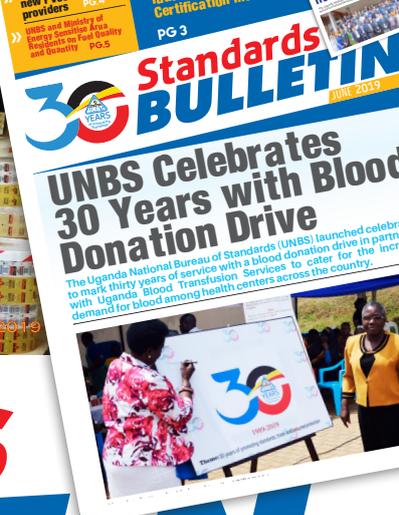


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Standards BULLETIN

JULY 2019

UNBS, MAAIF Develop Simplified Guidelines for Fishing Industry

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards and Directorate of Fisheries with support from Common Wealth Standards Network (CSN) have developed simplified guidelines for fishing industry.

Ms Allen Lutaaya, the Principal Ass. secretary MAAIF receiving fishing guidelines from UNBS Deputy Executive Director in charge of Standards Ms Patricia Bageine Ejalu.



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The guidelines will provide basic information on the laws, regulations, procedures and principles for addressing safety and quality of fish products. The guidelines will also be applied during handling, preparation (such as drying), processing, packaging, storage, transport and marketing of fish.

“As UNBS, we want to improve on the quality of products in Uganda especially fish; much as we are focusing on export market, we must make sure that the quality of fish in Uganda meets both national and international standards.”
Ms Ejalu said.

During the handover ceremony of the guidelines at the Directorate

of Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries in Entebbe on 5th July 2019, the UNBS Deputy Executive Director in charge of Standards, Ms Patricia Bageine Ejalu said the guidelines contain will help fish inspectors to train fishermen and fish handlers on primary processing of fish which will in turn increase its competitiveness at local and international level.

“As UNBS, we want to improve on the quality of products in Uganda especially fish; much as we are focusing on export market, we must make sure that the quality of fish in Uganda meets both national and international standards,” Ms Ejalu said.

The CSN Team Leader for Africa, Mr Graham Holloway said this is a pilot project in Africa and is funded by the United Kingdom department for International Development. He said that Uganda and Zambia are the first countries to benefit from this project.

“We aren’t producing Common Wealth Standards but encouraging Common Wealth countries to train themselves how to produce quality by learning more on how to use standards that’s why we partnered with UNBS. We wanted to assist real people with real problems of getting their products to market, getting good price for their products which comes with quality,” he said.

Mr Tom Bukenya, the Acting Commissioner of Fisheries Control Regulations and Quality Assurance said: “We had a number of these guidelines but were in English which wasn’t in favor of our people but since these documents have been translated in local languages, they will help inspectors train fishermen on primary processing of fish, which will in turn improve export of Nile Perch and also help to discover export avenues for other fish species.

UNBS Simplifies Key Agricultural Value Chain Standards to Increase Awareness.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and other stakeholders, with support from the Commonwealth Standards Network program (CSN) have embarked on a process to simplify standards in key agricultural value chains that include rice, pineapples, avocados, shea nut and soy beans.

A survey undertaken in the agricultural sector as one of the activities under the CSN indicated that whereas standards for fruits and vegetables and other agricultural products exist at UNBS and guidelines too exist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, there is limited awareness among the various value chain actors.

The survey further revealed that farmers, traders and handlers don’t

know that the standards exist and that those who know, do not know what is required of them.

It is upon this that UNBS embarked on developing easy to understand dissemination materials for farmers as a means of ensuring increased compliance to standards.

As a pilot, the simplified guidelines are to be translated to six local languages; Shea nut – Acholi, Soy bean – Itesot

and Langi, Pineapples – Luganda, Avocados – Runyoro-Rutooro, Rice – Luganda and Lumasaba. The developed materials will initially be disseminated to farmers in the Acholi, Lango, Teso, Buganda, Tooro and Mbale regions for Shea nut, Soy bean, Pineapples, Avocados and rice respectively.

UNBS Closes Over 160 Sachet-filling Machines from over 30 Companies

As a measure to enforce the government ban on alcohol sold in sachets, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards has closed over 167 sachet-filling machines belonging to at least 37 alcohol-manufacturing companies. The operation was conducted in Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja and Mityana. UNBS staff also seized and confined packaging materials used in production of sachets.



Some of the seized sachet alcohol making equipment.

The Minister of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde issued a directive banning the sale of alcohol in sachets effective 1st June 2019 and instituted a multi-agency task force including UNBS, Ministry of Health, Uganda Police, and National Environment Management Authority to enforce the ban.

The ban was instituted as a consumer protection measure to guard against excessive alcohol consumption especially among the youth. Before the ban, alcohol sold in sachets was readily available and affordable to the majority of the youth.

UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo, said: "We are aware that by time we sealed off the machines

some of the alcohol in sachets had already found its way on the market. Our market surveillance team will

“We are aware that by time we sealed off the machines some of the alcohol in sachets had already found its way on the market. Our market surveillance team will soon carry out raids on wholesale and retail outlets that could still be selling sachets. We are committed to enforcing standards to protect the health and safety of consumers.”

soon carry out raids on wholesale and retail outlets that could still be selling sachets. We are committed to enforcing standards to protect the health and safety of consumers.” He urged consumers to report cases of

alcohol sold in sachets on the UNBS toll free line 0800 133 133.

Consumer Tips on how to identify quality alcohol:

- It should be clear and shall not become cloudy on being diluted with water;
- It should be free from sediments or suspended matter of any type even at sub-zero temperature;
- It should have the characteristic taste associated with the gin;

The packaging should be the name, physical location and address of manufacturer/importer/bottler, alcohol content in percent by volume, batch number or identification code, country of origin; and any statutory warnings.

UNBS, MOH train stakeholders on Food fortification

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) together with Ministry of Health (MoH) embarked on a food fortification training of stakeholders in the baking industry. The development is aimed at emphasizing fortification of maize flour.



Some of the Stakeholders during the training.

Food fortification was first implemented in Uganda in 2005. It refers to the adding of nutrients (vitamins and minerals) to food items regularly consumed by the public, to improve

In 2011, the government of Uganda made food fortification mandatory for wheat flour, maize flour and edible vegetable oil as per the Food and Drugs (food fortification) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 Sl. No.53.

However, only wheat flour and vegetable oil manufacturers adhered to the regulation. Therefore, the training of stakeholders in the baking industry is aimed at ensuring that maize flour producers adhere to food fortification.

Ministry of Health Senior Nutritionist, Sarah Ngalombi revealed that government is committed to fighting malnutrition and deficiencies like Spina bifida and Anemia by fortifying foods like wheat and maize flour to enrich them with Vitamin A, Iron, Zinc and folic.

According to the UNICEF Global Progress Report, Iodine deficiency in pregnancy is causing almost 18 million babies a year to be born mentally impaired, Iron deficiency in the 6 - 24 month age group is impairing the mental development of approximately 40% to 60% of the developing world's children, the vitamin A deficiency is compromising the immune systems of approximately 40% of the developing world's under-five, leading to deaths of approximately one million young children each year.

MoH Senior Nutritionist, Sarah Ngalombi thus believes that fortified foods will help fight deficiencies among children right from birth.

The stakeholders were also trained about food safety and the use of UNBS e-services was emphasized.

“ Ministry of Health Senior Nutritionist, Sarah Ngalombi revealed that government is committed to fighting malnutrition and deficiencies like Spina bifida and Anemia by fortifying foods like wheat and maize flour to enrich them with Vitamin A, Iron, Zinc and folic

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the nutritional quality of food and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.

UNBS Aligns Water Standards to International standards

Utility companies involved in the supply of drinking and waste water services are now expected to uphold the highest standard of customer service following the adoption of international standard related to drinking and waste water services.

Water and sanitation experts under the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) Technical Sub Committee on water and sanitation have resolved to adopt the ISO standard on drinking and waste water services. In this case, drinking water refers to treated piped water.

The Standard (DUS ISO 24510:2007) aims at improving user experience

and compelling utility companies to be responsive to customer needs. It gives power to customers and users to raise complaints against a service provider if the guidelines stipulated in the standard are not met.

The standard was revised to include guidelines on satisfying users' needs and expectations and clarity of billing and response to billing complaints. Other guidelines adopted include:

managing wastewater utilities, treatment of wastewater and residues removed from wastewater, service assessment criteria and related performance indicators, among others. Standards are available for use at the UNBS Information Resource Centre or online at: <https://webstore.unbs.go.ug/>

A summary of the TC meetings held

A total of 9 National Technical Committee meetings were held in the month of July with representation from 132 stakeholders of which were 33 female, 37 private sector, 17 MSMEs and 52 youth. The meetings held included

- UNBS/TC 5/SC 2-Paints, varnishes and related products
- UNBS/TC14- medical devices
- UNBS TC16/SC2 - Drilling, Development and Production Equipment and materials
- UNBS/TC 7/SC1-Textiles and related products
- UNBS/TC 7/SC 2-Leather and related products
- UNBS/TC2 - Food and Agriculture
- UNBS/TC 2/SC 17 - Coffee, tea, cocoa and processed products
- UNBS TC2/SC12 - Meat, poultry, eggs and processed products

