

**Overview of Aflatoxin
situation in Kenya, presented
during Partnership For
Aflatoxin Control In Africa
Meeting For Funders Held In
Brussels On 2nd March 2011.**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Aflatoxins was noted as early as 1960 when the country lost 14,000 ducks due to contaminated feed made of groundnuts.
- In the 80s the country lost 12 persons from acute aflatoxicosis.
- From 2000 to 2008 the country lost 265 people, the highest being 123 persons in 2004
- From 2008-2011, no deaths registered , but in 2009, 32,000 bags of maize were condemned due to aflatoxin levels beyond 10ppb

Economic importance.

- Death due to acute poisoning.
- Chronic phase leads to loss of labour, increased health expenses & death from opportunistic diseases.
- Loss to farmers, traders ,through condemned produce.
- Decreased production of animals.
- High cost of decontamination.
- Trade barrier. Affect local, regional and international trade.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Aflatoxin poisoning negates the efforts of the MGDS(goal 1 eradication of extreme poverty and hunger ,4 reduction of child mortality, 5 reduction of maternal health, 6 combating HIV/AIDs and other diseases)
- Government has addressed this through the Economic recovery strategy 2003,the strategy for reviving Agriculture, Establishment of the Agricultural sector coordinating unit (ASCU), National food safety coordinating committee and the vision 2030 among others.
- Aflatoxin leads to food wastage through condemnation of contaminated grains.



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- In 2010, due to global weather change, there was widespread contamination within the country, since harvesting coincided with wet weather (estimated 2.6million bags).

COMMON TYPES OF AFLATOXIN

- The most common types of Aflatoxins contaminating, mainly maize which is the staple grain in Kenya are, Aflatoxin B1, B2 with G1 & G2 occurring as traces of less than 2ppb in most samples.

PREDISPOSING FACTORS:

- Global weather change leading to unpredictable seasons. 
- Temperature 10-40°C
- Grain moisture above 13%
- Humidity 65-70% 
- Agronomical practices
- Pre & post harvest practises

Farmers Practices That Promote Chances Of Aflatoxin Formation.

(A survey report)

- Dropping of cobs on the ground during harvesting.(>60%)
- Drying of cobs on the ground.(>60%)
- Shelling through physical beating.(70%)
- Few farmers dusting produce against storage pests(40%)
- Storage of grains in propylene bags.(70%)
- Un-recommended storage structures(80%)

MITIGATION MEASURES.

- Impaction of knowledge and skill that discourage outbreaks of aflatoxin contamination through Training, Field days & demonstrations.
- Training focused on Ministry of Agriculture Extension officers, Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation field staff and key stake holders(Farmers, Religious bodies, Traders).

CONT'

- Field survey to gauge the extent of contamination .(sample collection and analyses)
- Monitoring of moisture content of stored grains (Gov. has issued over 2000 portable grain moisture meters for use in the field) .
- Driers both mobile and stationally as need be.
- Promotion of new technologies (Introduction of bidders& Bio-control support by KARI,PCPB KEPHIS)
- Development of policies.(Nutrition food security and nutrition policy, National food policy).

CURRENT PROJECT

- After the widespread outbreak last year, a quick response project funded by FAO through UN-OCHA(UN-Office of humanitarian Affairs was started in one of the high risk areas.
- Collaboration was by Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation, provincial Administration and the project was anchored on the Catholic diocese of Meru.
- Was a 3 months project from January 2011- march 2011.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Coverage 12 Districts.
- Awareness creation Workshop for leaders.
- Intensive training of TOT from Min. of Agriculture, Public Health ,Traders, Farmers and provincial Administration
- Procurement of Moisture meters, Hand shellers and Training materials.
- Field days and demonstrations ongoing.

WAY FORWARD

- Integrated approach, by government, development partners, NGOs, and other stakeholders in combating this menace.
- Increased awareness on causes, effects and control among the citizens Nationally.
- Development of strong policies on food safety.
- Inter-Governmental coordination due to cross border trade.

Large scale silos with grain drying facilities



THANK YOU.