

production. Some of the comparative quality standards between Bangladesh and the USA are given in the table below:

standardize quality requirements for both local and International food trade. The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has a Schedule of Compulsory Uganda Standards-

Bangladesh	USA
Shape- Length/ Breadth	Rice-Kernels
Slender = >3.0	Long grain- ratio 3.0 and above
Medium =2.4-3.0	-Medium grain 2.0-2.9
Bold (Coarse ) =2.0-3.39	-Short grain-ratio 1.9 and less
Round = <2,0	
Brokens = ≥ 1/2th of grain length	Brokens = <3/4 <sup>th</sup> of grain length
Other specifications relate to chalky kernels, damaged kernels, foreign matter, objectionable seeds and milling degree.	

**Local Food Policy and Quality Standards**

The government of Uganda has been promoting rice production to minimize hunger and food insecurity. In 2009, the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) was developed to address challenges affecting the sector, increase production in Uganda from about 177, 800MT in 2008 to 680,000MT of unmilled rice and guide its development until 2018.

The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy, 2003 highlights food standards and quality control as one of the key areas to be addressed to ensure food and nutrition security in the country. The main objective of food standardization and quality control is to improve public health and

US EAS 128 2013, Milled rice-specification (2nd edition). These Standards specify the requirements, methods of sampling and testing for milled rice of the varieties grown from Oryza spp. which is intended for human consumption.

**For more AGRI-QUEST details, contact:**

**Dr. David Katamba,**  
 AGRI-QUEST Lead Researcher  
 Makerere University Business School (MUBS)  
 Website: [www.agriquestuganda.com](http://www.agriquestuganda.com)  
 Email: [info@agriquestuganda.com](mailto:info@agriquestuganda.com)  
 Tel: +256 774 972532; +256 752 794612

© AGRI-QUEST



**Strengthening**  
 Agribusiness Ethics,  
 Quality Standards,  
 & ICT Usage in  
 Uganda's Value Chains



**INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL FOOD POLICY AND QUALITY STANDARDS**  
**Rice Value Chain**

**Compiled by**

“Strengthening Agribusiness Ethics, Quality Standards & ICT usage in Uganda’s value chains” (AGRI-QUEST) Research Project together with stakeholders in the Cassava Value Chain

**March 2018**

A project mainly financed by:

Implemented by:



**Preamble:**

Food policies, best practices and standards exist at both International and local level. Their focus is to ensure public safety, facilitate trade and ensure sustainability. In this vain, harmonization of standards has been done to ease movement of goods and they become more stringent over time as indicated in the amendments. Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is the custodian of standards in Uganda. Though access to them is only possible after payment. This limits public awareness and uptake of the recommended codes of practice and guidelines. However, basic information has to be passed on to players who cannot easily access or buy these standards since they participate in agribusiness. This will make them appreciate these policies and standards hence contributing to having a better agribusiness climate.

Hence, “Strengthening Agribusiness Ethics, Quality Standards & ICT usage in Uganda’s value chains” (AGRI-QUEST) project presents this basic information on policies and standards in a simplified form in order to facilitate small scale (bottom of the pyramid) players access it so as to actively participate in agribusiness in a way which penetrates up to international level. This is hoped to aide them in decision-making with respect to procedures observing international food and agriculture policy and practices, but acting at local level.

Food Standards	What is a standard
Food standards can be defined as guidelines, measures, or rules that concern food from raw material to finished products or retail presentation. Food standards seek: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To promote safety and protect the consumer;</li> <li>ii. To limit the sale of unwholesome products; and</li> <li>iii. To simplify the marketing of food products.</li> </ol>	ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996 defines a standard as a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context. Standards are varied in character, subject, and medium.

**Rice Value Chain**

**• International Food Policy and Quality Standards**

Rice is a very important food and income security crop particularly in developing countries. The leading rice importing countries include Bangladesh and Indonesia while the leading exporting countries include Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. Other important players on the world rice market are China, India, Japan, USA and Philippines. Many countries in Asia have developed and implemented effective rice grading systems that can assist in determining

the value of grain purchased from farmers. We however limit ourselves to Bangladesh and USA to get a glimpse of the International rice policy.

The Bangladesh rice policy is enshrined in the Bangladesh Pure Food Rules of 1967. The parameters of the standards for cereals were colour, size, taste, presence or absence of insects and foreign matters, the extent of the damage to the grains, solid grain and moisture content. In 1986, the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) adopted the Bangladesh Standard Specification for Grades on Milled rice.



In the USA on the other hand, new rice cultivars are established through specific attributes which must meet the standards for milling, cooking, eating and processing qualities required of their particular grain type before they are released for commercial production. In addition, field tests are carried out to specify the most recommended areas for

A project mainly financed by:	Implemented by:
 Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research WOTRO Science for Global Development	    