HEALTH TEAM

LED BY
MARTIN KIMANYA
# TEAM MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COUNTRY/INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felixtina Jonsyn - Ellis</td>
<td>Environmental Microbiologist, Njale University, Sierra Leone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tinajonsyn@yahoo.com">tinajonsyn@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agbeko Ben Coffie</td>
<td>Myjoyonline.com, Accra/Ghana</td>
<td><a href="mailto:benwaco@yahoo.com">benwaco@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winta Sinfayehu</td>
<td>PACA Secretariat, AUC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wintas@africa-union.org">wintas@africa-union.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chantal Efyoetsi Goto</td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Got_chant@yahoo.fr">Got_chant@yahoo.fr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdoulaye Sy</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:layesythies@yahoo.fr">layesythies@yahoo.fr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kefilwe R. Moalosi</td>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kefilwem@gmail.org">kefilwem@gmail.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kone Namadou</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mamadou.kone@WTP.org">Mamadou.kone@WTP.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Kimanya</td>
<td>NM-AIST, Tanzania</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Martin.kimanya@nm-aist.ac.tz">Martin.kimanya@nm-aist.ac.tz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amare Awaley</td>
<td>PACA Secretariat, AUC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percy Adomako Agyekum</td>
<td>Food &amp; Drugs Authority, Ghana</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adopee@yahoo.com">adopee@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART A

CHALLENGES

- Weak linkages among major stakeholders in aflatoxin management (Health, Research, Agriculture, Industry, etc.)

- Lack of awareness on dangers posed by aflatoxin among ECOWAS citizens and even professionals

- Inability to use research as an instrument for policy formulation and implementation

- Lack of concrete evidence linking aflatoxin to diseases like stunting, immunosuppression, etc.
CHALLENGES CONT'

- Weak capacities (equipment, human resource competence, etc.) for aflatoxicosis surveillance systems for diagnosis and treatment

- Weak Policies, Regulatory framework and Standards mechanisms to manage aflatoxins

- Limited investment into aflatoxin management
OPPORTUNITIES

• Leadership commitment from AUC with PACA as an instrument for aflatoxin management together with regional bodies i.e ECOWAP, COMESA, etc.

• Existing structures (PACA, ECOWAS, etc.) to coordinate aflatoxin research

• Platform like Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (Annual commemoration), AU Summit (target decision makers/Parliamentarians), 2014 – AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security, CAADP, CCCF Africa events for awareness creation
OPPORTUNITIES CONT’

• Current information and technologies that are available could be utilised to reduce aflatoxin contamination and exposure along the food value chain.

• Existing legislations on aflatoxin though weak in ECOWAS, could be strengthened and harmonised to manage aflatoxin problems within Member States.

• Initiatives: Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), Renewed Effort in Ending Childhood Hunger (REACH), CAADP Nutrition Initiatives.

• Media for dissemination of information on aflatoxin to the various segment of the population within ECOWAS.
SOLUTION/OPTIONS

• Advocacy for aflatoxin problems with Member States and policy makers

• Build human and laboratory capacities for risk analysis (assessment, management and communication) of aflatoxin

• Identify and use simple diagnostic kit for aflatoxin detection in human biological fluids

• Incorporate aflatoxin monitoring in food borne surveillance systems within Member States

• Incorporate Hepatitis B vaccination in child health management within Member States
SOLUTION/OPTIONS CONT’

• Establish a Liver Cancer Registry in each Member State and at the Regional Level

• Public Awareness creation among citizens within ECOWAS

• Establish Food Safety Authority within ECOWAS to coordinate Member States Food Safety Management effort

• Food Safety Authorities within Member States should be made autonomous to harmonise the linkages between Agriculture, Health and Industry to effectively manage Aflatoxins.

• Establish Regional Risk Assessment Laboratory as Reference Centre to research into food contaminants starting with Aflatoxins
PRIORITISING AND/OR SEQUENCING

• Public Awareness creation among stakeholders within ECOWAS
• Build human and laboratory capacities for risk analysis, management and communication
• Establish Food Safety Authority within ECOWAS to coordinate Member States Food Safety Management
• Food Safety Authorities within Member States should be autonomous to harmonise the linkages between Agriculture, Health and Industry to effectively manage Aflatoxins.
• Establish Regional Risk Assessment Laboratory as Reference Centre to research into food contaminants starting with Aflatoxins
PRIOTISING AND/OR SEQUENCING CONT’

- Establish Liver Cancer Registry in each Member State and at the Regional Level
- Public Awareness creation among citizens within ECOWAS
- Establish Food Safety Authority within ECOWAS to coordinate Member States Food Safety Management effort
- Food Safety Authorities within Member States should be autonomous to harmonise the linkages between Agriculture, Health and Industry to effectively manage Aflatoxins.
- Establish Regional Risk Assessment Laboratory as Reference Centre to research into food contaminants starting with Aflatoxins