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Food Aid Quality Review: Quarterly Technical Report No. 8

January 2011 – March 2011

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Glossary

ACF	<i>Action Contre le Faim</i>
CSB	<i>Corn Soy Blend</i>
CSMB	<i>Corn Soy Milk Blend</i>
CSW	<i>Church World Service</i>
DFID	<i>Department for International Development (UK)</i>
DSM	<i>DSM Nutritional Products</i>
EB	<i>Experimental Biology</i>
FANTA-2	<i>Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Program II</i>
FAQR	<i>Food Aid Quality Review</i>
FBF	<i>Fortified Blended Food</i>
FFP	<i>Office of Food for Peace (USAID)</i>
GAIN	<i>Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition</i>
GF&N	<i>Global Food and Nutrition, Inc</i>
GPPI	<i>Global Public Policy Institute</i>
HKI	<i>Helen Keller International</i>
IFAC	<i>Interagency Food Aid Committee (FAQR recommendation)</i>
IFRC	<i>International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies</i>
LNS	<i>Lipid-Based Nutrition Supplement</i>
MANA	<i>Mother Administered Nutritive Aid</i>
MT	<i>Metric Ton</i>
MCHN	<i>Maternal Child Health and Nutrition</i>
MSF	<i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i>
NAMA	<i>North American Millers Association</i>
PAHO	<i>Pan American Health Organization</i>
PEPFAR	<i>President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief in Africa</i>
PI	<i>Primary Investigator</i>
PLW	<i>Pregnant or Lactating Women</i>
PLWHA	<i>People Living with HIV/AIDS</i>
PLHIV	<i>People Living with HIV</i>
PM2A	<i>Preventing Malnutrition in Children Under 2 Approach</i>
PVO	<i>Private Voluntary Organization</i>
RNI	<i>Recommended Nutrient Intake</i>
USAID	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>
USCP	<i>United Sorghum Checkoff Program</i>
USDBC	<i>The United States Dry Bean Council</i>
WFP	<i>World Food Program</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>
WISHH	<i>World Initiative for Soy in Human Health</i>
Y.R.G. CARE	<i>Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education</i>

Background Information on the Activity

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Food for Peace program awarded two-year a contract to Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy in April 2009 to examine the nutritional needs of beneficiary populations across the developing world, and the nutritional quality of commodities currently available to meet those needs.

Scope of the Review

The project involves an assessment of Title II foods mainly intended for use in programs that seek a defined nutrition outcome. The study is reviewing:

- the nutritional value of existing products and their contribution to nutrition-related activities;*
- whether these products and activities respond to beneficiary nutritional needs as effectively as they might; and*
- how USAID could respond to defined needs better and more cost-effectively through changes in product formulation, the range of products provided, and modes of processing, procurement, and distribution to beneficiaries.*

Among important issues being addressed: What guidance does current science provide about the need for inclusion/exclusion, levels and types, of macro and micronutrients in foods provided to highly vulnerable populations? What economic or food technology considerations come into play in seeking to optimize the nutritional content of food aid commodities and get the best nutritional impact for a given level of investment? Should new products or modes of processing, procurement, and distribution be considered for Title II activities? Innovative products are being investigated, as well as the potential for modifications to existing products. Activities to be considered include both non-emergency contexts (mainly maternal and child health and nutrition interventions, Food for Education and PEPFAR-funded programs) and emergency relief.

The review will provide recommendations on, a) how to improve existing products (updating formulations) that are mostly used with defined nutritional outcomes as their goal, b) what kinds of new formulations/products should be considered that would also be used to support clearly-defined nutritional objectives that are not easily met with existing products, c) how product formulations/specifications can be reviewed and updated in a more systematic and on-going manner, and d) steps needed to ensure quality throughout the value-chain. In addition, the review will provide recommendations related to the programming of these products for maximum and most cost-effective nutritional impact.

Reporting for the period October 1 – December 31, 2010**I. Production of Final Reports**

This quarter was spent finalizing the Food Aid Quality Review report to USAID, both the summary versions and the full version, for launching and publication. This included receiving and addressing comments on the draft report, fact-checking and editing the full draft report, preparing a summary version of the report for print and publication, presenting final recommendations in several fora, and maintaining the consultative process.

During the time that the draft report was open for public comment on the website (www.foodaidquality.org), the author team received over 100 pages of comments from interested parties—both individuals and organizations (please see Annex I for a full list of commenters). Comments were compiled into a master document and reviewed by all authors. Late January and early February marked a period of follow-up with commenters and fact checking of the entire report based on their input and questions. All comments were considered and many were incorporated, resulting in significant revisions to the report.

The draft report was comprised of seven chapters covering product formulation and composition; product selection and use in programming; HIV/AIDS and nutrition; cost and pricing of commodities and programming; and processes surrounding product introduction, procurement, and quality assurance. The final chapter listed the FAQR conclusions and recommendations. After the comment period ended, all authors reviewed the report and edited their respective chapters. Annexes, an acronym list, and a reference list were added at this point.

Upon USAID's request, the PI and Research Coordinator drafted a 50-page summary version, condensing and formatting the full report into an accessible booklet for print and distribution. This version will be printed in time for use at the official report launch by USAID in Washington, DC on April 27, 2011.

In addition to activities surrounding finalization of the report, the author team has also been active in giving presentations on findings and recommendations, consulting additional stakeholders, preparing a scope of work for proposed follow-on studies, and preparing for the upcoming symposium at the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference (EB 2011).

I.1 Stakeholder Consultation

The consultative process continued throughout this quarter, including intensive consultation with experts during the comment period. After reviewing all comments, authors contacted each commenter with follow-up questions and clarifications. This conversation between authors and commenters contributed to refining the draft report and served to correct any factual errors remaining. A spreadsheet was compiled to document all major issues raised through comments and how each was addressed in the report revision.

I.2 Meetings and Events

- *Dr. Patrick Webb (PI) discussed issues surrounding new product development, testing and packaging studies with stakeholders in Nepal (World Bank, WFP, DFID, HKI) during January and February 2011. There is considerable partner and industry interest in these domains in this country.*
- *Quentin Johnson (author) prepared and delivered a presentation on the food technology components and recommendations of the FAQR at the 2nd Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action, sponsored by GPPI and Cornell University, held in Washington DC, March 9-11.*
- *Dr. Christine Wanke (lead author) attended the Y.R.G. CARE Symposium on January 7-8 in Chennai, Tamilnadu as an invited speaker on HIV and nutrition. She discussed the Y.R.G. CARE clinic and foundation approach to incorporation of nutrition into primary care, and their approach to the development of sustainability for nutritional support of HIV infected and affected families—all issues relevant to her research for this project.*
- *Dr. Beatrice Rogers (co-PI) traveled to Ethiopia in January 2011 in conjunction with a separate project, which provided the opportunity to observe the logistics of monitoring and distribution of alternative food aid products (Plumpy'nut® and CSMB) in a medical (HIV) context.*
- *The author team has continued to hold working group meetings throughout the quarter for the purpose of responding to comments on the draft report, planning for the upcoming symposium at EB 2011 and the Fourth Interagency Meeting, and drafting a scope of work and proposal for follow-on studies based on FAQR recommendations.*

1.3 Web-Mediated Outreach

Membership on the FAQR website (www.foodaidquality.org) is now up to 540. The draft report was posted electronically for comment during the one-month period of December 15 – January 15. During the month of January we received over 100 pages of comments from over 30 different individuals and organizations. The majority of the comments were submitted privately via email (an indicated option on the website), but several commenters submitted publically in the comments section of the website.

2. Administrative and Budget Issues

2.1 Staffing

Jessica Tilahun, Research and Project Coordinator for FAQR subcontractor Global Food and Nutrition Inc., moved on from the project. GF&N will look to hire someone to fill her position in the coming months.

2.2 Budget

The FAQR project is on track with its remaining budget, and has been awarded a no-cost extension through August 4, 2011. This extension will cover two planned conferences, EB 2011 and the USAID-USDA International Food Aid and Development Conference, and the official launch of the FAQR report.

3. Plans for the coming quarter (April - June 2011)

- *Dr. Irwin Rosenberg will present on essential fatty acids at the “Fats in the First 1000 Days” symposium at the PAHO meeting in Washington, DC on April 8*
- *The FAQR author team will present a symposium at the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference on April 12. The symposium will cover final conclusions and recommendations, and provide a question and answer period on the work of the FAQR. Judy Canahuati, the COTR at USAID for this project, will present as a discussant*
- *In addition to participating in the FAQR symposium at the EB 2011, Dr. Christine Wanke will also present at a nutrition symposium covering topics relevant to her research with the FAQR*
- *The FAQR author team will hold a side meeting to present its final report and recommendations at the upcoming USDA & USAID International Food Aid and Development Conference, June 27-29*
- *The FAQR team will hold a fourth USAID-USDA Interagency Meeting in Washington, DC on April 5. This meeting will also serve as a discussion platform for the launch of the proposed Interagency Food Aid Committee (IFAC) included in FAQR recommendations*
- *The FAQR’s final summary report, “Delivering Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid Products and Program” will be launched on April 27, 2011. The launch will include remarks from USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah*

Annex I: List of persons and organizations who commented on the FAQR draft report

- I. BASF - Claus Soendergaard*
- II. Senate Agriculture Committee - Stephanie Mercier*
- III. United Sorghum Checkoff Program – Virgil Smail & Florentino Lopez*
- IV. North American Millers Association (NAMA) - Paul Green, et al*
- V. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – Susan Shepherd, et al*
- VI. Church World Service (CWS) - Julia Suryantan*
- VII. DSM - Héctor Cori*
- VIII. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - Richard Hurrell*
- IX. The Maritime Administration - Harry Haskins*
- X. Winston & Strawn LLP - Bryant Gardener*
- XI. Action contre la Faim (ACF) - Hanna Mattinen*
- XII. Challenge Dairy Products - John Whetten*
- XIII. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) - Sandy Huffman*
- XIV. National Soybean Research Laboratory - Bridget Owen*
- XV. World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) – Jim Hershey*
- XVI. Edesia – Navyn Salem*
- XVII. World Food Programme (WFP) - Lynnda Kiess, et al*
- XVIII. USAID (former) - Sam Kahn*
- XIX. Econocom Foods cc - Basil Kransdorff*
- XX. Solae LLC - Kent Holt & Michelle Braun*
- XXI. Save the Children – Sonya Kibler*
- XXII. FANTA-2 – Anne Swindale*
- XXIII. SUSTAIN consultant (former) – Peter Ranum*
- XXIV. PEPFAR – Tim Quick*
- XXV. MANA – Stephanie Jilcott and Haile Mehansho*
- XXVI. IFRC – Ina Schonberg*
- XXVII. University of California Davis – Kay Dewey*