

Implementing Fortification in Rwanda: Next Steps

Activity	Required tasks	Lead agency	Timing
Letter from MoH to RBS; then RBS to call technical committee for drafting standards and later Gazettment	- Letter is drafted by the MoH to RBS	MoH	April
	- Drafting Standards and Gazettement	RBS	June
Industry awareness; dissemination of contents of standards to industry, 'standards education'	- Coordinated messages to food producers aimed at the importance of adopting fortification (to improve health, to comply with a legal decree, to improve market advantage) - What compliance means	MoH, MoIC	May – July
Scale-up requirements outlined to industry; gap-funding discussions as needed	- List of required additional equipment and testing procedures - Identification of personnel to fulfill additional required tasks - Partnerships and agreements formed as necessary for equip and premix	PHC, Industry	May – July
Fortification awareness and education material included in government nutrition advocacy initiatives	- Draft awareness materials (posters, brochures, radio spots) - Incorporate into Ministry's communication agenda - Ensure dissemination to target audiences	MoH, PHC	April – July
Design and adoption of fortification logo and user guidelines	- Creation of fortification logo - Identification of what agency will administer the logo - Draft guidelines established and disseminated to industry	MoH, PHC	June – August
Training of FDA and MoTI on quality	- Identification of gaps in skill sets; additional	MoH, RBS	July – September

monitoring, testing procedures, and reporting requirements	<p>training provided</p> <p>Testing procedures and reporting requirements established</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure appropriate equipment and reagents at RBS to complete the testing 		
Establish Food and Drug Authority (FDA under MoH and Inspectorate board under MTI) sampling plan at factories, markets, and borders; reporting (joint report for Inspectorate Board and FDA inspectors) requirements and actions for noncompliance identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work plan outlining required FDA and MoTI inspector activities - Reporting requirements established including shared reporting process 	MoH, RBS, PHC	August – October
Establish MoH fortification surveillance plan to collected baseline and follow-up coverage and MN status impact data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design sentinel site monitoring and surveillance system to collect baseline data on MN indicators prior to fortification and subsequent follow-up data on coverage and MN status 	MoH, PHC	October
Industries producing fortified products			November-December

FFI workshop recommendations:

1. Regional statement or explanation regarding barriers to trade particular when countries import in large quantities from countries that may not be fortifying.

From a standards enforcer perspective: A discussion of writing guidelines for fortification logos and explicit consequences for non-compliance – for domestic products as well as for imported products. Discussion around what to do and the repercussions / penalties for products that are certified (whether by fortification logo or otherwise).