Food Aid Quality Review Phase III

Natick Laboratory
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Tufts University
Food Aid Quality Review
Objectives

- Helping USAID/FFP ensure that food aid products are evidence-based to achieve best outcomes (fit for purpose)

- Focus on cost-effectiveness of outcome, not just cost of the products

- Efficiency gains across USG and global food aid players
Food Aid Quality Review
Overview

• FAQR Phase I: Title II food aid ‘fit for purpose?’
  • April 2009 – October 2011
  • *Delivering Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid*
  • Scientific consultations
  • Identifying differences across specs.

• FAQR Phase II: Implement recommendations
  • October 2011 – January 2016
  • Multiple field studies
  • Stakeholder consultations

• FAQR Phase III: Implement recommendations
  • February 2016 – January 2019
Food Matrices (bioavailability, absorption)
Overview

• Ways to improve food digestibility and ability of consumers to absorb nutrients.
  – Physiological use of nutrients
  – Amylase addition
  – Processing techniques including extrusion
  – Other food ingredients (for shelf-life, digestibility)
Food Matrices (bioavailability, absorption)
Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

• Understand the ‘real’ effect of consuming the widely distributed food aid products on health outcomes of beneficiaries.

• Design and improve better food products that can carry energy and nutrition more effectively.

• Would help in achieving higher cost-benefit ratio in programming.
Food Aid Packaging
Overview

- Enhancing/retaining nutrients in food aid products
- Extending product shelf life
- Improving transportability
- Resisting pest infestation
- Packaging as a vehicle for messaging
Food Aid Packaging
Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

• Identification of innovative packaging materials, sizes and forms will improve resistance to insect and rodent infestation, reducing product losses, resulting in improved cost-effectiveness

• Messaging for beneficiaries on how to use the food aid product
Food Aid Basket Overview

• Review the existing USG food aid basket with focus on:
  – Assessing new products
  – Exploring dual-use products for emergency response
  – Providing food and ration technical guidance
Food Aid Basket

Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

• **Modernizing the collection of food aid products used** in projects and programs administered by the Office of Food for Peace will lead to more efficient, effective, and cost-effective programming

• Food aid products are **safe and nutritious**

• Food aid products allow for various food baskets that are **sufficient and appropriate** to their programming contexts

• Sudden onset emergencies are responded to with appropriate, cost-effective food aid
Field Research Overview

• **Ongoing Field research in Sierra Leone:** The study compares the relative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of four food aid products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Sierra Leone.
  - Sub-study on Body Composition
  - Sub-study on Environmental Enteropathy
  - Sub-Study on Neurocognitive Function

• **Ongoing Field research in Burkina Faso:**
  To test the relative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of four supplementary foods in the prevention of MAM and stunting in normal programmatic settings.
Field Research
Relevance to the Food Aid Agenda

• **Efficacy, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness**
  – Determinants of recovery/optimal growth (drivers of relapse, sustained recovery, body mass, cognitive development, long bone growth)

• **Programming innovations**
  – Role of SBCC, last mile concerns, true costing of interventions in emergency/non-emergency settings

• Capacity strengthening of local community health workers, health and nutrition promoters, and beneficiary mothers

• The study results will guide decisions about **what commodities to use** in supplementary feeding programs.
The current, and final, phase of FAQR (up to 2019) is essential to:

i) Complete rigorous field-testing of new products,

ii) Roll out new tools that assess product cost-effectiveness under emergency and non-emergency conditions,

iii) Establish strategic options for accelerating responses to sudden-onset crises,

iv) Establish new food safety standards to be included in product specifications, and finally

v) Map out future directions for industry partnership with government on food aid.
‘FAQR aims to establish information systems, tools, data-gathering and evidence-sharing platforms, that will support US government-wide actions for coming decades’
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