

National Food Fortification Alliance (NFA)

MINUTE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD FORTIFICATION IN RWANDA



Participants: There were 23 participants (See annex)

Date: August 23, 2017

Time: 08:30 am- 01:30 p.m

Venue: At the Lemigo Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

AGENDA

Time	Agenda topic
08:30 a.m- 09:00 a.m	Registration
9:00 a.m - 9:10 a.m	Opening and welcoming speech
09:10 a.m – 09:20 a.m	Introduction of participants By: all participants
09:20 a.m – 09:40 a.m	Presentation1: Current Situation of Food fortification in Rwanda : By: Damien NDIZEYE“
09:40 a.m – 10:00 a.m	Presentation2 : The Role of Consumers Organization(ADECOR) and its partners in Implementing food fortification under Voice4Change partnership + Benefits of fortified Foods to Consumers Question and Answers
10:00 a.m – 10:20 a.m	Presentation3: Best Practices and lessons learnt in Food Fortification from EACSA countries By: Representative of ECSA: Rosemary Mwaisaka Questions- Answers by All participants
10:20 a.m -10:50a.m	Tea Break
10:50 a.m – 11:30 a.m	Group work (3groups) 1) What do you think should be planed for FF in Rwanda? 2) What do you think with VAT exemption? Feedback from the group work and recommendations on
11:30 a.m – 12:00 p.m	“accelerating Implementation of food fortification in Rwanda ” Closing Remarks
12:00 p.m-12:10 p.m	By: MINISANTE (MOH)
12:10 p.m -13:20 p.m	Lunch Break and departure

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING PROGRESS

I. OPENING SPEECH



After welcoming all participants to the workshop, Mr. Damien NDIZEYE, the Chairperson of National Food Fortification Alliance (NFA) congratulated all participants for their positive answer to the invitation. After presenting the objectives of the meeting, he declared open the meeting

II. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Each participant got the time to introduce himself and explain the role he plays in food and nutrition promotion

III. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation 1: Background of National Food fortification Alliance and current situation of food fortification in Rwanda

Mr Damien NDIZEYE, the Chairperson of National Food Fortification Alliance firstly presents to the audience the background of National Food Fortification Alliance and its main achievements. He explained that the alliance which started in 2010 is composed of 45 members Public institutions that oversee food quality and safety, Government institutions, Private sector and industries providing staple foods, NGOs, health groups and consumer associations, United Nations and multilateral agencies and Scientific and academic groups involved in nutrition. The vision of the National Food Fortification Alliance is “Healthier people by improving vitamin and mineral intake” and its mission is “Improve fortification in Rwanda by collaboration between multi-sector partners”.

As main achievements, NFA hold regular meetings with stakeholders; participated in Regional and international meetings and forums debating fortification concerns; contributed to Drafting

Food fortification decree; Designing a food fortification Logo and contributed the adoption of EAC standards /harmonization.

NFA plans to advocate for mandatory fortification (for accelerating the decree at draft stage); to conduct a survey on tax exemption for micronutrients; to do awareness campaigns for consumers. To achieve this, NFA needs to develop advocacy materials, make networking, regular meetings, capacity building and fundraising.

After this short background presentation of the National Food Fortification Alliance (NFA) and its main achievements, Mr. Damien NDIZEYE talked about the current situation of food fortification in Rwanda. He mentioned that the anemia among children under 5years is at 37% and at 19% among adults from 15 to 49 years while the stunting is at 38%. He cited iron, vitamin A, folic acid and iodine deficiencies frequent in Rwanda.

The way forward to fight against this nutritional issue in Rwanda will be the mobilization of financial resources; elaboration of related projects proposals, mapping of key potential donors for strengthening our partnership and networking and increase the NFA visibility through media and advocacy workshop.

Presentation 2: The Role of Consumers Organization (ADECOR) and its partners in implementing food fortification under Voice4Change partnership and benefits of fortified foods to consumers

The facilitator of this topic was Mr Alphonse Karabaranga, the Program Manager at ADECOR. As he told, partners in implementing Food Fortification Under V4CP are ADECOR, DUHAMIC ADRI, CARITAS Rwanda, IMBARAGA, RDO and SUN Alliance.

V4CP focuses on four issues including the increased production and consumption of diverse nutritious food; increased accessibility and use of fortified crops or products; Improved coordination and service delivery of agriculture, food security and nutrition actors and activities at national and district level and effective allocation of the budget for coordination and relevant agriculture, food security and nutrition activities, interventions and programs. Partners in this project do advocacy on issues under food fortification such as Cost Analysis on Food Fortification, Accelerating of Enacting the Decree in Draft Stage and others related Policies and Laws, VAT Exemption on Fortified Foods and food fortification to become Mandatory.

The presenter also talked about the main achievements of the project before to explain the benefits of food fortification. He said that adding nutrients to foods, particularly staple foods such as cereals, milk products, sugar, oil and salt, can increase intakes among most of the population. Fortification of some foods may also be seen as providing a marketing advantage, especially where the purchasers have some awareness of the 'benefits' of the nutrient being

added. The addition of a nutrient may also offer some technical benefit (for example, vitamin C is an antioxidant and can reduce the rate of spoilage in some products), or a direct health benefit for a subgroup of the population.

Presentation 3: Best Practices and lessons learnt in Food Fortification from EACSA countries

The facilitator on this topic was Mrs. Rosemary Mwaisaka, the Representative of EACSA said that EACSA-HC is intergovernmental organization established in 1974 as Commonwealth Region Health Community (CRHC), become autonomous regional organization in 1981 and changed to EACSA-Health Community in 2005. It has its headquarters in Arusha- Tanzania. The mandate of the organization is “to promote and encourage efficiency and relevance in the provision of health services in the region”. The organization has as members Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mauritius, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

About EACSA Regional Fortification Initiative, in 2002, EACSA Health Minister Conference passed a resolution directing MS to implement FF programs. EACSA-HC in collaboration with partners started to support countries. EACSA Health Community assisted its MS to develop and accelerate FF programs through: Provide access to financial and technical expertise, Policy support and Regulatory and technological control.

Concerning the progress of food fortification in EACSA Region, since early 90’s countries in EACSA region are implementing mandatory Universal Salt Iodization. In Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, fortification of Wheat flour, Maize flour and Edible Oil is Mandatory. Mandatory legislation on sugar fortification is in place in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The following are also the key achievements of the organization:

- Facilitation of the regional workshops
- Establishment of 4 regional technical working groups
- Facilitate development and implementation of workplans
- Stakeholders mapping
- Facilitated engagement of countries and partners through the technical working groups
- Facilitate knowledge generation- regulatory monitoring assessment, consumption monitoring and surveillance system; laboratory capacity.
- Facilitate networking, learning and exchange within the region

- Revitalization of regional laboratory working group
- Capacity building- online training on consumption and program impact monitoring; QA/QC trainings with FFI
- Facilitate review and harmonization inspection and laboratory guidelines
- Redesigning of ECSA website
- Creation of regional nutrition hub/ repository (<http://ecsahc.org/programme/ncdsfood-security-and-nutrition>- programme)

The facilitator also talked about Opportunities of FF in Rwanda including: High political commitment on nutrition, Existence of functional NFA , Country commitment to the regional agenda- EAC, ECSA, Increased momentum in implementation of food fortification program, Existence of nutrition partners and Increased commitment from private sector and consumer associations.

It is recommended to the government the following: Strengthen capacities of agencies responsible for inspection and enforcement of fortification programs; Enforce legislation & standards and systematically adopt regional harmonized guidelines and tools for monitoring fortified foods; Monitor regularly in terms of industry compliance and actual consumption and impact of food fortification programs; Improve knowledge sharing of food fortification information across countries and Increase investments, within national budget allocations, for food fortification monitoring, capacity building, knowledge management and enforcement of legislation and standards.

Food industries are recommended to: Improve quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) measures, effective and wide-reaching marketing campaigns and research & development; Engage in information sharing to boost customer confidence; Apply marketing skills to increase demand and sales; Strive to produce fortified foods that are attractive, tasty and appealing to consumers at affordable prices; Comply with legislation and regulations

Development Partners are recommended to: Increase investments to support FF programs; support regulatory & public sector; Support monitoring of FF programs; support capacity building of key players and generate evidence to guide policies and programs

The general population is recommended to: Demand fortified foods (make informed decision); Diversify your diets; Participate in fortification forums and educate one another on benefits of fortification.

She conclude her presentation by saying that “together we can move mountains”

IV. GROUP WORK

Group discussions process

Group 1



Group2



Participants formed two groups to discuss during 40 minutes about the following leading questions:

Group 1: What do you think should be planned for Food Fortification in Rwanda?

Group 2: What do you think with VAT exemption?

Feedback from the group work and recommendations on “accelerating Implementation of food fortification”

After presentation of results from groups’ discussions through the representative of each group, all participants concluded the following as actions to accelerate the implementation of food fortification:

- To conduct national micronutrients surveys
- Inclusion of food fortification into nutrition policy
- To have champion at national level
- Capacity building
- Advocate for reducing prices of commodities
- Study to assess the influence of VAT (fortified /non fortified)
- Request governments in region for VAT exemption

V. CLOSING REMARKS



In his closing remarks, Mr. SEMANA Edmond the representative of Ministry of health (at Left) thanked all participants for their active participation and contribution in the meeting.

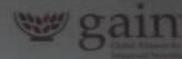
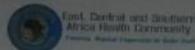
He expressed that the Rwanda Government is fully committed to fight malnutrition in all of its forms and that partnership between public, private and civil society sectors is among key pillars to reach the goal.

The workshop ended at 01:42 p.m

Done at Kigali on 23rd August 2017

NDIZEYE Damien

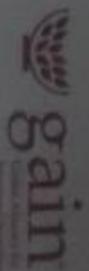
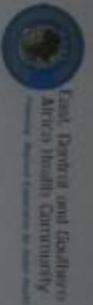
The Chairperson of National Food Fortification Alliance (NFA)



Fortification Advocacy Meeting

Attendance Form
Lemigo Hotel, August 23rd, 2017

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