Standards

Africa Agribusiness Academy 19th - 20th October 2017
Makerere Kintu-Kagugube, Kampala

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Outline

- What UNBS does
- Meaning of a standard
- How we do standards
- Rationale for standards
- Application of standards
- Implementation of standards
- Challenges
- Conclusion
What UNBS does

Mandated to undertake the following:
- Standardization
- Quality assurance
- Metrology
- Testing
Meaning of a standard

- A standard has to be
  - documented (Is a document)
  - Approved by a recognised body like UNBS

- A standard has to provide for common and repeated use by providing either
  - rules,
  - guidelines or
  - characteristics of products and their related processes or production methods
Types of Standards

- **Products standards**
  - = Specifications
  - = e.g. constituents, construction, appearance, performance, of a material

- **Process standards**
  - = Codes of practice
  - = How to do
  - = Codes of practice are practical guides to achieving the standards of health, safety and welfare

- **System standards**
  - = framework of policies, processes and procedures
A standard is established by a team of people normally known as experts within their field of operation.

Examples of experts include Farmers, Processors, Academicians, Consumer Groups, Traders, exporters, importers etc.
WTO principles for good standards practice

- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality and consensus
- Effectiveness and relevance
- Coherence
- Development dimension
- Stakeholder engagement
- Due process
- National implementation/adoptions

WTO TBT Agreement principles

Additional ISO principles
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<th>Steps in standards development</th>
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<td>Approval and publication</td>
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<td>Developing a working draft</td>
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<td>Idea approval, resource allocation, Technical committee allocation, planning</td>
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Process involved

- Appointment of Technical committee
- Identification of items for standards development and allocation to subcommittees
- Acquisition of related (ISO) standards and review for suitability
- Adoption of standards
- Public comments
- Approval
- Gazetting
Importance(aims) of standardization

- Provision of the means of communication amongst stakeholders
- Protect safety, and health, environment from hazards
- Promotion of fair trade
- Protection of consumer interests
Rationale for Food and Agriculture Standards

- Based on best available science
- Reference is Codex and ISO
- Driven by demands in the sector
- Focus is Quality and Safety
- Detail production and processes
- Limits set are bare minimum and based on science and research
How are standards applied?

- Governments may include standards in the parent law (Acts of parliament)
- In this case the law must be detailed and continuously updated

"SEC. 418. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND RISK-BASED PREVENTIVE CONTROLS. "
"(a) IN GENERAL.—The owner, operator, or agent in charge of a facility shall, in accordance with this section, evaluate the hazards that could affect food manufactured, processed, packed, or held by such facility, identify and implement preventive controls to significantly minimize or prevent the occurrence of such hazards and provide assurances that such food is not adulterated under section 402

*United States food law*
Public Law 111–353 111th Congress
How are standards applied?

- Governments may reference the standard in the parent law (Acts of parliament).
- In this case the law refers the user to the standard.
- The standard can be updated without need to revise the law.

“electrical installation” means the whole or part of any system or equipment wherever situated intended for the conveyance, control, measurement or use of electricity supplied or intended to be supplied by a person or body that supplies electricity to the public at a voltage above extra low voltage as defined in Australian Standard AS3000 Wiring Rules;

Australian plumbers, gas fitters and electricians Act 1995
How are standards applied?

- The parent law (Acts of parliament) may allow the minister responsible to declare standards by issuing regulations.
- In this case the regulations may include standards e.g. in schedules or reference standards that are published separately.
- The standard can be updated without need to revise the law.

ss41. Regulations.
(1) The Minister may make regulations for any of the following purposes—
prescribing standards of quality for any food and prohibiting the manufacture for sale or the sale or the exposure, offer or having in possession for sale of any food which does not conform to the prescribed standards;

_Uganda_

_Food And Drugs Act, Cap 278_
The Uganda Standards space

- 2700+ standards
- 850+ standards for Food and Agriculture
Challenges in implementation

- Value chain actors still do not see the value of standards
- Lack of knowledge in the public about available standards
- Quality culture still lacking
- Enforcement still a challenge due to lack of capacity of regulators
Conclusion

- Everyone of us has a role to play in standards setting
- Farmers and Traders have a critical role in maintaining the quality of the produce
- Standards impact the health and safety of the people
- The quality and safety of the agricultural produce will change if we change our attitude and practices
Standards are available and can be purchased at a modest price from the Documentation and Information Centre located at the UNBS Head Office in Bweyogerere.
Thank you for Listening