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FOOD AID QUALITY REVIEW

Food Aid Packaging Solutions Workstream

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations made regarding the improvement of food aid commodities were implemented during FAQR Phase II. However, the integrity of food aid commodities must be insured from the date of manufacture until the end of the shelf-life. Packaging plays a key role in the protection of commodities throughout the supply chain and must therefore be optimized. Losses have been estimated at 1%, or about 10,000 tons of food per year, mostly because of packaging failure or inadequacy. In FAQR Phase III the Food Aid Packaging Solutions workstream, in consultation with implementing partners, will further explore the potential for improved packaging in enhancing/retaining nutrients in food aid products, as well as in extending product shelf life, preventing physical damage, improving transportability, resisting pest infestation and mold contamination, and as a vehicle for messaging. The environmental impact and the cost associated with the packaging technologies will also be taken into consideration. The supply chain will be studied in its entirety and the most adequate and cost-effective packaging solutions will be identified for each commodity.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- Provide USAID/USDA with recommendations regarding the appropriate packaging technologies to be used to optimize preservation of the commodities throughout the supply chain and shelf life

SUB-OBJECTIVES

- Gather inputs from stakeholders to confirm issues associated with packaging and the consequences of packaging failure
- Prioritize the commodities based on their need for improved packaging
- Consult the packaging industry to investigate new or improved technologies available to reduce losses associated with packaging failure and commodity contamination
- Identify and test alternative packaging solutions for the optimization of the manufacturing, transport, storage and distribution of food aid commodities