



Flour, Grain, and Oil Suppliers Workshop Kansas City, September 11-14, 2023

**USDA, AMS, FGIS
10383 N Ambassador Dr
Kansas City, MO 64153**

Main contacts: Dan Webber: dan.webber@usda.gov
and Ruffo Perez, USAID: ruperez@usaid.gov

I. Introduction

The U.S. Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS), and the Federal Grains Inspection Services (FGIS) are collaborating to host a commodity supplier and stakeholders' workshop in Kansas City, Missouri, from September 11th to September 14th, 2023. This annual working meeting aims to focus on continuous commodity and supply chain improvement. The primary areas of interest for this year's meeting are fortified flours, grains, and prepackaged oil. Specifically, the workshop will bring together key suppliers to engage in discussions related to the following topics:

- a) Development and validation of commodity testing and piloting capabilities through Interagency Arrangements (IAAs) with FGIS and the Department of Defense (DoD).
- b) Ongoing efforts to assess best practices at the source (commodity manufacturing), including packaging harmonization, fumigation, and warehousing.
- c) Commodity and packaging quality assurance and sustainability of key Title II commodities, such as fortified flours and fortified rice.

The workshop will take place at the FGIS Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and aims to facilitate productive discussions and knowledge exchange among suppliers, stakeholders, and partners, including site visits. Please find the draft agenda attached. To ensure effective discussions and to share results and implementation actions, the workshop has been structured in the following manner:

1. **Day 1: Creating food aid commodities testing and piloting capabilities.** The workshop will address the challenges associated with uniquely formulated food commodities used by the US Government, such as super cereal plus, fortified rice, fortified vegetable oils, and fortified blend flours. These commodities require specific testing methodologies, packaging, and supply chain management. Efforts are being made to enhance testing capabilities and improve packaging supply chain systems.
2. **Day 2: Assessing best practices at the source, including packaging harmonization, fumigation, and warehousing.** Recent field trips conducted by BHA have revealed gaps in quality compliance at the source, particularly regarding fumigation practices, containerization, packaging harmonization, and preposition warehouse management. The workshop will focus on discussing major recommendations and actions to optimize commodity fumigation practices, addressing implementation paths, responsibilities, accountability, and trackability.
3. **Day 3: Ensuring quality and sustainability of key Title II commodities, such as fortified flours.** Title II commodities are produced in the U.S., often at higher costs compared to locally sourced commodities. The long supply chain from production sites in the U.S. to distribution sites presents challenges that can impact the quality and nutritional value of the commodities. Topics for discussion include raw materials, blanket purchase agreements, procurement policies affecting prices, and other relevant aspects.
4. **Day 4: Technical tours and site visits:** On the final day of the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to engage in technical tours and site visits. These visits will include the FGIS Laboratories and testing facilities, local flour suppliers, and local packaging technology vendors.

By addressing these themes and organizing site visits, the workshop aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote best practices, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders.

II. Participants and Attendees

To ensure maximum efficiency, specific participants will be targeted for each activity during the workshop. Here is an outline of the expected participants for the different sessions:

1. **Creating food aid commodities testing and piloting capabilities:** Suppliers who have collaborated with FGIS and the DoD Soldier Lab on commodity and packaging testing will be invited. Additionally, kernel suppliers, premix vendors, packaging vendors, implementing partners, researchers specializing in



sustainable packaging, and other relevant stakeholders will be sought to participate.

2. **Food aid commodity fumigation process and practices discussion:** Key suppliers, pest control inspection partners, freight companies, warehousing partners, and other relevant partners involved in the supply chain will be included in this session. The goal is to have a comprehensive representation of stakeholders responsible for the fumigation process and ensuring compliance.
3. **Site visits:** Coordination will be conducted with suppliers, the AMS/FGIS Center, and packaging technology vendors to develop an agenda for the site visits. The specific participants for the site visits will be determined based on the locations visited and the relevance of their expertise and involvement in those areas.

By targeting specific participants for each activity, the workshop aims to gather relevant stakeholders with specialized knowledge and experience to foster productive discussions and facilitate meaningful collaboration.

III. Workshop Deliverables

The workshop will cover the following agenda items:

1. Revise the implementation of commodity testing protocols by FGIS for key commodities, including fortified vegetable oil and fortified rice. This session will focus on reviewing and improving the protocols to ensure accurate and reliable testing methods.
2. Revise the implementation of newly agreed-upon protocols for fumigation, packaging harmonization, and second-party auditing of warehouses. The objective is to discuss and enhance the implementation of these protocols to ensure quality compliance and standardization.
3. Discuss and reach an agreement on the approach for second-party auditing of grain procurement. This session will address the auditing process and establish guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability in grain procurement practices.
4. Discuss a major field trial involving bulk shipping, new commodity packaging, and supply chain improvements in specific challenging countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Yemen, and South Sudan. The focus will be on sharing experiences, identifying best practices, and exploring solutions to address supply chain challenges in these complex environments.



By addressing these topics, the workshop aims to streamline and improve various aspects of the humanitarian food assistance supply chain, ensuring quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in delivering aid to communities in need.

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Meeting Draft Agenda

Date/Time	Topics
Sept 11 2023	Introduction
	FGIS Testing Capability: Oil and Rice
	Packaging/Infestation Testing Capabilities
	Fortified Rice Field Trial Progress Report: Testing and Specification Updates
	Kernel/Premix Testing, Specification
	Others (i.e., COA, Testing, Spec, contaminants, Packaging)
Sept 12 2023	Introduction
	Food Aid Fumigation Locations and Implementation of SOPs
	Roles, Responsibility and Accountability
	Supply Chain and Field Implications of Ineffective fumigation practices
	Trackability and Traceability of Fumigation activities
Sept 13 2023	Sustainability of Title II SCP Production
	Food Safety, Quality and Packaging Performance
	Resizing Packaging, Improving Supply Chain Performance and keeping Nutritional Value
	The Supplier Side
Sept 14 2023	FGIS Lab/Testing Facility Tour
	Local USG Packaging Supplier Site Visit
	Local USG Supplier Visit