



RWANDA FDA

Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority

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Kigali on, 13/01/2021

Ref. N°:DIS/ 059 /FDA/2021

Manufacturers of packaged honey (All)

Distributors of packaged honey (All)

Retailers (All)

General public

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Circular on the prohibition of honey adulteration.

Reference is made to the law No:003/2018 of 09/02/2018 establishing the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (Rwanda FDA) mainly in its article 8, Paragraph 2 and 13,

Reference is also made to the previous inspections Rwanda FDA conducted in response to customer complaints on poor quality of natural honey. Further reference is made to the quality control laboratory results of honey which confirmed adulteration of natural honey from different production facilities that add sugar and other substances.

Rationale

Honey is a natural sweet substance originated from honey bees' farming or keeping. Naturally, honey is composed of different sugars mainly glucose and fructose at a certain proportion and other substances. Honey properties such as color, consistency, flavour and aroma, may vary depending on different geographical and botanical factors but are delivered from plant origin.

To avail honey to the market, beekeepers and other people involved in the business conduct several activities including harvesting or extraction, bottling and labelling of honey. However, some practice a malpractice known as "*Economically motivated adulteration*"

Economically motivated adulteration is defined as "*fraudulent, intentional substitution or addition of a substance in a product for the purpose of increasing the apparent value of the product or reducing the cost of its production, i.e., for economic gain.*"

Some consumers, mostly people with different health conditions, prefer using natural honey as a sweetener because of health benefits associated with its natural properties such as its glycemic index, glucose and fructose ratio, and other components. Therefore, to ensure honey quality and safety, honey should be sold with no any food ingredients or other substances added to it as stated in the standard for honey.

In order to ensure quality and safety of honey products on Rwandan market, the Authority therefore recommends the following:

1. MANUFACTURERS OF PACKAGED HONEY

- Ensure that honey is packaged without adding other food ingredients, including food additives, sugar or other substances.
- Comply with the requirements for food labeling in accordance to the standard for honey (including name of the product, geographical or topographical source of honey, country of origin, method used to remove honey from the comb, form, manufacturer's name and address, evidence-based and genuine claims)
- Clearly mention on the labelling any added substance and its quantity in case of production of other types of honey products.
- Manufacturers are requested to register their manufacturing premises and products with Rwanda FDA.
- Comply with Good Distribution Practices; such as providing an invoice to their customers and keeping records of the source of honey.
- Any manufacturer or seller of adulterated honey will be fined by Rwanda FDA.

2. DISTRIBUTORS OF PACKAGED HONEY

- Buy and distribute honey from known and trusted sources, and report the manufacturers who add adulterants or substances in honey claimed to be natural to Rwanda FDA.
- Comply with Good Distribution Practices; such as providing an invoice to their customers and keeping records of the honey products source.

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3. RETAILERS OF PACKAGED HONEY AND SHOP OWNERS

- To stop receiving and selling adulterated honey and report to Rwanda FDA any manufacturers and distributor, whose honey is found to be adulterated,

4. CONSUMERS

- To stop buying and consuming adulterated honey and report to Rwanda FDA any seller and/or manufacturer of adulterated honey.

Note: For more information or to report the manufacturer and/or sellers of the above mentioned products please call **0789 19 35 29**.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dr. KARANGWA Charles
Ag. Director General

The logo of the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) is centered on the page. It features a stylized caduceus (a staff with two snakes and wings) in the center, surrounded by a wreath of wheat. Below the wreath is a sunburst design. The text "RWANDA FDA" is written in large, bold, green capital letters, and "Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority" is written in smaller, orange capital letters below it.

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