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Technical Meeting

Regional Expert Group on Harmonization of Wheat Flour Fortification Standards

Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Agenda

6 September 2016,
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Rixos Hotel

Background

The USAID/GAIN Afghanistan/Central Asia Regional Food Fortification Program (2014-16) aims to improve processes, regulations, and monitoring related to wheat flour and edible oil fortification, in order to address ongoing micronutrient deficiency in the region. The Program objectives include increasing supply of micronutrients to the region through fortification of wheat flour and edible oil, strengthening quality control and enforcement of fortification, and facilitation of harmonization of standards for fortification in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In October 2015, GAIN and USAID co-hosted a Regional Stakeholder's Meeting on Food Fortification that brought together representatives of government, private sector, academia, civil society, and development partners from Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Several joint priorities were identified at the meeting. A Regional Expert Group on wheat flour fortification standards and potential for regional harmonization, chaired by the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition (KAN), was formed to facilitate regional cross-border trade in fortified wheat flour. The Expert Group included specialists representing national standards committees, government regulatory agencies, research institutions, wheat flour producers and respective business associations from 6 countries: Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

During November 2015-January 2016, in consultation with international experts, the KAN members of the group developed a technical justification for harmonizing fortification standards for low extraction (refined, white) flour used in all countries of the region, and high extraction (whole) flour mainly used in Afghanistan and Pakistan. These two documents were shared with the Expert Group for comments and additional input. The documents highlight the need to ensure, at a minimum, adequate and comparable amounts of bioavailable micronutrients in all countries of the region as specified in the WHO recommendations.

Consensus was reached on a unified premix composition to be used in the region at the Technical Meeting of Regional Expert Group on Harmonization of Wheat Flour Fortification Standards in Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan and Pakistan, which took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 14-15 March 2016, with participation of all members of the Regional Expert Group and international experts.

The following two options of premix have been proposed and adopted by the Technical Expert Group, which provide the following levels of micronutrients in fortified wheat flour (FWF):

High extraction flour	FWF, ppm	Low extraction flour	FWF, ppm
Iron (NaFeEDTA)	15,0	Iron (NaFeEDTA)	15,0
Zinc (Zinc oxide)	30,0	Zinc (Zinc oxide)	30,0
Vit B ₉ (Folic acid)	1,0	Vit B ₉ (Folic acid)	1,0
Vit B ₁₂ (Cyanocobalamin)	0,008	Vit B ₁₂ (Cyanocobalamin)	0,004
		Vit B ₁ (Thiamine)	2,0
		Vit B ₂ (Riboflavin)	3,0
		Vit B ₃ (Niacin)	10,0

In accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Meeting, the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition, in collaboration with international experts, prepared a separate scientific justification for the use of vitamin B₁₂ for fortification of low extraction wheat flour in the dose of 0,004 ppm.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Technical Meeting, the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition, in collaboration with the Union of Grain Processors of Kazakhstan, drafted the following two standards:

- 1) Standard of the Republic of Kazakhstan (draft) “Low extraction fortified bakery wheat flour”
- 2) Standard of the Republic of Kazakhstan (draft) “High extraction fortified bakery wheat flour”

These documents were sent to all members of the Regional Expert Group on the Harmonization of Standards for use in the development of appropriate national standards in all participating countries. At this meeting, it is expected that each country will present the draft national standards for wheat flour fortification, based on previous discussions regarding the use of a single formula of premix.

Objectives:

1. To review and agree on the draft national standards for flour fortification, developed through the use of a single composition of the premix for flour fortification for all countries;
2. To reach agreement and propose a time frame for the adoption of national standards for flour fortification in the participating countries;
3. To review the draft document on quality assurance and quality control (internal and external) of flour fortification, as well as to consider formulation and possibilities for adoption of the document in the participating countries;
4. To present results of the wheat quality analysis in Kazakhstan;
5. To consider the possibility for establishing a system of inter-agency coordination of flour fortification in the participating countries;
6. To discuss the feasibility, timing, and further steps to promote food fortification and to facilitate imports and exports of fortified flour through the harmonization of standards in order to increase the consumption of micronutrients by population in the participating countries.

Participants:

The invited meeting participants include regional expert group members, international subject matter experts, and selected representatives of the donor and the implementing partner – see the full list of invited participants in Annex 1.

Agenda:

September 6, 2016

8:40 – 9:00 Registration

Morning session 1 - Country presentations on the current status of wheat flour fortification

9:00 – 9:10 Opening remarks. Technical workshop objectives.
Toregeldy Sharmanov, President, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition (KAN)

Moderator: Toregeldy Sharmanov, President, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition (KAN)

- 9:10 – 9:20 Welcome
Alexander Lane, Kazakhstan Country Director, USAID/CAR
Yuri Oksamitniy, UNICEF Representative in Kazakhstan
Dora Panagides, Senior Manager, Large Scale Food Fortification, GAIN
- 9:20–9:30 Representative from Afghanistan
Najibullah Safi, General Director, Public health, MOPH, Afghanistan
- 9:30–9:40 Representative from Kazakhstan
Evgeniy Gan, President, Union of Grain of Kazakhstan,
Maral Rakhimzhanova, Chief Expert for Health Surveillance of the Committee on
Consumer Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 9:40–9:50 Representative from the Kyrgyz Republic
Mamyrbayeva Tursun, Head of the Scientific Department of the Republic Scientific
Medical Library, Ministry of Health, Kyrgyz Republic
- 9:50–10:00 Representative from Pakistan
Khawaja Masood Ahmad, National Coordinator (National Fortification Alliance),
Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination
- 10:00–10:10 Representative from Tajikistan
Abdusalom Vokhidov, Deputy Director of the Republican Center of the Pediatrics
and Pediatric Surgery
- 10:10–10:20 Representative from Uzbekistan
Sherzod Atakhanov Head of Flour Fortification Program in Uzbekistan
- 10:20–10:30 Representative from Turkmenistan
Annamurat Nazarov, Head of the Department of Science, Sanitation and Hygiene,
Center of Public Health and Nutrition of SSES, Ministry of Health and Medical
Industry
- 10:30–10:40 Discussion
- 10:40–11:00 **Coffee break**

Morning session 2 – Country presentations of draft national standards, developed using a harmonized formula of premix, for low extraction flour fortification

Moderator: Quentin Johnson, Technical Adviser, GAIN

- 11:00–11:10 Feedback from Afghanistan
Dr. Homayoun Ludin, Director, Public Nutrition Department, Ministry of Public Health
- 11:10–11:20 Feedback from Kazakhstan
Yuriy Sinyavskiy, Vice President, KAN
- 11:20–11:30 Feedback from the Kyrgyz Republic
Aytmurzaeva Dinara, Head of Standardization Management, Center for Standardization and Metrology of the Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic
- 11:30–11:40 Feedback from Pakistan
Khalid Siddique Chaudhary, Director General, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan
- 11:40–11:50 Feedback from Tajikistan
Abdusalom Vokhidov, Deputy Director of the Republican Center of the Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery
- 11:50–12:00 Feedback from Uzbekistan
Diloram Gafurova, Director, «Donmahsulatlary IChM LLC»
- 12:00–12:40 Discussion

12:40–14:00 Lunch

Afternoon session 1 – Country presentations of draft national standards, developed using a single formula of premix for high extraction flour fortification

Moderator: Shamil Tazhibayev, Vice President, KAN

- 14:00–14:10 Representative from Afghanistan
Mohammad Wakil Rahimi, Food Standards Manager, Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA)
- 14:10–14:20 Representative from Kazakhstan
Yuriy Sinyavskiy, Vice President, KAN
- 14:20–14:30 Representative from Pakistan
Khalid Siddique Chaudhry, Director General, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan
- 14:30–15:00 Discussion

Afternoon session 2 – Methodological recommendations on external and internal quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of flour fortification

Moderator: Maral Rakhimzhanova, Chief Expert for Health Surveillance of the Committee on Consumer Protection of the RK

15:00–15:10 Overview of the methodological recommendations on external/internal QA/QC
Baurzhan Amirov, Senior Researcher, KAN

15:10–15:20 Feedback from Uzbekistan
Diloram Gafurova, Director, «Donmahsulatlary IChM LLC»

15:20–15:30 Feedback from the Kyrgyz Republic
Arykbaeva Bubudzhan, Head of the Department for prevention of diseases and the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Ministry of Health

15:30–16:00 Feedback from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan; discussion
Country representatives

16:00–16:20 Discussion

16:20–16:50 Coffee break

Afternoon session 3 – Review of wheat quality analysis results in Kazakhstan and recommendations on wheat quality assurance

Moderator: Quentin Johnson, Technical Adviser, GAIN

16:50–17:00 Reporter
Evgeniy Gan, President, Union of Grain of Kazakhstan

17:00–17:15 Discussion

Afternoon session 4 – Further steps in promoting the adoption of harmonized standards and food fortification in the region.

Moderator: Dora Panagides, Senior Manager, Fortification Global Program, GAIN

17:15–17:30 Overview of processes and best practices on standards harmonization
Quentin Johnson, Technical Adviser, GAIN
Shamil Tazhibayev, Vice President, KAN

17:30-18:10 Discussion
Comments and suggestions, representatives of countries and international organizations

18:10-18:20 Wrap-up
Shamil Tazhibayev, Vice President, KAN
Yuliya Beloslyudtseva, Kazakhstan Country Coordinator, GAIN

18:20 **Closeout**

19:00 - 21:00 Networking dinner

Annex 1 – List of Participants

List of Participants for the Second Technical Meeting
Regional Expert Group on Harmonization of Wheat Flour Fortification Standards
in Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan and Pakistan
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 6 September 2016

#	Name	Position	Country
1	Mohammad Wakil Rahimi	Food Standards Manager, Food and Agricultural Products Standards Department, Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA)	AFG
2	Mohammad Homayoun Ludin	Director, Public Nutrition Department, Ministry of Public Health	AFG
3	Najibullah Safi	General Director Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Public Health	AFG
4	Mohibullah Wahdati	Country Director, GAIN	AFG
5	Zhunus Yergaliyev	Economic Advisor to the Ambassador, Kazakh Embassy to Afghanistan	AFG
6	Khawaja Masuood Ahmad	National Coordinator (National Fortification Alliance), Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination, Pakistan	PAK
7	Khalid Siddique Chaudhary	Director General, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan	PAK
8	Faiz Rasool	Senior Project Manager, Pakistan Regional Food Fortification Project	PAK
9	Toregeldy Sharmanov	President, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
10	Shamil Tazhibayev	Vice-President, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
11	Yuri Sinyavskiy	Vice-President, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
12	Oksana Dolmatova	Chief Researcher, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
13	Artur Iralin	Coordinator, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
14	Ayan Yergaliyeva	Leading Researcher, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
15	Baurzhan Amirov	Senior Researcher, Kazakh Academy of Nutrition	KAZ
16	Evgeniy Gan	President, Kazakhstan Union of Grain Processors	KAZ
17	Maral Rakhimzhanova	Chief Expert for Health Surveillance of the Committee on Consumer Protection of the RK	KAZ
18	Yelena Kuleshova	Head of Department on methodology, accounting and registration of documents on standardization and certification, RSE "Kazakhstani Institute of Standardization and Certification", Kazakhstan	KAZ
19	Baurzhan Bayserkin	Director, Department of medical care, Ministry of Health and Social Development, RK	KAZ
20	Yuri Oksamitniy	UNICEF Representative in Kazakhstan	UNICEF/KAZ
21	Arykbaeva Bubudzhan	Head of the Department for prevention of diseases and the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Ministry of Health, Kyrgyz Republic	KYR
22	Mamyrbayeva Tursun	Head of the Scientific Department of the Republic Scientific Medical Library, Ministry of Health, Kyrgyz Republic	KYR
23	Aytmurzaeva Dinara	Head of Standardization Management, Center for	KYR

		Standardization and Metrology of the Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic	
24	Alexander Shefner	Millers Association, Kyrgyz Republic	KYR
25	Damira Abakirova	Health and Nutrition Officer, UNICEF, Kyrgyz Republic	UNICEF/ KYR
26	Abdusalom Vokhidov	Deputy Director of the Republican Center of the Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery, Tajikistan	TAJ
27	Azamjon Toshov	Senior Specialist, Food and Chemical Laboratory, State Center for Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Tajikistan	TAJ
28	Mutriba Latypova	Country Coordinator	GAIN/TAJ
29	Sherzod Atakhanov	Head of Flour Fortification Program in Uzbekistan	UZB
30	Amankul Baikulov	Consultant, Food Fortification Program in Uzbekistan	UZB
31	Diloram Gafurova	Director, «Donmahsulatlary IChM LLC»	UZB
32	John Riordan	Director, USAID Uzbekistan Country Office	USAID/UZB
33	Bahtiyor Mirzabaev	Specialist, USAID Uzbekistan Country Office	USAID/UZB
34	Annamurat Nazarov	Head of the Department of Science, Sanitation and Hygiene, Center of Public Health and Nutrition of SSES, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Turkmenistan	TUR
35	Dilara Ayazova	Programme Assistant, UNICEF Turkmenistan	UNICEF/TUR
36	Amirhossein Yarparvar	Regional Health and Nutrition Specialist	UNICEF/ Regional CAR
37	Alexander Lane	Kazakhstan Country Director	USAID/CAR
38	Dora Panagides	Senior Manager, Fortification Global Program	GAIN
39	Quentin Johnson	Technical Adviser	GAIN
40	Yuliya Beloslyudtseva	Kazakhstan Country Coordinator	GAIN/KAZ
41	Aliya Ilyassova	Independent Economic Expert	GAIN/KAZ
42	Raikhan Nysanbayeva	Director, LLC NPO "BioFarmPreparaty"	KAZ