



Partnership
for Aflatoxin
Control in Africa

Partenariat pour
la lutte contre
l'aflatoxine en Afrique

Parceria para o
Controle da
Aflatoxina em África

الشراكة من أجل مكافحة
الافلاتوكسين في أفريقيا



PACA Country Plan Approach: Evidence Based, Consistent and Coherent Mechanism for Aflatoxin Abatement

Update on Progress at Regional and Country Level, 2014-2015 (as of May 2015)

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1 Background

PACA launched implementation in pilot countries in 2014 after an elaborate and objective country selection process that involved working with stakeholders (Regional Economic Communities, RECs, including ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC and EAC as well as participants of a Side Event at the 10th CAADP PPM). PACA has implemented at country level with focus on Gambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. Through implementation of continental and regional activities, PACA supported the six focus countries and the rest of the continent alike. Thus, this update also highlights such activities.

During the initial pilot phase the Secretariat will focus on the six countries and support country programs for up to five years. After three years, the Secretariat will review the pilot program

progress to assess outcomes and effectiveness, refine the country planning approach to accommodate scaling beyond these initial pilot countries (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Implementation approach of PACA: from piloting to scaling (maps are illustrative); Nigeria is the sixth pilot country of PACA, not shown on the map

The African Union Commission (AUC) through the PACA Secretariat directly supports governments to achieve large scale change in aflatoxin control in Africa. It works jointly with RECs, private sector and other key stakeholders to improve governments' effectiveness. Implementation proceeds through three categories of activities:

1. **Continental activities**
2. **Regional activities**
3. **Country activities**

2 Continental and Regional Activities

2.1 *Mainstreaming Aflatoxin Control at Continental Level*

The PACA Secretariat is working at mainstreaming aflatoxin control into regional and national agriculture and food security investment plans (details shown under pilot country activities)

PACA is aligned to AUC strategic plans and priorities. PACA contributes to implementation of the strategy for implementation of Malabo Declaration Commitments as evidenced by policy brief on "*PACA's Contribution to Result Areas of the Malabo Declaration*" (available at www.aflatoxinpartnership.org). The contribution of PACA to building SPS capacity of MS and particularly to tackling technical barriers to trade of agricultural commodities due to aflatoxin (Malabo Declaration Commitment #5) cannot be overemphasized.

2.2 *Regional Aflatoxin Action Planning, Policy Scoping Studies, and Value Chain Control*

2.2.1 *COMESA Region*

Based on the PACA-COMESA Regional Workshop on Aflatoxin Challenge in Eastern and Southern Africa held in Lilongwe, 11-13 March 2014, PACA is working closely with COMESA to finalize a regional aflatoxin strategic plan, which is expected to be completed in quarter 3 of 2015

2.2.2 ECOWAS Region

2.2.2.1 Regional Workshop on Revamping the Groundnut Value Chain in West Africa through Aflatoxin Mitigation

The PACA secretariat is co-organizing a workshop on “Revamping the Groundnut Value Chain in West Africa through aflatoxin Mitigation” in Dakar Senegal on 1-2 September 2015. The Secretariat has initiated preparations towards the workshop including development of concept note and establishment of a planning task force.

2.2.2.2 ECOWAS Aflatoxin Control Action Plan

ECOWAS in collaboration with PACA and other stakeholders developed an aflatoxin control action plan in 2014 which awaits policy-level approval.

2.2.2.3 ECOWAS Policy Scoping Study

COMESA and PACA initiated a regional scoping study to assess policies, regulations and standards on aflatoxin in the COMESA region as well as existing aflatoxin testing capacities such as laboratory facilities and technicians. This study was later to be expanded to other regions. In 2015, PACA initiated a similar study in the ECOWAS region. The ECOWAS regional study will feed into the discussions of the regional workshop in Senegal (Section 2.2.2.1) and will be completed until July 2015.

2.2.3 SADC Region

In an effort to reach out to other major RECs, PACA is engaging SADC. The PACA Secretariat developed a concept note for engaging SADC Secretariat through Roundtable Discussions to gauge areas of concrete collaboration and partnership in the region as well as deliberate on the process required for developing a SADC regional aflatoxin control action plan.

2.3 Engagement of PACA/Aflatoxin Mitigation Champions

PACA continued to engage high level champions to advance the aflatoxin control cause. The Honorable Dr. Allan Chiyembekeza Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), Malawi is the new champion of the aflatoxin mitigation activities in Malawi and the official Champion for Aflatoxin Mitigation/ PACA in the SADC region. Honorable Janet Mbene, Deputy Minister of Trade, Tanzania is another high level champion of aflatoxin control.



Briefing with the Hon. Allan Chiyembekeza, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Malawi on the margins of the 11th CAADP PP meeting

3 Knowledge Management Functions

3.1 PACA Website 2.0

PACA Website 2.0 (www.aflatoxinpartnership.org) is fully functional and in use in both English and French since beginning of 2014. PACA website 2.0 serves as the main platform where PACA shares information.

3.2 PACA Quarterly Newsletter

The PACA newsletter, launched in August 2013, has contributed to AUC PACA's visibility and increased interest in planned PACA events. The Newsletter has become a great source of information on aflatoxin issues to the PACA community members and other stakeholders. The Newsletter is also circulated at AUC. In March 2015, PACA has released Volume III Issue 1 of the Aflatoxin Partnership Newsletter. The African Union has declared 2015 the year of "Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agenda 2063". The PACA Newsletter will highlight women-focused topics in all its issues in 2015.

3.3 Policy Briefs

At the end of 2014, the Secretariat produced two policy briefs, namely: **"10 Facts You Should Know about Aflatoxins"** and **"Understanding the Relationship between Aflatoxins and Stunting: Summary of Current Research"**. These are now available in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese on the PACA website and circulated through the PACA Community and relevant fora. Another policy brief (Malabo Brief of PACA) entitled **"PACA's Contribution to Result Areas of the Malabo Declaration"** was produced for the 11th CAADP PP meeting.

3.4 Meta-Analysis of Aflatoxin Situation in Africa

PACA Secretariat aimed at generating comprehensive and credible analysis of the current state of knowledge and gaps through a systematic analysis of existing data and information. The Secretariat has been partnering with CTA to integrate and synergize efforts.

3.5 Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS)

The AfricaAIMS is presented under Section 4.2 below.

4 Pilot Country Activities

4.1 Progress in Aflatoxin Control National Plans

At the country level, the PACA Secretariat works closely with RECs and local country stakeholders through a Country Steering Committee to support the preparation, execution, and oversight of *country government-led, and stakeholder aligned country plans*. The Secretariat's country activities build on the country planning work already underway. The country plans are being executed through the following four stage process:

- Stage One: Gather evidence to inform the plan
- Stage Two: Develop, validate and finalize the country plan
- Stage Three: Build government capacity to implement the plan
- Stage Four: Monitor progress and advocate

Through this process, the AUC will achieve consistency, peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing to achieve high degree of performance. The Secretariat hired consultants, engaged a Country Steering Committee or Technical Working Group to develop an evidence-based country plan and implementation roadmap.

The Country Steering Committee comprises of a diverse group of 6 to 8 members representing key stakeholders segments (e.g., national government, REC(s), development partners, private sector, research institutes, NGOs, and PACA Secretariat). The Country Steering Committee is chaired by the country focal point from a relevant government ministry. The respective REC is playing facilitation role to support the operations of the Country Steering Committee. The Country Steering Committee will work hand in hand with a local Country Officer funded by the PACA Secretariat. The local country officer will be a full-time contractual staff position, embedded in a country institution. Hiring of Country Officers is expected to be completed in this quarter. **Table 1** summarizes the progress and timelines in the implementation progress in country activities.

4.2 Progress in Implementation of PACA Early Win Initiatives

In addition since 2014 the PACA Secretariat has been implementing three major activities in pilot countries. It is worth noting that these activities are complementary to each other and also feed to the national plans.

1. Establish Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (**AfricaAIMS**).The AfricaAIMS will serve as one stop information portal related to aflatoxin in Africa. The following were accomplished:
 2. Based on survey to gauge country capacities, PACA equipped selected PACA affiliated labs with aflatoxin testing equipment and trained staff (this will be done in Nigeria in 2015)
 3. Sampling and testing for aflatoxin and collection of secondary data underway
4. Support Country-led Situation Analysis and Action Planning (**C-SAAP**)
 - The PACA Secretariat supported pilot countries in conducting country-led food safety and aflatoxin situation analysis and action planning (C-SAAP). Through C-SAAP, the Secretariat supports countries to create empirical evidence on existing aflatoxin prevalence, legislation, policy and regulation, management practices and other existing control mechanisms that can effectively inform policy and interventions. The Secretariat has been monitoring the implementation of the C-SAAP in the Pilot Countries.
 - C-SAAP is completed in Tanzanian and Uganda and is underway in other pilot countries except Nigeria which will initiate C-SAAP in quarter 3 of 2015.
5. Mainstream Food Safety and Aflatoxin Control through the PACA initiative in CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (**Mainstream FoodSAC**). This is completed by Tanzania in May 2015. Other pilot countries will follow as they complete national aflatoxin control plans informed by the C-SAAP. The decision of stakeholders to mainstream aflatoxin as an integral dimension of the national strategies and programs in all sectors is a leap forward in aflatoxin mitigation efforts. As this process is finalized, Tanzania became the first country to have a comprehensive government-led national plan that is owned by all key stakeholders and that is part of the dominant plans and practices of the country.



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Table 1. Implementation timelines in PACA focus countries, 2014/15

	June 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015
Malawi		Round-table Discussions		CSAAP (initiated)	AfricaAIMS Training Purchase and delivery of laboratory equipment in PACA reference lab	Joint Planning and Monitoring Meeting Inception Economic Impact Assessment submitted		PACA Country Officer Hire	Validation of C-SAAP		NAFSIP review and aflatoxin Action plan	Business Meeting to mobilize resource for the action plan	Implementation proceeds		Annual country-level readout
Tanzania	Round-table Discussions		CSAAP Initiated	AfricaAIMS Training Delivery of lab. equipment in NM-AIST lab		Final draft C-SAAP submitted from National Consultant for review by PACA Secretariat	Joint Planning and Monitoring Meeting C-SAAP Validation	NAFSIP review and Action Planning PACA Country Officer Hire		Business Meeting	Implementation proceeds				Annual country-level readout
Uganda		Round-table CSAA P Initiated		AfricaAIMS Training Delivery of lab equipment in PACA reference lab		Final draft C-SAAP submitted from National Consultant for review by PACA Secretariat	Joint Planning and Monitoring Meeting	C-SAAP validation stakeholder validation workshop Hire of PACA Country Officer		NAFSIP review and action planning		Business Meeting	Implementation proceeds		Annual country-level readout
Gambia			Round-table Discussions		AfricaAIMS Training Delivery of aflatoxin	C-SAAP was initiated in January – A country focal institutions re-	Joint Planning, Monitoring and Review Meeting	Hire of PACA Country Officer And draft	CSAA P Validation and	Action plan work begins	Action plan work continues	Action plan validation and NAFSIP	Business Meeting for resour		Annual country-level readout

	June 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015
					testing equipment in PACA reference lab	engagement meeting		C-SAAP submitted for review	Action plan kick- off works hop			review	ce mobili zation		
Senegal			Roundt able		AfricaAIMS Training Purchase and delivery of laboratory equipment in PACA reference lab	C-SAAP was initiated in January	Joint Planning Monitoring and review Meeting	Hire of PACA country Officer	Draft C- SAAP submit ted for review	CSAAP Validatio n			Action Plan validat ion and NAFSI P review	Busine ss Meetin g for resour ce mobili zation	Annual country- level readout
Nigeria									Round table Discus sions	Delivery of Lab equipme nt and AfricaAI MS training	C-SAAP initiate and hire country officer		CSAA P Valida tion	Action Plan work begins	

C-SAAP = Country led Aflatoxin and Food Safety Situation Analysis and Action Planning, an evidence generation effort to inform national plans and interventions including policy.

AfricaAIMS = Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System, a one stop information portal on aflatoxins for all sector