The Continental SPS Agenda and Aflatoxin Control

7-9, Oct. 2014 Addis Ababa - Ethiopia

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Presentation outline

• The general mandate of AUC-DREA
• The context of SPS in Africa
• AUC SPS programme
• 2014-2017 Outlook
• Governance of SPS
The Department of Rural Economy & Agriculture

- Overall Objective: To co-ordinate continent-wide initiatives in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, food and nutrition security through the CAADP framework
- Facilitates the harmonization of agricultural policies and knowledge support systems
- Supports appropriate policy and technological options to food & nutrition security of Africans
- Seeks to strengthen the resilience of African food production systems
DREA VISION AND MISSION

• VISION: A transformed sustainable agriculture that guarantees food and nutrition security and equitable economic growth for all citizens while ensuring sound environmental management and sustainable use of natural resource

• MISSION: To develop and promote the implementation of policies and strategies aimed at strengthening African Agriculture and sound environmental management; by working with AU Member States, RECs, African Citizens, Institutions, and other Stakeholders
Recent developments

• African Union stepping up support in promoting and boosting overall trade to enhance wealth creation

• CAADP PP (March 2014)

• Joint Ministerial conference of ministers of Agriculture, fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development (May 2014)

• AU Heads of State and Governments Summit (July 2014) theme; “Transforming Africa’s agriculture for shared prosperity, harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development”

• Malabo declarations;
Highlights of Malabo Declarations

1. Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process
2. Commitment to Enhancing Investment Finance in Agriculture
3. Commitment to Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025
4. Commitment to Halving Poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation
5. Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities and services
6. Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks
7. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results
Current SPS context and trade

• AU recognizes that Africa’s engagement in trade is not optimal particularly in regard agricultural trade;
• Aflatoxins is one of the most important factor in trade;
• SPS measures which sets out the basic rules for food; safety and animal and plant health standards issues and remains a major constraint in accessing markets;
• Compliance with provisions of the WTO SPS agreements and international standards is poor
• Transparency (reduce technical barriers to global commerce), a key principle of the WTO SPS agreement, but its implementation by African MSs is inadequate:
Context

• Very few notifications are made by Africa
• Limited participation of African MS in the WTO SPS committee activities
• Governments use SPS measures to protect human, animal, or plant life or health from risks arising from the entry or spread of pests, from plant- or animal-borne pests or diseases, or from additives, contaminants, toxins, or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages, or feedstuffs. The measures are to ensure access to safe and nutritious food and feed
• Some governments impose SPS measures as protectionist trade measures in the guise of ensuring human, animal, or plant safety
• Recently, the threat of avian influenza (AI) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (otherwise known as BSE or “mad cow disease”) were used to block imports from countries that reported it
• In such cases, consumers are deprived access to high-quality agricultural goods and the entire producer and marketing chain adversely affected
Continental SPS effort

• The AUC recognizes the need for addressing SPS in general and the challenge of aflatoxin control as critical in boosting intra Africa trade and economic growth.

• The AUC recognizes that meeting SPS requirements is one of the biggest impediments for SMEs that typically lack the resources to identify and address SPS barriers.
Continental SPS effort

• DREA supporting SPS capacity building of AU Member States; AFSD coordinating, AU-IBAR addressing animal health issues; PANSPSO programme; AU-IAPSC addressing plant health issues

• In collaboration with the international standard-setting organizations (CODEX, IPPC, OIE), WTO
Continental SPS efforts

• Improve knowledge and understanding of African experts of the WTO SPS agreement transparency provisions

• Improving the mastering of the main transparency tools (SPS IMS, I-TIP, notifications/SPS NSS)

• Improving understanding of WTO SPS committee working procedures

• Strengthening engagement of Member States in the activities of the international Standard Setting Bodies (Codex, IPPC, OIE)

• Organic agriculture and Certification and GIs
Continental SPS efforts

• The Agriculture Contact Group; Food safety, Better Training for Safer Foods, the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

• The establishment of Food Safety Coordination Mechanism
2014-2017 Outlook

• Supporting SPS capacity building programmes; scoping studies on SPS, stakeholder consultations to review and harmonize SPS policies and frameworks
• Validation of options proposed for establishing the Continental Food Safety Coordination Mechanism
• GIs and ecological organic agriculture
• Promote plant protection and quarantine and enhance Member States capacity to comply with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures of the IPPC
• Making available SPS-related information
Coordination of SPS Activities

- **DREA**: AFSD coordinating overall SPS activities and PACA; Aflatoxin control
- **AUC SPS Cluster**: DREA, DTI and DSA; PACA is a member; the Cluster concept of AUC
- **Continental SPS Committee**: PACA is a member; mainstreaming SPS issues into CAADP and providing overall guidance on SPS in the continental level
Conclusion

• Aflatoxin remains a key challenge for safe and profitable trading as well as a challenge for human health

• Addressing the challenges aflatoxin requires concerted efforts

• Appreciating the imitative of establishing the PACA PPM as provides a forum for stakeholders to network and share experiences on how to address the common challenge of aflatoxins
Thank you for your kind attention