

NIGERIA REPORT ON FLOUR
FORTIFICATION AT THE QC/QA
WORKSHOP IN LUSAKA ZAMBIA

BY

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CURRENT STATUS

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- Fortification is mandatory in Nigeria.
- The fortification vehicles are wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and salt.
- Maize flour is not produced in commercial quantity.
- Premixes are available from a number of sources, from Europe, America and far East. There are also local premix blending plants in Nigeria.
- There is capacity for internal verification of micro nutrient composition of premixes in both private and public laboratories.
- There is limited need for external verification.

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

- There is a legal frame work (National Legislation) on food fortification.
- There are 2 agencies principally responsible for micro nutrient composition and compliance.
- **Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)** that elaborates the Standards and set the limits and the **National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)** that regulate manufacturing practice and compliance.
- These 2 agencies have functional and accredited food laboratories to ISO 17025 and ISO 9001.
- There is also the **Consumer Protection Council (CPC)** which regulates consumer abuses and injuries arising from deviations or miss information of consumers.

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- There existing and operational regulatory frame works for micro nutrient inclusion.
- Nigerian Industrial Standard (NIS) for Fortificants Premix (NIS 475:2015)
- Nigerian Industrial Standard (NIS) for Composite Flour (NIS 294:2015)
- There are also the NIS for Salt, Sugar and Vegetable Oils.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- To increase consumer awareness to begin to demand for micro nutrient fortified foods.
- To increase local capacity for micro nutrient production and thereby reduce cost.
- To clarify various Agencies' mandate for ease of business and to avoid multiplication of functions.
- To create a single national body for the regulation of all food related issues including, GMP and fortification.

CHALLENGES

- Inadequacy of legislation especially in technical provisions.
- Duplication of the role of Government Agencies in the administration of regulation.
- Multiple fees, levies and administrative charges especially at the points of entry.

SOLUTIONS

- Proffer an improved coordination amongst public sector regulators.
- To vigorously pursue the National Quality Infrastructure Project of UNIDO for the establishment of a central testing laboratory.
- Proffer tax and levy holidays for premixes import.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

- To review the current premix specification limits to establish tolerance levels.
- To carry out periodic physiological studies on the prevalence of micro nutrient deficiency and the impact of fortification.
- To assist with training on emerging technologies in micro nutrients analysis.

TIME FRAME

- Review of current premix specification limits to establish tolerance levels.
- To carry out periodic physiological studies on the prevalence of micro nutrient deficiency and the impact of fortification.
- By December, 2019
- Once every 4 years

TIME FRAME

- To assist with training on emerging technologies in micro nutrients analysis.
- Biannually

HOW WE WILL GET THERE

- Review of current premix specification limits to give tolerance levels.
- To carry out periodic physiological studies on the prevalence of micro nutrient deficiency and the impact of fortification.
- Request by stakeholders to the Standards Organization of Nigeria for a review of the standards
- Collaborate with international donor agencies and relevant MDAs to carry out the periodic study

HOW WE WILL GET THERE

- To assist with training on emerging technologies in micro nutrients analysis.
- Through collaboration with industry experts and budgetary provisions for training