

PACA Pilot Country Activities Progress Report

In 2013, PACA developed its ten year strategy (2013-2022), with input from over 100 stakeholders from agriculture, health, and trade sectors and from across the continent. Additionally, PACA developed a Mid-Term Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 aligned to the Draft DREA Strategic and Operational Plan, 2014-2017 as well as that of the African Union Commission.

PACA has identified various activities to be conducted in partnership with Regional Economic Communities and Countries. PACA, with the support of RECs, has identified five pilot countries for 2014 in which these activities will be implemented. The number of pilot countries will gradually increase (as funding allows).

In 2014, PACA has initiated three major activities in five pilot countries (Gambia, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda). The activities are:

Activity 1: Establish Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (**AfricaAIMS**);

Activity 2: Support country-led aflatoxin situation analysis and action plan (**C-SAP**);

Activity 3: Mainstream food safety and aflatoxin control through the PACA initiative in CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (**Mainstream FoodSAC**).

1. PACA Country Activities and steps for Implementation

Activity 1: Establish Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS);

One of the major challenges in mitigating aflatoxin in Africa is the lack of adequate information and harmonized data collection on the subject. Yet information is needed to inform policy and interventions; inform prioritization of resource allocation; and promote country capacity and awareness on the aflatoxin issue. Through the PACA initiative, the African Union Commission will establish an Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS) that will serve as a “one stop shop” information harbor for aflatoxin information in the health, trade and agriculture sectors. Data on the AfricaAIMS will be “home-grown” owned by AU Member States and respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The information on the AfricaAIMS will serve policy makers, regulatory bodies, potential investors, technical agencies (health, trade and agriculture), researchers, farmers, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector partners along the value chain and other interested parties.

Steps for implementing AfricaAIMS

1. Conduct an Inception Workshop in June 2014 of PACA Pilot Countries to establish methodology for data collection, analysis and submission onto AfricaAIMS
2. Gauge Pilot Country laboratory capacity gap through questionnaire
3. Fill lab capacity gap by procuring and delivering necessary testing materials to labs identified by countries
4. With AU-IBAR, train countries in data analysis and submission on AfricaAIMS through the ARIS II interface

Activity 2: Country-led Situation Analysis and Action Planning (C-SAP)

For countries that have not yet conducted situational analyses, PACA will support its pilot countries in conducting country-led food safety system and aflatoxin situation analysis and action planning by assisting countries to create empirical evidence on existing aflatoxin prevalence, legislation, policy and regulation, management practices and other existing control mechanisms that can effectively inform interventions. PACA will work with national consultants and Aflatoxin Technical Working Groups to conduct the analyses in alignment with the guidance of the political and technical leadership of the country.

For countries that have already conducted aflatoxin situational analyses, PACA will work with the country focal point to identify what is needed next and develop a customized TOR to build on existing data and reports. For example, a country may want to prioritize identified mitigation strategies, estimate the cost of potential mitigation strategies, or conduct a cost-benefit analysis of priority mitigation strategies

The country-led analysis will: catalyze strategic action in countries affected by aflatoxin by informing country leadership across stakeholder groups about necessary actions they can take; identify existing programs that can integrate aflatoxin control measures; and avoid duplication of efforts. The Situation Analysis will also provide the necessary input to align aflatoxin control with broader food safety and SPS issues within countries.

Steps for implementing Country-led Situation Analysis

- Step 1.** Identify key crops of concern
- Step 2.** Determine the prevalence, distribution of aflatoxin
- Step 3.** Characterize risks of aflatoxin contamination and exposure
- Step 4.** Estimate economic impact due to aflatoxin contamination
- Step 5.** Identify and prioritise opportunities for aflatoxin control

Step 6. Conduct stakeholder workshop to communicate and validate findings and provide inputs to develop an action plan for implementing priority actions

Activity 3: Mainstream food safety and aflatoxin control through the PACA initiative in CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (Mainstream FoodSAC)

The aflatoxin challenge can be addressed effectively and in a more sustainable and comprehensive fashion if it is mainstreamed in existing frameworks and structures, such as CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs). Other frameworks that can be used for mainstreaming aflatoxin issues include, *inter alia*, the African Health Strategy, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), national food safety laws and regulations, and local agricultural extension and community health programs. In 2014 and 2015, PACA will support its pilot countries' efforts to mainstream aflatoxins and other food safety challenges into their CAADP NAFSIPs and relevant health and nutrition frameworks. By so doing, countries will:

- Ease the process of identifying gaps for aflatoxin interventions in country policies;
- Increase national investment in aflatoxin issues and attract other funds for country aflatoxin initiatives;
- Facilitate the alignment of aflatoxin interventions and projects with country priorities through NAFSIPs;
- Ensure that political leadership and ownership of aflatoxin issues at country level is established.

Steps for implementing the NAFSIP Reviews and objectives of each step:

Step	Objective/ Description
Roundtable Discussions ¹	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Inform and reach consensus with Pilot Country officials on the processes envisioned for implementing activities in Country 2. To Agree on roles and responsibilities to be assumed by the Country's Government Ministries, AUC, NEPAD and RECs in the implementation process. 3. To Agree on timelines, goals and targets for implementation 4. To Plan and agree on stakeholder engagement during the implementation of activities especially in the validation of the situation analysis as well as the NAFSIP review process.

¹ These Roundtable discussions will be joint missions between AUC, NEPAD, RECs and country Officials in Health, Trade and Agriculture sector. Where, AUC will also be represented by the three sectors

Hire Consultants ²	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate the country process of NAFSIP Reviews 2. To Engage all necessary stakeholder with the direct leadership of the CAADP Focal Point 3. To Propose gaps in the NAFSIP that need to be strengthened in terms of Food Safety and specifically aflatoxin mitigation
NAFSIP Review ³	To develop a comprehensive Food Safety and Aflatoxin Strategy and Investment Programme to support implementation of the country NAFSIPs (all stakeholders will be engaged in this process including public sector, academia, civil society, donors, private sector and farmers organisation, etc)
Costing Exercise	Through support of relevant partners such as FAO and COMESA (economic analysis tool or the FAO Investment Centre) countries will cost each intervention area prioritized through the NAFSIP reviews in order to identify budget gaps for the implementation of the Aflatoxin strategy embeded in the NAFSIP(all stakeholders will be engaged in this process including public sector, academia, civil society, donors, private sector and farmers organisation, etc)
Business Meeting	To convene Government, Development Partners, private sector and other relevant stakeholder to agree on priority areas and commit funding(All stakeholders will be involved in the meeting particularly the donors [local and international], private sector and public sector – Government)
Implementation	M&E to be tracked through the CAADP Results Framework; through Country M&E Systems; and PACA M&E and AfricaAIMS (bi-annual progress reports will be shared with all stakeholders that have invested money in the intervention areas, other reports will be made publically through the AfricaAIMS protal and or PACA Website)

2. Implementation Progress for PACA Pilot Countries

The PACA Secretariat, in close consultation with Regional Economic Communities, including ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC and EAC as well as participants from the 10th CAADP PP have selected 5 pilot countries to implement activities, elaborated above, which will lead to aflatoxin mitigation in Member States, (see attached Country Selection Report). The selected PACA pilot countries are Gambia, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. The number of pilot countries

² TORs for the consultants will be reviewed and accepted by countries. Countries will help to identify consultants. Consultants will engage all necessary stakeholder with the direct leadership of the CAADP Focal Point, consultants will also propose gaps in the NAFSIP that need to be strengthened in terms of Food Safety and specifically aflatoxin mitigation

³ Local Consultant will convene all stakeholders and based on inputs from the situation analysis, propose aflatoxin action plan and intervention areas to be included in the NAFSIP. Stakeholders will then agree on priority intervention areas using tools available to be mainstreamed into the NAFSIP.

will gradually increase over time (as funding allows) until eventually PACA has reached out to all AUC Member States.



The table below highlights the country activities draft implementation timeline based on inputs from PACA Country Activities Inception Workshop and the Country Roundtable Discussions which have been conducted in all pilot countries.

	June 2014	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015
Gambia			Round-table	CSAP (to be initiated)	Africa AIMS Training						CSAP/action plan validation workshop	NAFSIP Review	Business Meeting
Malawi		Round-table		CSAP (initiated)	Africa AIMS Training	CSAP/action plan validation workshop	NAFSIP Review Workshop	Business Meeting					
Senegal			Round-table	CSAP (to be initiated)	Africa AIMS Training						CSAP/action plan validation workshop	NAFSIP Review	Business Meeting
Tanzania	Round-table		CSAP Initiated	Africa AIMS Training			CSAP/action plan validation workshop		NAFSIP Review Workshop		Business Meeting		
Uganda		Round-table CSAP Initiated		Africa AIMS Training					CSAP/action plan validation workshop	NAFSIP Review workshop	Business Meeting		



3. Progress with Country-Led Food Safety and Aflatoxin Control Situation Analysis and Action Planning

The PACA secretariat will engage local consultants to carry out activities two and three listed above in the 5 selected pilot countries. This section will focus on the progress made in the planning and implementation of activity one and two above. In brief, the terms of reference (TORs) and a methodology were developed and call sent out and consultants submitted their expression of interest (EOI). These EOI were reviewed and consultant selected by the Secretariat.

Terms of Reference Development

The terms of reference was developed for conducting the country assessment and economic impact of aflatoxin contamination and control which will serve as situation analysis and baseline information to guide further investigations. It contains the objectives and outcomes as well as the different phases as highlighted below:

Objectives of the study

The country-led situation analysis is one of the major PACA activities for 2014 and the main objectives are:

- To formulate conceptual framework for country assessment
- To map all key stakeholders in food safety and aflatoxin mitigation in country and formulate stakeholder engagement for carrying out the situational analysis
- To compile and review all existing data and information on national food safety systems including:
 - Basic food laws and enabling regulations and the ministries, departments and agencies involved in developing food safety laws and policies, specifically on aflatoxins
 - Food standard systems, inspection mechanisms, laboratory support services and human capacity to provide aflatoxin safe foods and feeds to the public
 - Bodies in charge of coordination activities and the available information network in food safety systems
- To identify priority value sub-national areas, commodity systems, value streams and supply chains on which to focus the situational analysis
- To compile and review all existing data and information on the impact (prevalence, distribution and exposure, economic impact) of aflatoxin , using secondary sources and key informant interviews

- To map existing and planned relevant activities (e.g. activities focused on aflatoxin control, food safety programs, health and nutrition monitoring programs, value chain development programs and capacity building) against the conceptual framework
- To develop list of plausible next practice interventions
- Identify gaps in activities and interventions including barriers to the adoption of recommended practices, technologies and equipment and infrastructures
- To create a zero draft action plan and meet with ATWG and other key informants to solicit comments and validate the report

Outcomes

- Priority crops of concern in each country are known
- Prevalence, distribution and exposure to aflatoxin are documented
- Risk for aflatoxin contamination in the trade sector is assessed
- Risk for aflatoxin contamination in the health sector as result for human and animal consumption is assessed
- The economic impact of aflatoxin contamination in the major value chains is assessed at different levels (domestic, regional and international trades)
- Opportunities for aflatoxin control are known and prioritized per sector (agriculture, trade, health)
- Institutional, policy and regulation gaps and interventions are documented and prioritized for future actions

The following critical phases were identified for carrying out the country-led situation analysis

- Phase 1. Identify key crops of concern
- Phase 2. Determine the prevalence, distribution of aflatoxin
- Phase 3. Characterize risks of aflatoxin contamination and exposure
- Phase 4. Estimate economic impact due to aflatoxin contamination
- Phase 5. Identify and prioritize opportunities for aflatoxin control
- Phase 6. Conduct stakeholder workshop to communicate and validate findings and to identify priority actions

Methodology development

Below is detailed methodology that is being used in identifying and selecting local consultants in PACA Pilot Countries:

- Invite government officials in the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Trade, and PACA country Aflatoxin Technical Working Groups (ATWGs) to identify firms or individuals who are qualified and interested in carrying out the country led situational analysis and action planning as well as the NAFSIP reviews.
- Invite expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified firms. EOIs were received and include the following: description of the proposed team's qualifications and CVs, description of past work which demonstrates the team's capacity to effectively carry out

the TORs, proposed approach to the TORs, budget, and timeline for completing the work.

- Evaluate EOIs submitted based on the following criteria:
 - Team consists of food safety experts who have conducted similar work as that being required by PACA
 - Team consists of agricultural economist with relevant experience to conduct the economic assessment of aflatoxin
 - Team consists of experts in aflatoxin who has conducted similar work in the past
 - Team clearly shows how the assessment will be conducted to fulfill the TORs
 - The EOI clearly has suggested timelines for submitting major milestones as identified in the TORs
 - The EOI clearly shows a budget for carrying out the work
 - Team is well networked in the three sectors (health, trade, agriculture) especially with government agencies

Conclusion

The country-led food safety system and aflatoxin situation analysis and action planning will create empirical evidence to inform interventions (i.e. existing aflatoxin prevalence, economic data due to aflatoxin contamination, legislation, policy and regulation) and identify priority interventions to reduce the harmful effects of aflatoxin. As for the mainstreaming aflatoxin mitigation in the NAFSIPs, using results from situation analysis PACA will support countries in developing comprehensive Aflatoxin Strategy and Investment Programmes. By so doing, countries will ease the process of identifying gaps for aflatoxin interventions in country policies; increase national investment in aflatoxin issues and attract other funds for country aflatoxin initiatives; facilitate the alignment of aflatoxin interventions and projects with country priorities through NAFSIPs; and ensure that political leadership and ownership of aflatoxin issues at country level is established.

The current status among pilot countries is given in the Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of the country-led situation analysis and actions planning

Country	EOI	Identified consultant	Contract status	Progress
The Gambia	To be received	-	-	
Malawi	EOIs received and under review	-	-	
Senegal	To be received	-	-	

Tanzania	Received and reviewed	The Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology(NM-AIST)	Signed, August 2014	On-going
Uganda	Received and reviewed	Food & Nutrition Solution (FONUS), Makerere University	Signed, July 2014	On-going

4. Progress with implementing Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS)

The Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS) main objectives are to:

1. Establish a one stop information portal for aflatoxin related issues
2. Promote home grown data, harmonized data collection , and trusted source of information
3. Build capacity of aflatoxin testing in labs (human and infrastructure)
4. Make information available to:
 - Inform policy and interventions
 - Inform prioritization of resource allocation
 - Promote country capacity and awareness on the aflatoxin issue; M&E and accountability

The PACA Country Activities Inception Workshop provided a platform for experts from Regional Economic Communities and PACA Pilot Countries from the health, trade and agriculture sector to, *inter alia*, agree on the types of data to be collected for AfricaAIMS, methodology for data collection, analysis and submission, as well as timelines for implementing the activity.

Experts at the inception workshop also recommended the type of data to be collected on AfricaAIMS from health, trade and agriculture sector which are included, but not limited to, the table below:

Data to be Made Available on AfricaAIMS		
<i>Health</i>	<i>Trade</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>
Liver cancer records	Aflatoxin standards in countries	Production levels of aflatoxin prone crops
Aflatoxin levels in humans /	Volume of export and imports	Grain moisture content

bio-marker data		
Rate of childhood stunting	Existence of free trade areas/ border control, customs regulations	Drying, storage, processing and packaging
		Aflatoxin control interventions
		Aflatoxin contamination along the value chain

Experts at the PACA Country Activities Inception Workshop also identified one reference laboratory for each country that will be used to analyze data for submission onto the AfricaAIMS portal. The PACA Secretariat working closely with national Aflatoxin Technical Working Groups (ATWGs) conducted a capacity assessment of the identified reference laboratory. Following which, the PACA Secretariat assisted pilot countries to acquire equipment for aflatoxin analysis for the reference laboratory.

In addition to filling the laboratory capacity (in terms of equipment for aflatoxin analysis), it was clear that human capacity building was necessary for all the PACA Pilot countries and the PACA secretariat was tasked to work closely will with the national ATWG to identify⁴ individuals represented across health, trade and agriculture to be trained on AfricaAIMS Training of Trainers (ToT) Program. The ToT AfricaAIMS program includes the following elements:

- Data collection
- Aflatoxin analysis (using a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will ensure harmonization across the pilot countries)
- Data submission
- Information management on the AfricaAIMS portal

Conclusion

The AfricaAIMS will capacitate countries to build a system that will ensure home-grown aflatoxin information is constantly available to inform policy and interventions. The table below shows the various steps that will be taken for implementing AfricaAIMS in pilot countries and the progress to date.

⁴ Individuals were dependent on the role of their organization in the data collection, analysis, submission and management. A selection criteria was used which also ensured that there was gender balance as well as representation of youth/student in the training



Partnership
for Aflatoxin
Control in Africa

Partenariat pour
lutter contre
l'aflatoxine en Afrique

Parceria para o
Controle da
Aflatoxina em África

الشراكة من أجل مكافحة
الأفلاتوكسين في أفريقيا

Table 2: Implementation progress of AfricaAIMS in the PACA Pilot Countries

Country	Reference Lab Identified	Draft AfricaAIMS module developed on ARIS II	Capacity assessment of laboratories for aflatoxin analysis	Equipment purchased	Equipment delivered into labs	TOT on AfricaAIMS	Final module developed (based on CSAP outcomes and recommendations)	Data collection and submission on AfricaAIMS
The Gambia	National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI)		Completed	Completed	Awaiting delivery	20-24 October	January 2015	March 2015
Malawi	Chitedze research Station		Completed	Completed	Awaiting delivery	13-17 October	December 2014	February 2015
Senegal	Directorate of Plant Protection (DPV)		Completed	Completed	Awaiting delivery	27-31 October	January 2015	March 2015
Tanzania	Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology	Completed	Completed ⁵	Completed	At port awaiting clearance	Completed	January 2015	March 2015
Uganda	Makerere University	Completed	Completed ⁶	Completed	Delivered to Makerere University	Completed	January 2015	March 2015

⁵ 12 delegates trained in Tanzania

⁶ 10 delegates trained in Uganda