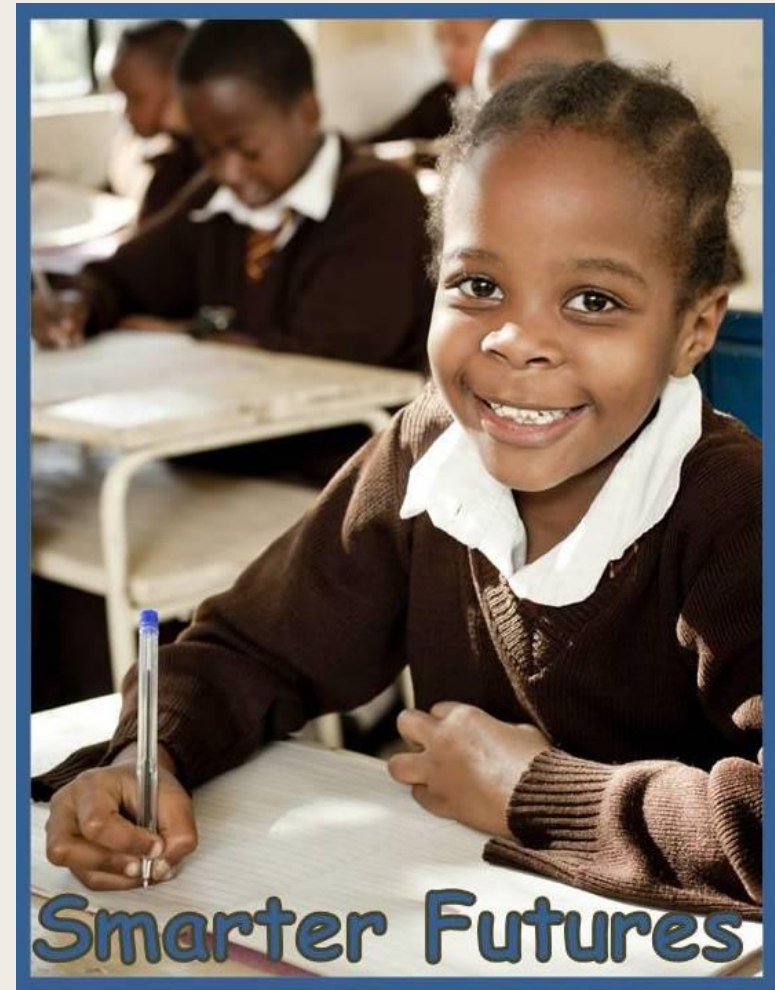


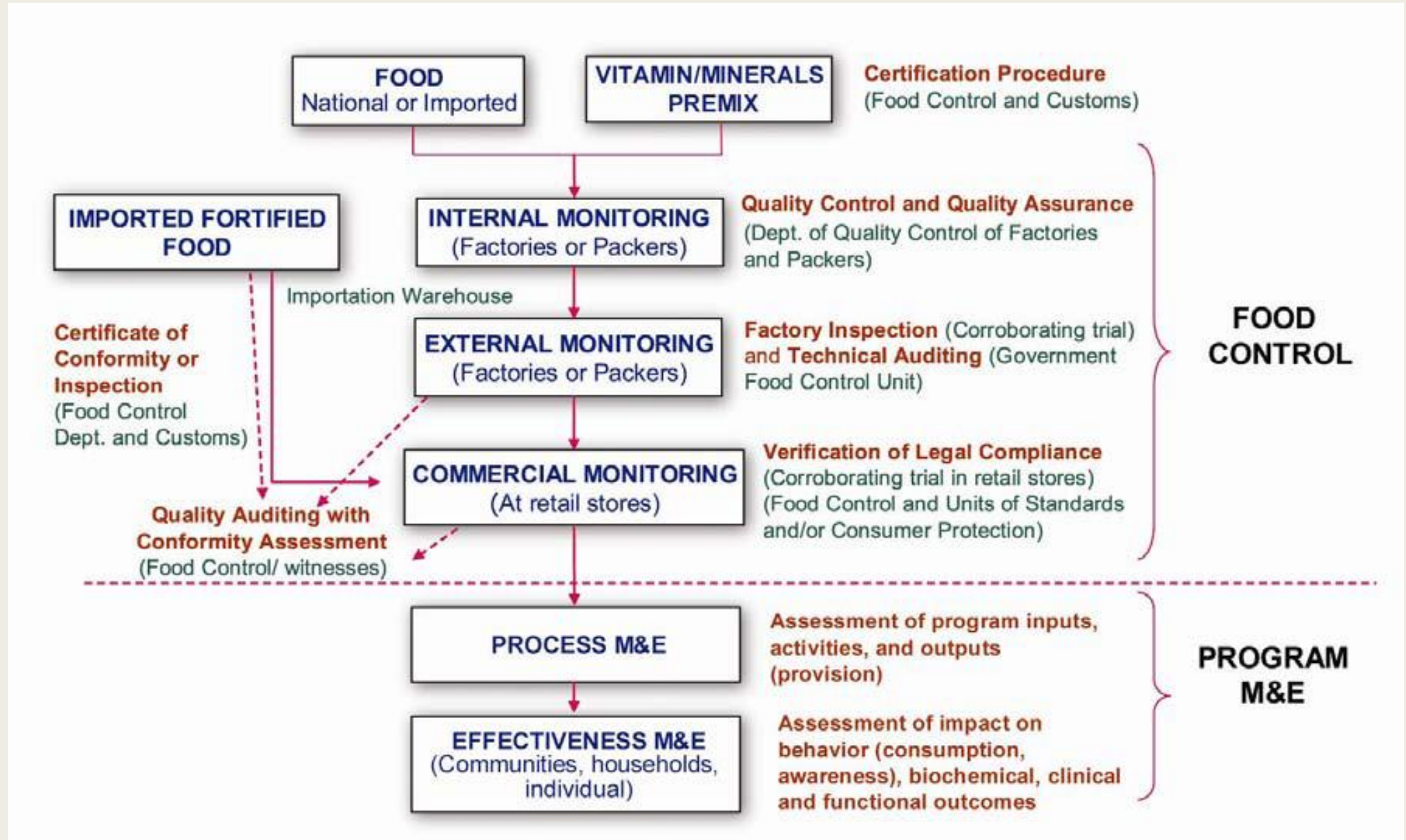
Opportunities and Constraints that affect National Food Control systems effectiveness in Africa

Philip Randall

(with contributions from Quentin Johnson)



Framework for Monitoring of Flour Fortification Programmes



So what's the problem?

- **Standards and Regulations are being written (or rather cut and paste) with little or no knowledge of the food production process, its variability, critical control points etc. and even less knowledge of fortification**
- **Legislative tools tend to be work in progress or amendments or patches to a new problem**
- **Need to go back and start again**

What the Regulator has failed to do

- Risk Analysis
 - *Risk Assessment*
 - *Risk Management*
 - *Risk Communication*
- Ascertain who has the capacity to
 - *Conduct inspections*
 - *Conduct analysis*
- Advise all parties on how the estimates of uncertainty are to be acted upon

TOO MANY LAWS; TOO MANY AUTHORITIES

Example of Bangladesh

Food Safety basic laws

- **The Constitution**
- **The Pure Food Ordinance 1959, (Amendment in 2005) and**
- **Pure Food Rules 1967 provides basic framework of food law that includes scope and definitions, administration and enforcement guidelines for the food safety.**

- S272 and S.273 of the Penal Code, 1860
- Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956
- Food (Special Courts) Act, 1956
- Cantonments Pure Food Act, 1966
- Pesticide Ordinance, 1971
- 26c of Special Power Act 1974,
- Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Control), Ordinance, 1983
- Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985
- Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Act, 1989
- Consumers Rights Protection Act 2009
- Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009]
- Local Government (Paurashava) Act, 2009]
- Mobile Court Act, 2009
- The Water Act, 2013
- Alternative of Breast Milk, Baby Food and Commercial Produce of Supplement for Baby Food and Food Staffs (Control of Marketing) Act, 2013
- Enrichment of Vitamin `A' in Edible Oil Act, 2013.

Safe Food Act, 2013

- Responsibilities as to Safe Food
 - *General responsibilities,*
 - *Specific responsibilities;*
- Both civil and criminal liabilities for manufacturers, producers and business operators of safe food.

PART OF THE SOLUTION IS IDENTIFYING YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

- ❖ From Bangladesh – an excellent analysis of the constraints and possible ways forward
– **IF THE SYSTEM WOULD BUT ALLOW**

<http://www.clickitfaq.com/bangladesh-highest-number-food-safety-laws-world/>

- ❖ *Multiplicity of laws creates confusion in the mind of manufacturers, processors, retailers or even to the enforcement authorities to realise which law deals with particular food safety issue.*
- ❖ *No effective coordination among these regulatory authorities dealing with food safety*
- ❖ *In Bangladesh, penalties are practised as the way of the execution of the statutes.*
- ❖ *No persuasive measures like training, caution notice, improvement notice are involved in the enforcement mechanism.*

- ❖ *Administrative enforcement mechanism of Bangladesh is not organised.*
- ❖ *No designed inspection strategies and there is no clear method of detecting non-compliance with the regulations.*
- ❖ *Important for a better enforcement regime to have outlined clear implementation strategies so that all instances of non-compliance can be easily identified and action taken promptly by the proper authority.*

- ❖ *There are a few food laboratories under various government, autonomous and international organisations in Bangladesh.*
- ❖ *However, very few of those are operating down to the regional and district level.*
- ❖ *It was observed that only a few of the laboratories are well equipped and well maintained.*
- ❖ *They have shortages of maintenance budget, inadequate technological resources, manpower and, above all, lack of coordination in procedures/methods of testing.*

- ❖ *Above all another law The Food safety 2013 with a provision of Food safety court in each 'Upazila' has been enacted.*
- ❖ *Bangladesh is over burdened with laws for safety of food but food is most unsafe in Bangladesh.*

- ❖ *The roles and responsibilities of the concerned ministries and agencies are unclear and do not cover the whole food chain from farm-to-table.*
- ❖ *The overall coordination body for food safety and food control at the national level is the National Food Safety Advisory Council (NFSAC).*
- ❖ *The government and regulatory bodies are driven by media propaganda but not by professional obligation.*

- ❖ *The current food control system in Bangladesh involves multiple ministries and agencies.*
- ❖ *Fifteen ministries are involved in food safety and quality control and ten ministries are directly involved in food inspection and enforcement services.*
- ❖ *The food inspection and enforcement system in Bangladesh needs to be strengthened to better address the significant food safety issues that exist in the country and better protect the health of consumers.*

- ❖ *Appropriate inspection manuals, protocols, guidelines and checklists for inspectors to use in the field must be developed.*
- ❖ *There must be a system for record keeping and documentation of food inspection and enforcement activities.*
- ❖ *The inspectors should be educated on food safety and food security and they should be provided with appropriate equipment, tools and test-kits for inspection and sample collection.*

- ❖ *All of our laws put emphasis on punishment of wrong-doers only.*
- ❖ *Citizens may be well served by prevention of offence rather than punishment of offenders only.*
- ❖ *Government should improve their service of prevention of adulteration instead of punishment of businesspersons and destruction of foods.*

**AN ALTERNATIVE –
FORTIFICATION FOCUSSED**



Fill **CRITICAL** Information Gaps

- Get industry fortifying and being confident in their skills. Industry and Standards Institutes testing at Mill level and **MUTUALLY** establishing what is **acceptable variation** in terms of **addition** and in terms of **mill variability** and in **analytical capability**.
- Test fortified wheat flour in the marketplace taking into account the various methods by which the flour is sold i.e. Open market, small retailer, large retailer, “walkmans” etc.

Systems Approach

- *'Auto-control' is a system based on the official use of results of self-monitoring obtained by a production facility. Provided that the validity of these factory results can be verified they could replace the official control laboratory results to decide if the product meets quality specifications. http://www.moniqa.org/webfm_send/225*

Scientific evidence on analysis

- Use of a standard level of fortification and the tolerances that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency apply to determine if fortified flour (national production and imports) is adequately fortified is **80% to 175%**
- The mills provided about 3000 wheat flour samples in an exercise between the Canadian Millers Association and The Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/non-federally-registered/product-inspection/flour-samples/eng/1383837268150/1383837269041>
- This clearly brings into question any existing fortification standard where the tolerance range has been determined without any due attention to actual practice
- Canadian example was a paper based survey and assessment using the results from all the mills rather than the CFIA testing all the samples of flour