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Iodine and Selenium in soils: British Geological Survey case studies into trace element deficiencies and human health from around the world

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The British Geological Survey with support from the UK Department for International Development has during the last decade studied iodine and selenium deficiencies in many environments around the world. These include work in China, Sri Lanka and Morocco and soil has been one of the principal sampling media. Remote areas where the population were still very dependent on their local environment for food and water were targeted and villages with varying degrees of iodine and selenium deficiency diseases have been investigated. Results from these studies have given an insight into the environmental controls of these deficiency disorders which can be put in the context of strategies for amelioration.