

ENHANCING SALT IODIZATION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIALLY VIABLE POTASSIUM IODATE SUPPLY SYSTEMS

GREG S. GARRETT

Director, Large - Scale Food Fortification, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition- GAIN, Switzerland

ROMAN PRZEWLOFSKY

Consultant, Large - Scale Food Fortification, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition- GAIN, Switzerland



ABSTRACT

A sustainable supply of potassium iodate (KIO₃) is critical for the long-term success of universal salt iodization (USI) programs. In some resource-constrained contexts, donors and governments finance the purchase and distribution of KIO₃. Technical assistance can assist the transition from donated or subsidized premix supply and distribution mechanisms to more financially viable procurement systems. In Ghana and Ethiopia, GAIN supported the establishment of more financially sustainable mechanisms for KIO₃ procurement and distribution following national supply assessments. These reviewed annual demand, capacity to iodize, donations and subsidies, and existing procurement and distribution arrangements. Revolving fund systems were then established with the ability to: better forecast demand; appropriately recover proceeds from sales to replenish stocks from approved KIO₃ suppliers; and effectively distribute stock. Since its establishment in 2011, the Ghana supply system has independently purchased and distributed 6.5 MT of KIO₃ or 145 kg per month or enough to produce 1,750 MT of salt and supply 5.8 million Ghanaians with iodized salt monthly. The Ethiopia supply system became operational in early 2013 and in August 2013 launched a tender for 14 MT of KIO₃ or enough for 55 million nationwide.

OBJECTIVES

The donation and subsidy of potassium iodate (KIO₃) for Universal Salt Iodization (USI) programs ensures iodization in resource-constrained contexts. However, more sustainable supply systems are required. To address this in two African countries, GAIN developed a financially viable approach for the establishment of supply models with integrated cost recovery and distribution to ensure a stable and quality supply of KIO₃.

METHODS

GAIN completed national supply assessments of KIO₃ in Ghana and Ethiopia reviewing annual demand, capacity to iodize, current donations and subsidies, and existing procurement and distribution arrangements. GAIN then tailored revolving fund models with proposed mechanisms to: accurately forecast demand; appropriately recover proceeds from sales to replenish stocks from approved KIO₃ suppliers; and effectively distribute stock. Two hosting institutions were identified, i.e. the Environmental Processing & Associates Ltd (EPA) in Ghana and the Pharmaceutical Fund and Supply Agency (PFSA) in Ethiopia.

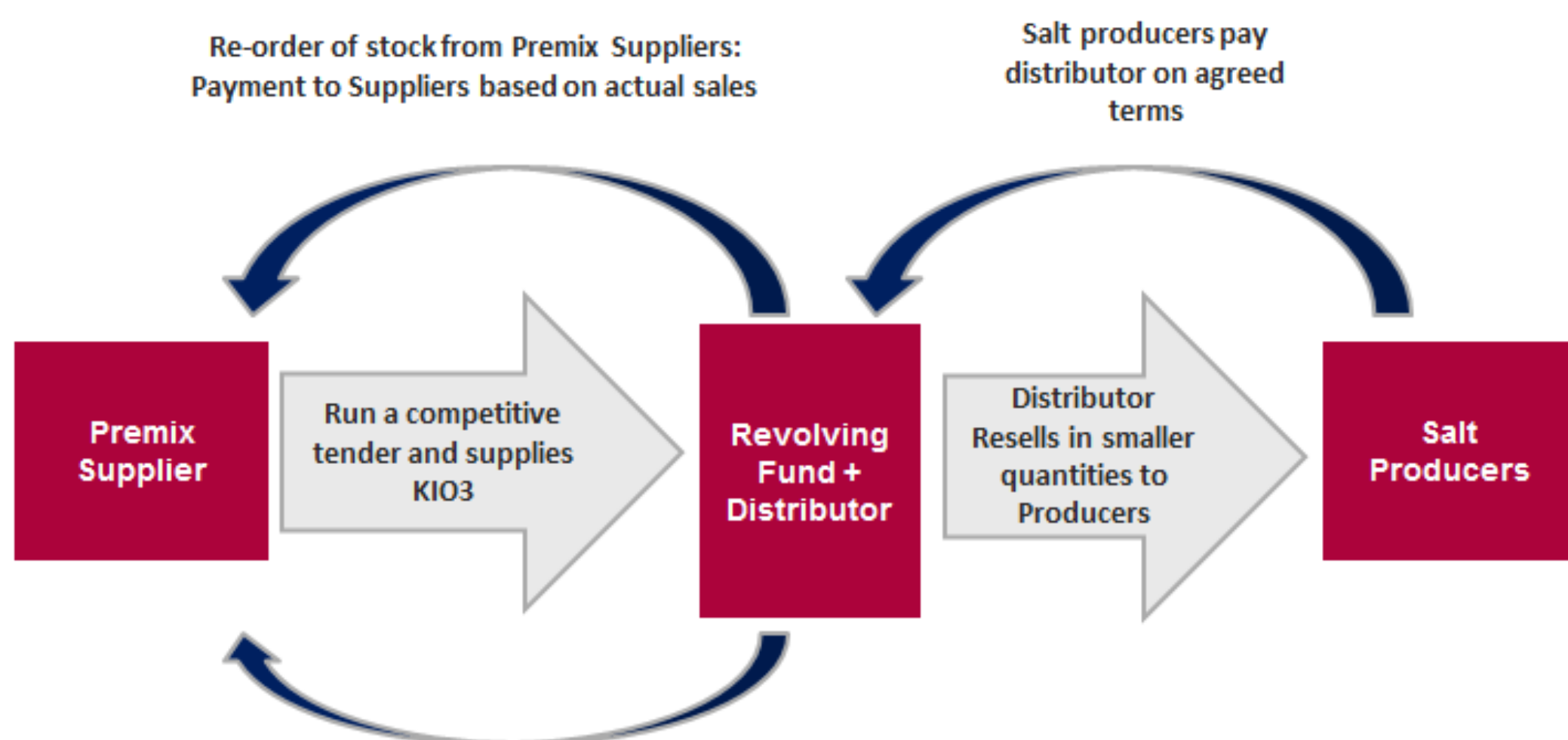


RESULTS

Since its establishment in 2011, and using GAIN-procured seed stock, the Ghana EPA supply system has independently purchased and distributed 6.5 MT of KIO₃ or 145 kg per month. This is enough to produce 1,750 MT of salt and supply 5.8 million Ghanaians with iodized salt monthly. The Ethiopia PFSA supply system, using donated seed stock from GAIN, UNICEF and the Micronutrient Initiative, became operational in January 2013. In August 2013, using recovered costs, it launched a tender for 14 MT of KIO₃ or enough for 55 million nationwide.

CONCLUSIONS

A well-designed KIO₃ supply system which includes mechanisms for appropriate cost recovery, forecasted demand, and distribution can transform a donation-based system into a financially viable system which supports national USI programs in Africa.



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