



Evaluation Quality Assurance System (EQAS)

Management Response from WFP Regional Bureau of Nairobi and Rwanda Country Office to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of the [Innovative Pilot Evaluation: Aflatoxin Reduction in the Rwanda Maize Value Chain in Rwanda](#)

(DE/RBN/2020/060) from October 2021 to December 2021

1. This document, finalized in February 2022, presents the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation the **Innovative Pilot Evaluation: Aflatoxin Reduction in the Rwanda Maize Value Chain in Rwanda**.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Regional Bureau of Nairobi covers the first three months of AflaSight (October to December 2021), a pilot activity that combines an innovative technology – an optical sorting machine (“Sortex A LumoVision”)²⁵ – for aflatoxin reduction in infected maize grain with ancillary processes and market operations. AflaSight is operated by a start-up company with the same name (part of Kumwe, a group of companies that provide post-harvest services in Rwanda²⁶), while the LumoVision technology has been developed by Bühler, a multinational plant equipment manufacturer based in Switzerland. The AflaSight office and plant are located at the premises of Kumwe in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Kigali. The AflaSight processing line includes a drier leased from RAB, two seed cleaners, the LumoVision machine provided by Bühler under a research and development agreement, short-term warehouse facility, and quantitative aflatoxin testing equipment. The evaluation serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning. This real-time pilot evaluation was commissioned to examine the performance of the technology and understand its value to SHFs and other members of the maize value chain. The report provides its main users, including WFP, AflaSight, and Government, with evidence to guide future support for AflaSight.
3. The evaluation made six key recommendations with 14 actions. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents the planned (or taken) actions, responsibilities and timelines.

| Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline) <i>[as per evaluation report – one (sub-) recommendation per row, deadline in brackets.]</i> | Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division (/possibly external stakeholder in the case of Joint Evaluation). Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i> | Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed? If Partially agreed or Not agreed, provide a brief reason for this.]</i> | Actions to be taken <i>[Briefly state what action(s) will be taken to address each sub-recommendation – one action per row.]</i> | Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions) <i>[Name of responsible WFP office/division/unit. Names of supporting WFP offices/divisions and/or external stakeholders if any in brackets.]</i> | Action Deadline <i>[Month and year – not to exceed related (sub-) recommendation deadline.]</i> |
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| <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 1: WFP/FtMA should support (throughout the life of the FtMA programme) coops whose grain passes through the AflaSight process, as a means of increasing the income of SHFs (and women in particular) and continuing the shift from subsistence to commercial farming. (Deadline: until end of 2023)</p> | <p>WFP Rwanda CO / FtMA (Rwanda), IFC/AflaKiosk, other entities supporting smallholder maize farming, potential food systems partners</p> | <p>Agreed</p> | <p>Field visits, sensitization sessions and further linkages between Aflasight, farmers directly as well as indirectly through other traders/intermediaries are continuing through the 2022A season and beyond. Joint visits to be conducted with Aflasight, Buhler and other interested parties on an ongoing basis.</p> | <p>RWA CO/SAMS</p> | <p>Joint field visits starting in March 2022, and to continue during key harvest dates (February-April for Season A; June-July for season B; December-January for season C)</p> |
| <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 2: WFP/FtMA should continue to monitor and support the engagement of SHFs with the AflaSight pilot to maximise its</p> | <p>WFP Rwanda CO / FtMA, AflaSight</p> | <p>Agreed</p> | <p>Continuous sensitization of farmers, as well as the facilitation of joint-field visits with the Aflasight team to WFP-supported cooperatives.</p> | <p>RWA CO/SAMS</p> | <p>Joint field visits starting in March 2022, and to continue during key harvest dates (February-April for</p> |

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| value for them and to maximise the access of coops to the technology. (Deadline: 1 year) | | | | | Season A; June-July for season B; December-January for season C) |
| Priority: High Recommendation 3: The Innovation Hub for Eastern Africa, with support of the Rwanda CO, should mobilise innovation funding for AflaSight until the results are better understood and can inform the decision on scale-up (while already exploring funding options for scale-up). (Deadline: Late 2022) | WFP Innovation Hub / WFP Rwanda CO | Agreed. Additional innovation funding to continue the pilot and get more data points to validate viability is needed. The Innovation Accelerator would be the right channel to consider additional funding. | Consider funding application from AflaSight for a second sprint grant | INKA / WFP Innovation Accelerator | By September 2022 |

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| <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>WFP should explore opportunities to work with RICA to support their efforts to widen the enforcement of aflatoxin standards and to carry out market surveys</p> | <p>WFP Rwanda CO / RICA</p> | <p>Agreed; RICA is only one of the entities within the quality testing and enforcement space, and as such WFP will engage with wider stakeholders in these efforts.</p> | <p>Conduct a capacity mapping of public stakeholders engaged in aflatoxin testing and enforcement to better tailor potential WFP support</p> | <p>RWA CO/SCM (SAMS)</p> | <p>May 2022</p> |
| <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>WFP should work with the authorities and key stakeholders such as EAX to explore the opportunity to further develop a warehouse</p> | <p>WFP Rwanda CO / EAX and other potential warehouse receipt system operators, IFC</p> | <p>Agreed</p> | <p>WFP, through FtMA, will continue to engage with EAX and other public and private stakeholders to explore innovative approaches to managing grains and</p> | <p>RWA CO/SAMS (SCM)</p> | <p>December 2023</p> |

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| receipt system in Rwanda in the context of the quality “insurance” provided by AflaSight. | | | pulses, including warehouse receipts. | | |
| Priority: Medium Recommendation 6: WFP (RBN) should commission a study to identify which countries in East Africa would most benefit from access to the Bühler LumoVision technology. | WFP RBN / AflaSight, Bühler | Agreed; any decision to move further on analysis will depend on the conclusion of the Rwanda pilot | In concertation between WFP RBN and FtMA, and following conclusion of the Aflasight pilot in Rwanda, decision to conduct a study to identify locations where the technology would be the most efficient and affective use, will be ensure. | RBN, SCM, FSQU, FtMA | December 2023 |