



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
الافلاتوكسين في أفريقيا

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Perspectives from USAID on PACA as an Effective Continental Initiative

by Jeff Hill, Director of Policy Unit for the Bureau of Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development; PACA Steering Committee Representative of Development Partners

Many thanks to all of you, to the Honorable Minister for Health and Social Welfare of the Tanzania Hon. Seif Rashidi, and H.E. Commissioner Tumusiime for those inspiring and relevant remarks.

All protocol observed....

This week, we are gathered to increase our understanding of the challenges of aflatoxin, and the variety of efforts going on throughout Africa to manage this problem. And, as you know from our program, we will seek to improve the implementation of PACA's Secretariat's activities to increase the coordination, collaboration and synergy among all of the aflatoxin control efforts going on in Africa. Importantly, we will be looking for **commitments from all stakeholders about your future plans** to tackle the aflatoxin problem from your own position.

I am going to speak to you now, from my own perspective, as a major donor in Africa and on aflatoxin issues, regarding some of the important and necessary elements to **managing a continent-wide effort** such as PACA, for effective aflatoxin control.

As we all know, PACA was established in 2011-12, within the African Union Commission (AUC), to support **agricultural development**, safeguard **consumer health**, and facilitate **trade**. Effective action in all three areas, ag, health and trade, are key to comprehensive aflatoxin control, and must be addressed simultaneously, to successfully manage aflatoxin. PACA has successfully elevated attention to these challenges. But it is time to move from strategy to action.

PACA must be an effective continental body **catalyzing, coordinating and increasing effective aflatoxin control along the key agricultural value chains in Africa**. The full



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PACA Community (all of you plus many others) must be involved. The PACA Secretariat needs to help mobilize these partnerships across various interest groups, countries and technical agencies. The Secretariat should facilitate efforts to drive multiple agendas in all three areas across Africa, in order to achieve an *Africa Free from the Harmful Effects of Aflatoxin*. This is the work of a continent-wide effort such as PACA.

In July of this year, the Heads of State and Government met at the Malabo Summit and adopted many important declarations, but notably commitments related to **accelerated agricultural growth and transformation** and **achieving nutrition security** for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. In particular, the Malabo Declaration recommitments the continent to improving the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development (CAADP) process through increased agricultural investment and productivity, reduced poverty, and boosting Intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services. All of these focal areas carry important specific actions for transformation of agriculture in Africa. PACA's work in aflatoxin control through the CAADP framework, poverty reduction and trade processes, are key to achieving the goals set forth in the Malabo Declaration.

PACA was always intended to be a continental initiative, providing support to regional bodies and member states in their efforts to manage aflatoxin in the agriculture, health and trade sectors. And, PACA has always been seen as an organ that would coordinate and catalyze, as it supports the real action needed on the ground. However, PACA Secretariat has recently refined and focused its strategy to more effectively tackle the aflatoxin challenge at the continental, regional and local levels. This will be an important shift in focus for the Secretariat. Using the results of the meeting attended by many of you in 2013 in Dar es Salaam, and the newly adopted, refined strategy, PACA Secretariat has identified its core activities, versus those to be owned by the larger PACA Community. Both must work hand-in-hand for years to come in order to meet the goals of the PACA Strategy 2013-22.

In this meeting, you will hear more about PACA Secretariat's work in two major areas:



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- improving the effectiveness and efficiency of governments to tackle the aflatoxin challenge in Africa.
- forging strong partnerships and working jointly with other key stakeholders involved in aflatoxin control (e.g., RECs, private sector actors, NGOs, donors) to comprehensively support governments.

The recommendations to be presented here affirm the direction developed by the PACA Steering Committee and a number of key stakeholders, but offer a new, more targeted focus.

This forum offers a unique opportunity to share lessons and experiences from across Africa, and to forge new partnerships to control Aflatoxin. Central to the success of these efforts will be the need to both achieve strategic results in controlling Aflatoxin, and to document the results and impacts so that they can serve as a foundation for future efforts. We all need to empower the Secretariat and support the PACA Community, at large, to achieve our substantial goals.

We are pleased to be part of this effort and look forward to the outcomes of the meeting.

Thank you.