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Food Aid Quality Review: Technical Report No. 9

April 2011- June 2011

This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tufts University, under the terms of contract AFP-C-00-09-00016-00 awarded to the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Glossary

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

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 April 1 – June 30, 2011

I. Production of Final Reports

This quarter was spent finalizing the full version Food Aid Quality Review report to USAID, for launching and publication. This included continuing addressing comments received on the draft report, fact-checking and editing, as well as preparing the full and condensed version 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. All comments were considered and many were incorporated, resulting in significant revisions to the report. The team is in the process of editing the comments to make them publically available on the FAQR website.

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 condensed report was printed and released at a report launch in Washington, DC on April 26, 2011 (see Annex 1). In addition, the report was made available on the FAQR website.

The full report was finalized in late June. It is comprised of four 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 full report of 274 pages is scheduled to be posted on the FAQR website in early July.

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, and preparing a scope of work for proposed follow-on studies.

I.1 Stakeholder Consultation

- The consultative process continued throughout this quarter, including intensive consultation with experts during the end of the comment period. Conversations 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 full report revision.
- FAQR Principal Investigator, Patrick Webb along with Co-Principal Investigators Bea Rogers and Nina Schlossman held two side meetings at the International Food Aid and Development Conference in which industry and PVO partners

- were invited to discuss the FAQR recommendations and receive their input in defining the way forward—including the production and field testing of products and program recommendations, as well as updating and/or developing new specifications, procurement documents, technical resources, and quality assurance elements.
- FAQR Principal Investigator, Patrick Webb along with Co-Principal Investigators Bea Rogers and Nina Schlossman, Authors Irv Rosenberg, Quentin Johnson and Chris Wanke held a symposium at the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference in Washington, DC. Stakeholders were invited to discuss optimum micronutrient composition and best programmatic uses of food aid commodities.

1.2 Meetings and Events

- A FAQR Interagency meeting was held in Washington, DC on April 5th. FAQR project leadership presented highlights of recommendations and next steps to 22 attendees from USAID and USDA.
- Dr. Rogers (co-PI) and Dr. Schlossman attending the ILINS meeting on April 8th at which new research and current thinking on LNS were presented.
- Dr. Rogers (co-PI) attended a workshop on Measurement of Food Consumption for Food Fortification and other Nutritional Purposes, organized by the MAD on May 14-15th (Monitoring Assessment and Data working group and hosted by the A2Z Project)
- Dr. Rogers (co-PI) attended the World Conference on Humanitarian Studies on June 4th (held at Tufts). She moderated and made a presentation on FAQR results and recommendations at a Panel on Advances and Opportunities in Scaling Up Nutrient Rich Foods in the Global Food Crisis.
- FAQR Principal Investigator, Patrick Webb along with Co-Principal Investigators Bea Rogers and Nina Schlossman, Authors Irv Rosenberg, Quentin Johnson and Chris Wanke participated in the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference in Washington, DC and held a symposium on *Food Aid Commodities: Optimum Micronutrient Composition and Best Programmatic Uses*.
- Dr. Patrick Webb (PI) traveled to Rome, Italy the week of June 13 for continued consultation with various departments of WFP regarding the final report and recommendations, their comments on the draft, and WFP's own plans for testing and programming new products.
- Dr. Rogers (PI) attended a meeting at IFPRI in Washington, DC on June 27 to hear research needs and action plans for Feed the Future (FTF).
- FAQR Principal Investigator, Patrick Webb along with Co-Principal Investigators Bea Rogers and Nina Schlossman, Authors Irv Rosenberg and Quentin Johnson, and Expert Panel Members Paul Green, Lynnda Kiess, Heidi Sandige and Bertrand Salvignol participated in the 13th Annual International Food Aid and Development Conference hosted by The U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The conference provided a forum to discuss the summary of recommendations put forth in *Delivering*

- Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid Products and Programs.* (See Annex II).
- FAQR Principal Investigator, Patrick Webb along with Co-Principal Investigators Bea Rogers and Nina Schlossman held two side meetings at the International Food Aid and Development Conference in which industry and PVO partners were invited to discuss the FAQR recommendations as well as receive their input in defining the way forward
 - Co-Principal Investigator, Nina Schlossman and GF&N attended the following meetings during this quarter:
 - Leveraging Agriculture to Improve Human Nutrition: Prospects for Golden Rice, April 14, 2011
 - Partnership to Cut Poverty in Africa: Health Nutrition and Food Security, April 19, 2011
 - Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) Online Training/Webinar, April 21, 2011
 - FAS/FFP Results Framework Meeting, April 27, 2011
 - A2Z Micronutrient Nutrition: Program Integration and Innovation Meeting, May 4, 2011
 - Food Security and Nutrition Network Spring Technical Meeting: May 9, 2011
 - ADRA Results Framework Training, May 19, 2011
 - The author team has continued to hold working group meetings throughout the quarter for the purpose of finalizing the draft report, planning for the 2011 IFADC, 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 up to 592 as of June 31st. The condensed report “Delivering Improved Nutrition: Recommendations for Changes to U.S. Food Aid Products and Programs” was posted electronically on April 26, 2011

2. Administrative and Budget Issues

2.1 Staffing

Amelia Reese Masterson, Research Coordinator for FAQR, moved on from the project. Bethany Marron has been filling the position of Research Coordinator on a temporary basis. Shelley Marcus will take over the position on a full time basis in September.

2.2 Budget

The FAQR project is on track with its remaining budget, and has been awarded a no-cost extension through September 2011. This extension will cover the USAID-USDA International Food Aid and Development Conference, and the official launch of the FAQR report (See Annex III).

3. Plans for the coming quarter (July-September 2011)

- The FAQR's full report, "Improving the Nutritional Quality of U.S. Food Aid: Recommendations for Changes to Products and Programs" will be launched in early July. The report will be posted to the FAQR website.
- The FAQR Author team is in the process of finalizing a special issue of the Food and Nutrition Bulletin (FNB), comprising four articles on key aspects of the FAQR long report. The articles will summarize the authors' recommendations surrounding the nutritional enhancement of US Title II food aid products, selection and usage of products in programming, and ways to enhance food aid processes and quality assurance.
- The PIs and Research coordinator will continue working with consultants to draft a scope of work and proposal for follow-on studies based on FAQR recommendations.

Annex I: FAQR Events and Announcements

(Posted to www.foodaidquality.org on April 27, 2011)

Delivering Improved Nutrition: Release of the Food Aid Quality Review Final Report

With remarks by Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: USAID - Washington, DC

The Food Aid Quality Review report launch is the culmination of a two year effort done in collaboration with Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Prepared in consultation with industry, NGOs, technical experts, UN agencies, and others, the report identifies cost effective ways to better match the nutritional quality of US food aid with the nutritional requirements of vulnerable populations overseas.

**Annex II: International Food Aid & Development Conference (IFADC),
Kansas City, MO**

June 27-29, 2011

Some Topics covered by our panelists included:

Food Aid Quality: A Discussion of Progress to Date

Tuesday, June 28th | 11:30am-12:30pm

- Patrick Webb, *“Delivering Improved Nutrition: Summary of Recommendations of the Food Aid Quality Review”*

Food Aid Quality Review: Programming

Tuesday, June 28th | 4:15pm-5:45pm

- Nina Schlossman, Moderator
- Beatrice Rogers, *“Findings and Recommendations on Programming in the Food Aid Quality Review”*
- Bertrand Salvignol, *“Quality Assurance: From Policy to Implementation”*

Food Aid Quality Review: Product Recommendations and Feedback

Wednesday, June 29th | 3:00pm-4:30pm

- Patrick Webb, Moderator
- Paul Green, *“An Industry View of the Improvement of Food Aid Products”*
- Quentin Johnson, *“Product Findings and Recommendations of the Food Aid Quality Review”*
- Lynnda Kiess, *“Research and Expanded Use of New Food Aid Products”*
- Irwin Rosenberg, *“Balancing the Elements of Nutritional Improvement in Food Aid”*
- Heidi Sandige, *“Lipid-Nutritional Supplements: Update on Research and Implications for Food Assistance”*