

Report on the 2016 FARA-PARI Activity for Zambia

Development of Rice Standards & Grades for Zambia

Zambia Agriculture Research Institute

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Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

CCPC	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
COMACO	Community Markets for Conservation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FRA	Food Reserve Agency
LCC	Lusaka City Council
MoH	Ministry of Health
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
NMC	National Milling Corporation
PARI	Program of Accompanying Research for Innovations
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute
TC	Cereal and Cereal Products Technical Committee
UNZA	University of Zambia
ZABS	Zambia Bureau of Standards
ZAMSEED	Zambia Seed Company
ZARI	Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
ZASTA	Zambia Seed Traders Association
ZNFU	Zambia National Farmers Union
ZRF	Zambia Rice Federation

1. Background

It is a well-known fact that product Standards and/or Grades are one of the instruments or determinants of fair trade, competition, marketing, quality control and safety of goods and services worldwide. Thus a good number of products, including agricultural products, produced and traded in and outside Zambia have some formally set standards and/or grades. However, it had/has been observed that there have been no such formal, well-known and widely publicized Standards and Grades for the locally produced rice in Zambia, to determine the quality of the processed and sold rice in the Country, for human consumption. This is notwithstanding the fact that the idea of developing standards and/or grades for the Zambian rice, has been in discussion for quite some time, among various agricultural and business stakeholders. But it has been observed that nearly all the imported rice traded at Zambian markets has standards, which is one of the factors that influences the price at which these imported rice are sold and also gives some assurance of consumer safety.

On the other hand, there are some informally developed Grades for Rice in Zambia by some private business institutions, such as the Catholic Diocese of Mongu and New Dawn Company of Kasama (apparently a subsidiary company of GBM Milling).

Due to this concern (no formal Rice Standards and Grades), the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) of the Ministry of Agriculture had proposed to develop formal Rice Standards and Grades for the Zambian produced and processed rice, for human consumption, which would subsequently be widely circulated for all stakeholders' awareness and guidance. ZARI had thus proposed to undertake this activity under its Program of Accompanying Research for Innovations (PARI)'s Sub-grant Agreement with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), for the period 1st July 2016 to 31st December 2016.

2. Introduction

ZARI undertook this activity in collaboration with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS)¹. Under the request of ZARI, ZABS initiated and facilitated the process of the development of Rice Standards and Grades for Zambia. The stakeholder workshop for the development of Rice Standards and Grades was held in Kabwe District (Central Province) from 26th to 28th October 2016, spearheaded by ZABS (as the Government mandated institution). However, financing of the workshop was provided by ZARI, as one of the PARI activities for implementation under the FARA-ZARI Sub-grant Agreement.

¹ ZABS is a Statutory National Standards Body established in 1982 under the Standards Act CAP 416 of Laws of Zambia; and falls under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI).

Besides ZABS itself, the following were the stakeholder institutions that were invited to this workshop by ZABS to constitute the Technical Committee² for the Standards development process:

- i. Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)
- ii. Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI)
- iii. National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)
- iv. Food Reserve Agency (FRA)
- v. University of Zambia (UNZA)-Department of Food Science and Nutrition
- vi. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- vii. Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO)
- viii. Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
- ix. Ministry of Health (MoH)
- x. Ministry of Agriculture-Department of Agri-business and Marketing
- xi. Lusaka City Council-Department of Public Health
- xii. Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)
- xiii. Zambia Rice Federation (ZRF)
- xiv. National Milling Corporation (NMC)
- xv. Superior Milling Company Limited
- xvi. Kamano Seed Company
- xvii. Zambia Seed Company (ZAMSEED)
- xviii. Zambia Seed Traders Association (ZASTA)

3. Workshop Objectives

The objective of the workshop was to prepare a Draft Standards Document for *Zambian Rice*³ (Preparatory/Drafting Stage of the Standards development process).

4. Development Process and Output

In coming up with the Draft Rice Standards Document, the invited stakeholder representatives (see Annex [a]), followed the Drafting of Standards Principles (see Annex [d]), as guided by ZABS.

At the end of the Workshop the constituted Cereal and Cereal Products Technical Committee (TC) produced a draft Rice Standards Document (see Annex [e]), which will further be subjected to other processes for finalization by ZABS, in order to come up with the nationally/Government approved document for official utilization and/or guidance.

The TC made reference to other available Regional and International Rice Standard Documents, e.g. African Rice Standards, ISO and East African Rice Standards, in developing the draft Rice Standards Document for Zambia.

² Under the Cereals and Cereal Products Section of ZABS

³ Standards including Grades for rice, specifically for human consumption



Above: Some photos of the Rice Standards Technical Committee members working at Gonde Lodge, Kabwe.



Above: More photos of the Rice Standards Technical Committee members working at Gonde Lodge, Kabwe.



Group Photo: Members of the Rice Standards Technical Committee, outside Gonde Lodge in Kabwe

5. Conclusion and Way forward

The process ultimately aims at coming up with a commonly wider-stakeholder-agreed upon Rice Standards Document, including specific Grades for Zambia, which would nationally be accepted and utilized in the production and processing of rice and rice products intended for marketing/trading within and outside Zambia, specifically for human consumption.

The TC developed a *Draft* Rice Standards document including definitions, specifications and three (3) specific Rice Grades, namely: Grade A, Grade B and Grade C.

From this Preparatory/Drafting Stage the standardisation process for rice will follow the next steps/stages, as outlined by ZABS (see Annex [b] and [c] for complete process) to finalisation. It is hoped that ZABS would secure the necessary financing to finalise the whole process, either from its own resources or from other external resources.

Following the finalization of the Rice Standards Document, ZABS should be circulate/distribute the document throughout the Country (and even outside) for awareness of both rice producers/traders and consumers, and other stakeholders.

Annex

a) Copy of the developed Draft Rice Standards Documents

The developed draft document for Rice Standards by the TC at Gonde Lodge in Kabwe is embedded here:



Draft Rice
Standards-Zambia

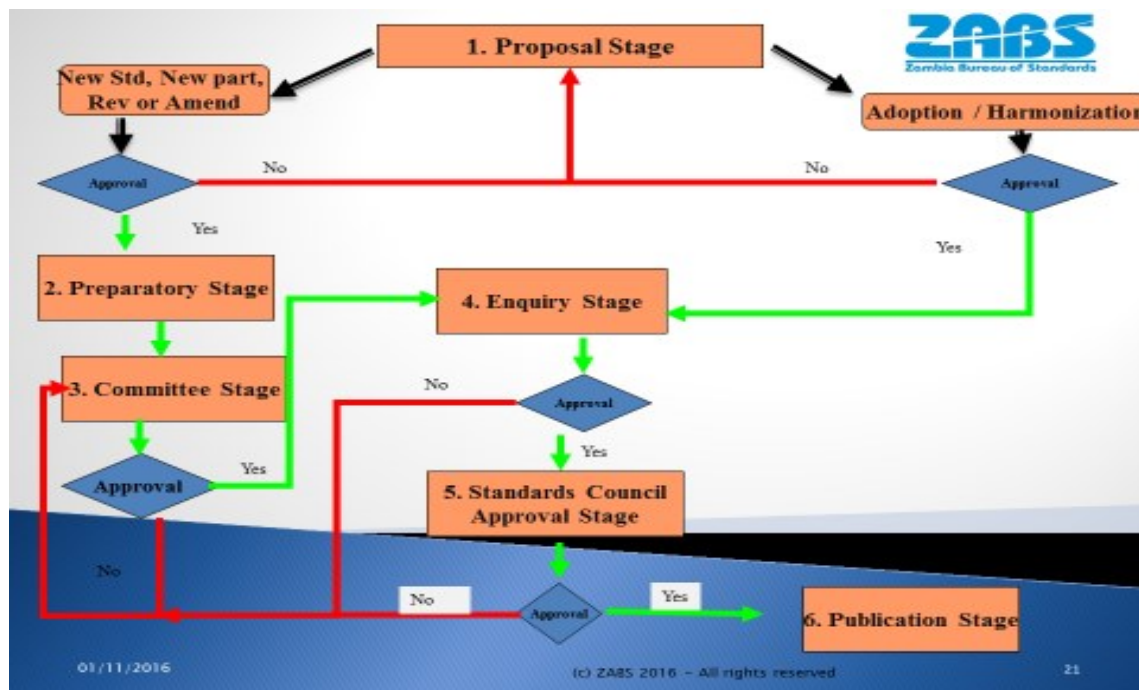
b) List of Stakeholder Representatives (Constituting the Cereal and Cereal Products Technical Committee)

S/N	Name	Organization	Location (Station)	Tel. No.	E-mail Address
1	Clevinah I. Mizanda	MoH	Lusaka	0955270197	cimizanda11@gmail.com
2	Idah Chama Mulenga	NFNC	Lusaka	0977634856	chamambwe@gmail.com
3	Tionenji Mumba	FRA	Lusaka	0977743973	tionenji@yahoo.com / tmumba@fra.org.zm
4	Royd Banda	CCPC	Kabwe	0978865066	r.banda@ccpc.org.zm
5	Dickson Ng'uni	ZARI	Chilanga	0961082834	dickson.nguni@gmail.com
6	Christian Chomba (Consultant)	C/o ZARI	Lusaka	0977804079	chombacm@gmail.com
7	Chrisantus Mutale	ZARI	Mongu	0977477839	mchrisantu@yahoo.com
8	Elizabeth Nyemba Musa	LCC	Lusaka	0967987563	lizamusab@yahoo.com
9	David Sibusiso Zulu	Superior Milling	Lusaka	0978277915	Davidzulu414@gmail.com
10	Chibbonta Chilala	ZRF	Zambezi	0977875129	yambeejihrproducts@gmail.com
11	Mercy Njekwa	Kamano Seed Company	Lusaka	0972466585	kamanoseedzambia@yahoo.com
12	Doreen Hikeezi	UNZA-Agric.	Lusaka	0974002851	doreenhikeezi@yahoo.com
13	Baymolo Goma	SCCI	Chilanga	0977439629	baymologoma@yahoo.co.uk
14	Gladys S. Phiri	ZABS	Lusaka	0978733350	gphiri@zabs.org.zm

c) Zambian Standards Development Process



d) Zambian Standards Development Process (Graphic presentation)



e) Principles for Drafting of Standards

- Aim and target
- Who is expected to comply

- iii). The scope/coverage
- iv). The content
- v). Requirements and test methods
- vi). Appropriateness of test requirements
- vii). Avoidance of subjective requirements
- viii). Essential background information
- ix). Clear and precise
- x). Assist and not inhibit development of technology
- xi). State only characteristics & requirements to define properties/performance
- xii). Standards are **not to be** prescriptive
- xiii). ***Balanced representation of the interests of industry, trade, consumers and regulatory authorities, with appropriate input from organised labour, professionals, academics and researchers.***