



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2026 1ST BI-ANNUAL NATIONAL FORTIFICATION ALLIANCE (NFA) MEETING HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2026 AT RADISSON HOTEL, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

The National Fortification Alliance (NFA) held its first bi-annual 2026 Meeting on 30 June 2026 at the Radisson Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the National Fortification Alliance. The meeting brought together representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), regulatory institutions, the food industry, development partners, academia, professional bodies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders committed to advancing Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) Programme.

The meeting reviewed progress made since the previous meeting of the Alliance, assessed ongoing food fortification interventions, considered emerging scientific evidence and innovations, examined regulatory and implementation challenges, and agreed on strategic actions to strengthen Nigeria's food fortification programme.

Following extensive deliberations, the Alliance issued the following communiqué.

1. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

The Alliance reviewed the status of action points arising from the previous meeting and noted progress made in implementing agreed resolutions.

Members were informed that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has successfully audited and assessed five (5) of the eight (8) identified laboratories for competence in micronutrient analysis. The Alliance noted that assessment of the remaining laboratories will continue in due course as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen national laboratory capacity for food fortification analysis.

The meeting further noted that the planned courtesy visits to strategic stakeholders, which could not be undertaken within the earlier timeline, have been rescheduled for August and September 2026.

The Alliance received an update on the GAIN Food Inspectors' E-Learning Programme, noting that nominated officers from participating regulatory institutions commenced the pilot training earlier in the year following submission of participants' names. Members further noted that the first cohort examinations are expected to be conducted in the coming months based on participants' completion of the online learning modules.

Members further noted progress made by the Steering Committee in reviewing the roles and responsibilities of Alliance members, while updates on the National Fortification Alliance website were deferred to the dedicated agenda item for detailed consideration.

2. Progress in the National Food Fortification Programme

The Alliance acknowledged the progress recorded in implementing Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme through sustained collaboration among Government, regulatory agencies, industry, academia, development partners and civil society organizations.

Members commended the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMoHSW), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), industry partners and development partners for their continued commitment towards improving access to adequately fortified foods in Nigeria.

The Alliance reaffirmed that strong multi-sectoral collaboration remains fundamental to the sustainability and effectiveness of Nigeria's national food fortification programme.

3. Strengthening Coordination and Digital Transformation

The Alliance received updates on ongoing digital initiatives aimed at strengthening coordination, transparency, knowledge management and regulatory oversight within Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme.

Members welcomed the progress made in the development of the National Fortification Alliance (NFA) Website, recognizing it as the Alliance's official digital platform for communication, information sharing and stakeholder engagement. The website is expected to enhance public access to information on food fortification policies, regulations, standards, technical guidelines, publications, programme updates and other relevant resources.

Following a demonstration of the website, members commended the progress made and proposed several improvements prior to its official launch. These included strengthening the presentation of institutional roles and responsibilities, improving website navigation and user experience, expanding the repository of technical resources and publications, incorporating investment opportunities and relevant partner links, and establishing secure administrative access for designated institutions to facilitate timely content updates.

The Alliance further recommended that compliance summaries, programme achievements, news and events, and frequently asked questions be incorporated into the website to improve public awareness and stakeholder engagement. Members also reviewed the proposed National Fortification Alliance logo and recommended that additional design options be developed and presented for consideration before a final logo is adopted.

The Secretariat urged all member institutions that are yet to submit their organizational profiles, official photographs and other website content to do so promptly in order to facilitate completion and official launch of the platform.

The meeting also received an update on the Digital Fortification Quality Traceability Plus (DFQT+) Platform, which is designed to strengthen traceability, compliance monitoring and

regulatory oversight across Nigeria's food fortification value chain. Members acknowledged the platform as an important innovation that will improve real-time data collection, product traceability, programme monitoring and evidence-based regulatory decision-making.

In addition, the Alliance welcomed the presentation on NAFDAC's Maiden Digital Market-Level Large-Scale Food Fortification Monitoring and Compliance Survey, noting that the deployment of digital data collection tools has significantly improved data quality, sample traceability, field supervision and regulatory intelligence. Members encouraged continued expansion of digital technologies to support monitoring, compliance verification and programme implementation across all mandatory food fortification vehicles.

The Alliance reaffirmed that digital transformation remains central to strengthening the efficiency, transparency and sustainability of Nigeria's food fortification programme and encouraged continued investment in digital infrastructure, capacity building and system interoperability.

4. Compliance Monitoring and Regulatory Oversight

The Alliance received updates from NAFDAC, SON and FCCPC on regulatory monitoring, compliance activities and market surveillance conducted during the reporting period.

Members welcomed the increasing adoption of digital technologies to strengthen regulatory oversight and commended NAFDAC for successfully conducting its Maiden Digital Market-Level Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) Monitoring and Compliance Survey, which covered twelve states across the six geopolitical zones. The Alliance noted that the deployment of digital data collection tools has significantly enhanced data quality, sample traceability, field supervision and evidence-based regulatory decision-making.

The meeting also received findings from the FCCPC Digital Household Food Fortification Monitoring of two states in South-South and North West Nigeria, which assessed the accessibility and household consumption of fortified food products. Members noted that while mandatory fortified food products were generally available, the continued circulation and patronage of unregistered and unbranded edible vegetable oils, particularly among low-income households, remain significant concerns. The Alliance further observed that consumer awareness of food fortification and regulatory quality marks remains relatively low, underscoring the need for intensified public education and consumer awareness campaigns.

The Alliance received an update from SON on national food fortification compliance trends and the ongoing implementation of risk-based compliance monitoring. Members welcomed improvements recorded in compliance across several mandatory food vehicles while acknowledging that challenges persist in selected product categories, particularly edible vegetable oil, sugar and semolina.

The meeting further welcomed SON's use of compliance forecasting as an innovative approach to identifying emerging regulatory risks and supporting evidence-based planning of surveillance activities. Members emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration among regulatory agencies to ensure that compliance findings are translated into timely corrective and enforcement actions.

The Alliance reaffirmed the importance of strengthening collaboration among NAFDAC, SON and FCCPC in order to enhance regulatory coordination, harmonize compliance monitoring activities, improve market surveillance and protect consumers from non-compliant products.

Recognizing that effective regulation extends beyond factory inspections, members emphasized the need to strengthen monitoring across the entire food fortification value chain, from production and distribution to retail markets and household consumption, to ensure that adequately fortified foods consistently reach Nigerian consumers.

5. Food Fortification Standards and Quality Assurance

The Alliance received updates from the Standards Organisation of Nigeria on the ongoing review and strengthening of standards supporting food fortification implementation.

Members reaffirmed the importance of harmonized standards, robust quality assurance systems and strengthened collaboration among regulatory agencies in promoting consistent implementation of national food fortification requirements.

The Alliance further considered challenges associated with premix quality assurance, including the high cost of laboratory analysis, variations in analytical results across laboratories and the inherent instability of Vitamin A during storage and analysis. Members recognized the need for harmonized analytical methodologies, strengthened laboratory capacity and closer collaboration among regulatory agencies, standards organizations, accredited laboratories and industry.

6. Bouillon Fortification and Sodium Reduction

The Alliance held extensive deliberations on the implementation of bouillon fortification within the context of Nigeria's sodium reduction strategy.

During deliberations, concerns were raised by a civil society representative regarding the implementation of the National Bouillon Fortification Programme. In response, the Chairman clarified that the governance structure of the National Fortification Alliance, including industry leadership, was deliberately designed to promote stakeholder ownership while maintaining Government oversight through the Secretariat coordinated by NAFDAC. Members further emphasized that implementation of bouillon fortification would continue to be guided by scientific evidence, transparent stakeholder engagement and national public health priorities.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring policy coherence between both interventions and considered concerns relating to public perception, implementation approaches and conflict-of-interest management.

The Alliance reaffirmed that bouillon fortification and sodium reduction are complementary public health interventions aimed at improving the nutritional quality of a widely consumed food vehicle while simultaneously reducing excessive sodium intake. Members acknowledged that successful implementation will require continued reliance on scientific evidence, coordinated policy implementation, sustained stakeholder engagement and consistent public communication.

The Alliance further recognized the important role of academia and professional bodies in generating evidence to support policy decisions and reaffirmed that scientific evidence should continue to guide programme implementation.

Members also emphasized the need for sustained public sensitization and behaviour change communication to ensure that consumers clearly understand the complementary objectives of both interventions.

7. Industry Perspectives and Implementation Challenges

The Alliance considered several implementation challenges affecting the food industry.

Representatives of the vegetable oil industry highlighted the continued proliferation of unregistered and unbranded edible vegetable oils, noting that compliant manufacturers are frequently compelled to compete with lower-priced products that may not meet national regulatory and fortification requirements. Members observed that affordability significantly influences consumer purchasing decisions, particularly among vulnerable households.

The Alliance stressed the importance of strengthening market surveillance and regulatory enforcement to address the circulation of unregistered and non-compliant edible vegetable oils while promoting fair competition for compliant manufacturers.

The seasoning industry highlighted technical challenges associated with iron fortification using Sodium Iron EDTA (NaFeEDTA), particularly within the context of sodium reduction initiatives. Members acknowledged the need for continued research and innovation to identify technically feasible solutions that simultaneously support micronutrient fortification and sodium reduction objectives.

The sugar industry also highlighted operational issues relating to Vitamin A stability throughout product shelf life and emphasized the importance of continued quality assurance measures to maintain compliance with national fortification standards.

8. Emerging Food Fortification Initiatives

The Alliance received updates on the Promoting Rice Fortification in Nigeria (PRiFN) initiative and acknowledged progress made in strengthening the capacity of rice millers, supporting regulatory development, expanding fortified rice production and integrating fortified rice into institutional feeding programmes.

Members further received a presentation on the potential application of phytase in human nutrition as a complementary strategy to improve the bioavailability of essential micronutrients in fortified foods. The Alliance welcomed continued scientific research and innovation capable of strengthening the effectiveness of Nigeria's food fortification programme.

9. Resolutions

Following extensive deliberations, the Alliance resolved as follows:

1. To sustain the National Fortification Alliance as Nigeria's premier multi-sectoral platform for coordinating food fortification activities, while concluding the ongoing

review of the Alliance's institutional structure to clearly distinguish Core Members from Stakeholders without compromising inclusiveness.

2. To complete the development and officially launch the National Fortification Alliance website following incorporation of comments received during the meeting, including submission of outstanding institutional profiles, technical content, photographs and refinement of the proposed NFA logo.
3. To strengthen digital transformation of Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme through continued deployment of the Digital Fortification Quality Traceability Plus (DFQT+) Platform and expansion of digital monitoring and compliance systems across the food fortification value chain.
4. To strengthen collaboration among NAFDAC, SON, FCCPC and other relevant institutions in order to enhance regulatory coordination, compliance monitoring, information sharing and evidence-based enforcement actions.
5. To intensify market surveillance and regulatory enforcement against the production, distribution and sale of unregistered, unbranded and non-compliant edible vegetable oils, while strengthening consumer awareness on the importance of purchasing registered and adequately fortified food products.
6. To continue strengthening national laboratory capacity for food fortification analysis through harmonization of analytical methods, completion of competence assessment of the remaining identified micronutrient laboratories, and enhanced collaboration among regulatory agencies, accredited laboratories and industry.
7. To continue implementation of the National Bouillon Fortification Programme in accordance with the approved national roadmap, while ensuring alignment with Nigeria's Sodium Reduction Strategy through scientific evidence, coordinated communication, stakeholder engagement and sustained public sensitization.
8. To sustain implementation of the Promoting Rice Fortification in Nigeria (PRiFN) initiative and support continued expansion of rice fortification through strengthened regulatory frameworks, industry participation and strategic partnerships.
9. To promote scientific research, innovation and evidence generation, including continued evaluation of emerging technologies such as phytase, to strengthen the effectiveness of Nigeria's food fortification programme and inform future policy decisions.
10. To intensify consumer education, advocacy and behaviour change communication to improve public understanding of food fortification, increase demand for adequately fortified foods and reinforce confidence in nationally regulated fortified food products.
11. To note the progress recorded in the assessment of micronutrient laboratories, with five of the eight identified laboratories successfully audited for competence by the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), and to encourage completion of the assessment of the remaining laboratories.
12. To note the rescheduling of the National Fortification Alliance courtesy visits to strategic stakeholders for August and September 2026, and to encourage their successful implementation as part of efforts to strengthen stakeholder engagement and institutional collaboration.
13. To direct the Secretariat to monitor implementation of these resolutions and present progress updates at subsequent meetings of the National Fortification Alliance.

10. Appreciation

The Alliance expressed profound appreciation to the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, NAFDAC, the Standards Organisation of Nigeria, the Federal Competition and

Consumer Protection Commission, development partners, industry associations, academia, professional bodies, civil society organizations and all stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to strengthening Nigeria's food fortification programme.

The Alliance reaffirmed its collective commitment to ensuring that all Nigerians have sustained access to safe, quality and adequately fortified foods through effective regulation, sound science, strategic partnerships and evidence-based implementation of the National Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme.

11. Conclusion

The Alliance expressed confidence that the decisions and resolutions adopted at the meeting will further strengthen implementation of Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme and contribute to improved nutrition and public health outcomes. The Alliance further agreed that progress against these priorities should be reviewed periodically by the Secretariat and reported at subsequent meetings to ensure continuous improvement of Nigeria's Large-Scale Food Fortification Programme.

Issued at Lagos, Nigeria, this 30th day of June, 2026.

Fred Chiazor,

Chairman, National Fortification Alliance (NFA)