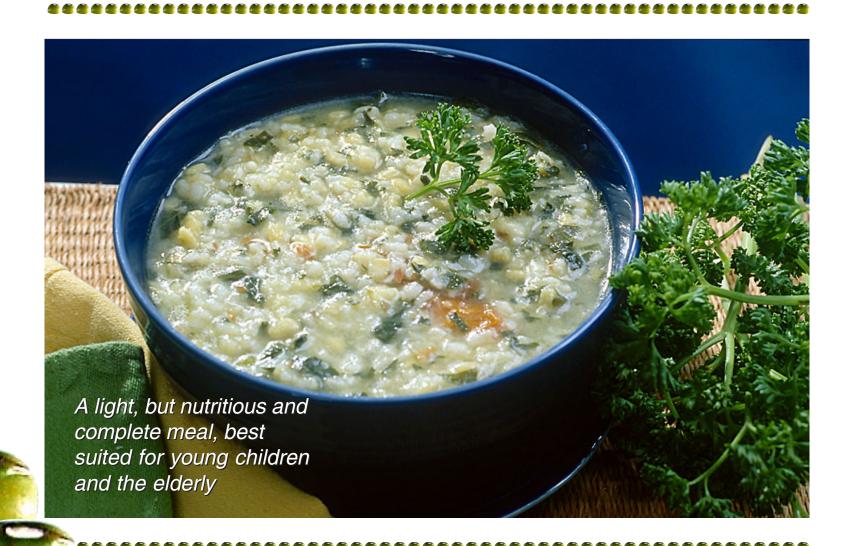
Phosphorus : 563 mg

 β -carotene : 1.40 mg (233 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.82 mg
Riboflavin : 0.41 mg
Niacin : 6.00 mg
Ascorbic acid : 15 mg

Serves three

- 1. Roast the cumin seeds.
- 2. Finely chop the spinach/fenugreek leaves and onion.
- 3. Make a dough by mixing together wheat flour, mung dhal flour, spinach/fenugreek leaves, onion, and remaining dry ingredients.
- 4. Form into round balls.
- 5. Roast parantha on tawa, applying oil on both sides.



Mung Dhal Khichri

Ingredients:

Mung dhal : 50 g Rice : 100 g Cauliflower/radish leaves : 100 g Onion : 50 g Tomato : 50 g Green chillies : 2 to 4 fruits Oil/ghee : 20 g

Cumin seeds : ½ tsp

Salt, to taste

Nutrient composition:

 Energy
 : 838 kcal

 Protein
 : 26 g

 Calcium
 : 743 mg

 Iron
 : 8.04 mg

(bioavailability 9.16%)

Phosphorus : 513 mg

 β -carotene : 1.39 mg (232 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.62 mg
Riboflavin : 0.60 mg
Niacin : 8.89 mg
Ascorbic acid : 131 mg

Serves three

- 1. Sauté onion in oil/ghee until golden brown in a pressure cooker.
- 2. Add cumin seeds and finely chopped tomatoes and green chillies.
- 3. Cook until tomatoes are done and the mixture leaves the sides of the cooker.
- 4. Wash rice and mung dhal.
- 5. Wash and chop cauliflower/radish leaves.
- 6. Add rice, mung dhal, chopped cauliflower/radish leaves, and water (4 cups) to the above mixture in a pressure cooker and cook for 15 minutes.

An iron-rich dish that can be served in any season

Mung Spinach Saag

Ingredients:

Mung dhal : 75 g Spinach : 300 g Onion : 60 g

Tomato : 75 g Green chillies : 2 to 4 fruits

Garlic : 4 to 5 cloves

Ginger paste : 1 tbsp Cumin seeds : ½ tsp

Oil/ghee : 20 g

Salt, to taste

Nutrient composition:

Energy : 567 kcal
Protein : 26 g
Calcium : 373 mg
Iron : 8.04 mg

(bioavailability 11.31%)

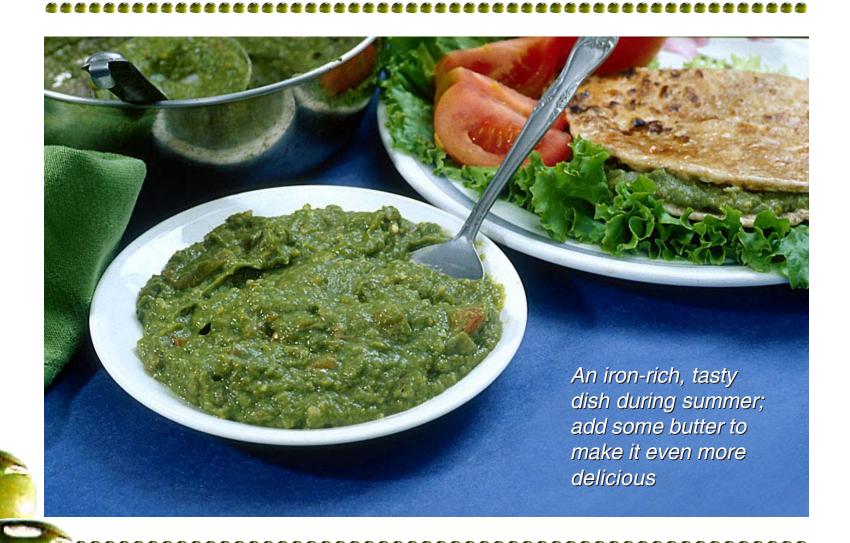
Phosphorus : 423 mg

 β -carotene : 8.5 mg (1418 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.75 mg
Riboflavin : 1.10 mg
Niacin : 5.84 mg
Ascorbic acid : 131 mg

Serves three

- 1. Clean and wash mung dhal and spinach leaves.
- 2. Finely chop the spinach leaves, garlic, and green chillies.
- 3. Pressure cook mung dhal with spinach, garlic, green chillies, ginger paste, salt, and water (1 cup) for 10 minutes.
- 4. Blend the saag into paste manually or by using electric blender.
- 5. Fry finely chopped onions in oil/ghee until golden brown.
- 6. Add cumin seeds and chopped/pureed tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes are done and the mixture leaves the sides of the pan.
- 7. Add saag to this mixture and cook for few more minutes.



Mung Amaranth Saag

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

Mung dhal 50 g Energy 491 kcal Amaranth Protein 200 g 22 g Onion Calcium 50 g 511 mg Tomato 50 g Iron 10.73 mg Green chillies

: 2 to 4 fruits (bioavailability 11.24%)

Garlic : 3 to 4 cloves Phosphorus 433 mg

Ginger 1 tbsp (paste) β-carotene 16.89 mg (2815 μg RE) Cumin seeds Thiamine 0.44 mg

½ tsp Oil/ghee Riboflavin 20 g 0.79 mg

Salt. to taste Niacin 3.89 mg Ascorbic acid 92 ma

Serves three Preparation:

1. Clean and wash mung dhal and amaranth leaves.

- 2. Finely chop the amaranth leaves, garlic, and green chillies.
- 3. Pressure cook mung dhal with amaranth, garlic, chillies, ginger paste, salt, and water (1 cup) for 10 minutes.
- 4. Blend the saag into paste manually or by using electric blender.
- 5. Fry finely chopped onions in oil/ghee until golden brown.
- 6. Add cumin seeds and chopped/pureed tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes are done and the mixture leaves the sides of the pan.
- 7. Add saag to this mixture and cook for a few more minutes.





Mungbean Sprout Salad

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

Mungbean : 100 g (250 g sprouts)
Tomato : 50 g
Onion : 50 g
Cucumber : 100 g

Green chillies : 2 to 3 fruits

Coriander leaves : 10 g (1 tbsp) Lemon juice : 15 ml (1 tbsp)

Black pepper, to taste

Salt, to taste

 Energy
 : 433 kcal

 Protein
 : 28 g

 Calcium
 : 249 mg

 Iron
 : 6.32 mg

(bioavailability 10.66%)

Phosphorus : 427 mg

 β -carotene : 0.77 mg (130 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.70 mg
Riboflavin : 0.52 mg
Niacin : 2.82 mg
Ascorbic acid : 125 mg

Serves three

- 1. Soak mungbeans in water for 12 hours, then drain the water and tie the mungbeans in muslin cloth.
- 2. Sprinkle water on the cloth to keep it moist until sprouts appear (at least 24 hours in summer and 36 hours in winter).
- 3. Steam sprouts in the pressure cooker with ½ cup of water for 5 minutes.
- 4. Finely chop onion, green chillies, and coriander leaves. Dice tomatoes and cucumber.
- 5. Add sprouts to the vegetables and sprinkle lemon juice, salt, and pepper over the mixture. Toss well.

A complete meal along with curd

Sprouted Mungbean Pulao

Ingredients:

Salt, to taste

Nutrient composition:

Mungbean 100 g (250 g sprouts) Energy 1845 kcal Rice Protein 200 g Tomato 100 g Calcium Onion 75 g Iron (bioavailability 8.82%) Oil/ghee 20 g

Cumin seeds ½ tsp **Phosphorus**

> 0.59 mg (98 µg RE) β-carotene

Thiamine 0.75 mg Riboflavin 0.45 mg Niacin 4.77 mg Ascorbic acid 76 ma

39 g

222 mg

7.34 mg

711 mg

Serves three

- 1. Sauté the onions and cumin seeds in the oil/ghee.
- Clean and wash rice.
- Boil 2½ cups of water. Add rice and salt in water and cook in closed pan for 10 minutes.
- 4. Add mungbean sprouts, diced tomato, sautéed onions and cumin seeds to the half-cooked rice. Cook for another 5 minutes under low heat.



Mung Sprout - Mint Raita

Ingredients:

Mung sprouts : 300 g
Curd : 400 g
Mint leaves : 30 g
Green chillies : 2 to 3 fruits
Cumin seed powder : ½ tsp
Black pepper : ¼ tsp

Salt, to taste

Nutrient composition:

Energy : 602 kcal
Protein : 39 g
Calcium : 794 mg
Iron : 10.51 mg

(bioavailability 7.18%)

Phosphorus : 737 mg

 β -carotene : 1.64 mg (273 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.78 mg
Riboflavin : 1.18 mg
Niacin : 2.78 mg
Ascorbic acid : 66 mg

Serves three

- 1. Make curd by adding the culture of *Lactobacillus* species to lukewarm milk and keeping it undisturbed for 6–8 hours for curdling.
- 2. Churn the curd into smooth consistency by adding a little water or milk in it.
- 3. Wash, clean, and chop the mint leaves and green chillies.
- 4. Roast cumin seeds and grind them.
- 5. Mix the steamed sprouts, mint leaves, chillies, cumin powder, and black pepper in the curd. Add salt to taste.



Dahi Bhalla

Ingredients:

 Mung dhal
 : 100 g

 Curd
 : 400 g

 Onion
 : 50 g

 Tomato
 : 50 g

Coriander leaves : 10 g (1 tbsp)

Cumin seeds : ½ tsp

Oil/ghee, for frying Red chillies, to taste

Salt, to taste

Nutrient composition:

Energy : 707 kcal
Protein : 38 g
Calcium : 782 mg
Iron : 6.26 mg

(bioavailability 9.55%)

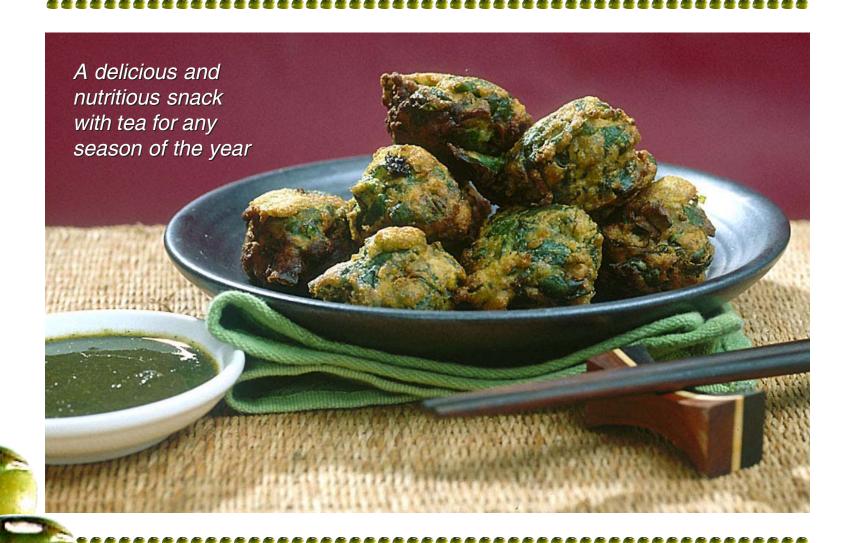
Phosphorus : 745 mg

 β -carotene : 0.77 mg (128 μ g RE)

Thiamine : 0.86 mg
Riboflavin : 0.95 mg
Niacin : 2.93 mg
Ascorbic acid : 37 mg

Serves three

- 1. Soak mung dhal overnight (6–8 hours) in water.
- 2. Grind dhal in electric blender or with pestle and mortar into a fine but thick paste. Ferment for 6–8 hours.
- 3. Add a pinch of salt in the paste, form into balls, and deep fry until the bhallas turn golden brown.
- 4. Soak bhallas in lukewarm water for one hour.
- 5. Churn the curd into fine consistency by adding a small amount of water or milk to it.
- 6. Add finely chopped onion, tomato, coriander leaves, salt, red chillies, and powdered cumin seeds to the curd.
- 7. Squeeze water from bhallas by pressing them softly between the palms of the hands.
- 8. Add bhallas to the curd and keep refrigerated until time of serving.



Mung Spinach Pakoda

Ingredients:

Mung dhal : 100 g
Spinach : 100 g
Tamarind chutney : 4 tbsp
Mint chutney : 4 tbsp

Oil/ghee, for frying

Salt, to taste

Red chillies, to taste

Garam masala, to taste

Nutrient composition:

 Energy
 : 651 kcal

 Protein
 : 28 g

 Calcium
 : 270 mg

 Iron
 : 12.06 mg

(bioavailability 9.73%)

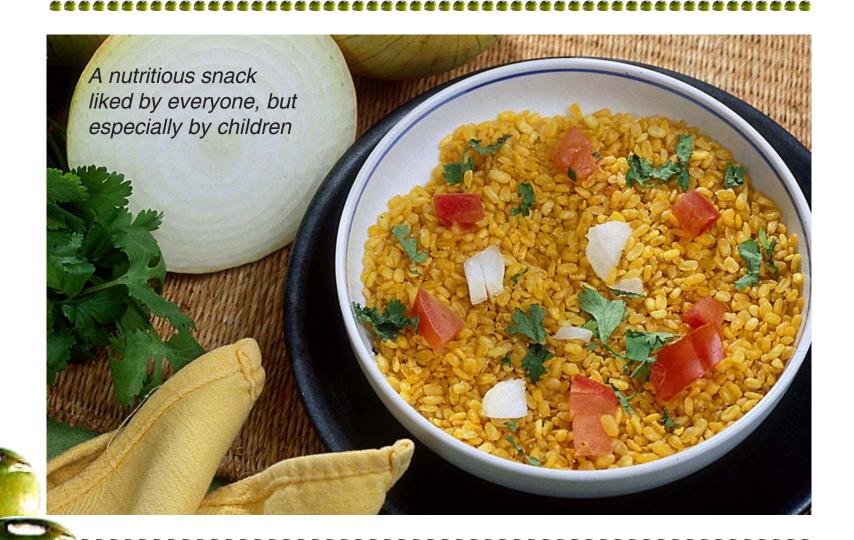
Phosphorus : 391 mg

β-carotene : 3.83 mg (638 μg RE)

Thiamine : 0.58 mg
Riboflavin : 0.52 mg
Niacin : 2.69 mg
Ascorbic acid : 34 mg

Serves three

- 1. Soak mung dhal overnight (6-8 hours) in water.
- 2. Grind the soaked dhal in electric blender or with pestle and mortar into a fine paste.
- 3. Clean and chop spinach leaves.
- 4. Add spinach, salt, red chillies, and garam masala to the dhal paste.
- 5. Make balls using above mixture and deep fry in oil/ghee.
- 6. Serve hot with tamarind and mint chutneys.



Mung Namkeen

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

 Mung dhal
 : 100 g

 Onion
 : 50 g

 Tomato
 : 50 g

Coriander leaves : 10 g (1 tbsp)

Green chillies : 2 to 3 fruits

Oil/Ghee : 20 g

Lemon juice : 15 ml (1 tbsp)

Salt, to taste

Energy	:	608	kcal
Protein	:	26	g
Calcium	:	193	mg
Iron	:	5.49	mg

(bioavailability 10.42%)

Phosphorus : 374 mg

β-carotene : 0.77 mg (128 μg RE)

Thiamine : 0.67 mg
Riboflavin : 0.31 mg
Niacin : 2.54 mg
Ascorbic acid : 37 mg

Serves three

- 1. Soak mung dhal overnight (6-8 hours) in water.
- 2. Drain water and spread dhal on absorbent paper for 30 minutes.
- 3. Heat the oil/ghee and fry dhal under low heat until crisp. Add salt.
- 4. Rub dhal on absorbent paper to remove excess oil.
- 5. Cool and store in an airtight container to maintain crispness.
- 6. Serve with finely chopped onion, coriander leaves, and diced tomatoes. Sprinkle lemon juice over the mixture and toss well.



Poha

Ingredients:

Nutrient composition:

Mungbean 50 g (125 g sprouts) Energy 859 kcal Rice flakes Protein 100 g 23 g Cabbage Calcium 198 mg 100 g Onion 50 g Iron 8.08 mg

(bioavailability 10.70%) 50 g Potato

Coriander leaves 10 g (1 tbsp) **Phosphorus** 524 mg

Oil/ghee 20 g β-carotene 0.77 mg (128 µg RE)

Tamarind chutney 50 g Thiamine 0.64 mg Turmeric powder Riboflavin 0.34 mg 1 tsp Mustard seeds Niacin 6.47 mg 1 tsp Ascorbic acid 171 mg

Salt, to taste

Red chillies, to taste

Serves three

- 1. Put rice flakes in a sieve and wash under tap water.
- Boil potatoes and cut into small pieces.
- 3. Chop cabbage, onions, and coriander leaves.
- 4. Fry onion in oil/ghee until golden brown.
- 5. Add potatoes, cabbage, steamed mung sprouts, chopped coriander leaves, turmeric powder, mustard seeds, red chillies, and salt. Cook for 2-3 minutes.
- 6. Add tamarind chutney and mix well.

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Appendix I: U.S. Recommendations for Nutrient Intakes

Age Weight Height Graph Height Graph Gra			
Infants	Pantothenic (mg)	Biotin (µg)	Choline (mg)
0.5-1.0 9 20 71 28 14 375 4 10 35 50 10 15 5 0.5-1.0 0.3 0.4 3 0.3 80 0.5 5 270 275 75 0.5 Children Children			
1-3 13 29 90 35 16 400 6 15 40 70 10 20 10 1-3 0.5 0.5 6 0.5 150 0.9 5 500 460 80 0.7 4-6 20 44 112 44 24 500 7 20 45 90 10 20 10 4-8 0.6 0.6 8 0.6 200 1.2 5 800 500 130 1.1 7-10 28 62 132 52 28 700 7 30 45 120 10 30 10 80 80 150 12 40 15 12 10 10 30 10 80 80 150 12 40 15 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10			
## A-6 20 44 112 44 24 500 7 20 45 90 10 20 10 4-8 0.6 0.6 8 0.6 200 1.2 5 800 500 130 1.1 ## T-10 28 62 132 52 28 700 7 30 45 120 10 30 10 ## Males			
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 $^{^{1}}$ RE = μ g retinol equivalent; α TE = α -tocopherol; nc = no change Source: National Academy of Sciences (1989, 1997, 1998)

Appendix II: Conversion Factors for Measures

sures	Metric Exact Conversion		Metric Standard Measure	
SPOONS				
1/4 teaspoon (tsp)	1.2	milliliter (ml)	1	ml
1/2 tsp	2.4	ml	2	ml
1 tsp	4.7	ml	5	ml
2 tsp	9.4	ml	10	ml
1 tablespoon (tbsp)	14.2	ml	15	ml
CUPS				
1/4 cup (4 tbsp)	56.8	ml	50	ml
1/3 cup (5 1/3 tbsp)	75.6	ml	75	ml
1/2 cup (8 tbsp)	113.7	ml	125	ml
2/3 cup (10 2/3 tbsp)	151.2	ml	150	ml
3/4 cup (12 tbsp)	170.5	ml	175	ml
1 cup (16 tbsp)	227.3	ml	250	ml
4 1/2 cups	1022.9	ml	1000	ml (1 L)
DRY MEASUREMENTS				
1 ounces (oz)	28.3	grams (g)	30	g
2 oz	56.7	g	55	g
3 oz	85.0	g	85	g
4 oz	113.4	g	125	g
5 oz	141.7	g	140	g
6 oz	170.1	g	170	g
7 oz	198.4	g	200	g
8 oz	226.8	g	250	g
16 oz	453.6	g	500	-
32 oz	907.2	g	1000	g (1 kg)

