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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

Overview of the Aflatoxin Challenge in Africa and PACA's Holistic Approach

Regional Workshop, 18-20 Nov. 2013
Accra, Ghana

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What are aflatoxins?

- Fungal metabolites (naturally occurring)
- Produced by strains of *Aspergillus flavus* and related species
- Highly stable compounds, withstand normal food/feed processing procedures

www.ipm.iastate.edu

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Aflatoxin contamination

- Could occur preharvest, harvest, handling and storage
- Maize, groundnut, cottonseed and byproducts are highly susceptible but occurs in diverse food and feed produce
- Aflatoxins could be carried over through milk, meat and egg of animals fed on contaminated feed

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The Aflatoxin Challenge

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Effects of aflatoxins on health

- Fatal at high concentrations; e.g. outbreaks in East Africa where hundreds of persons died due to aflatoxin poisoning (Probst et al., 2007)
- Cause liver cancer (WHO, 1988; 2002)
- Linked to:
  - Stunted growth and being underweight in children
  - Suppression of human immune system
- 4.5 billion people chronically exposed (WHO, 2004)

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Aflatoxin impacts on trade

- Because of serious health hazards importing countries regulate aflatoxins
- Regulations directly impact regional and international trade
- Lost trade affects economies such as traditional groundnut exporting countries of Africa, and income and livelihood of farmers
- Undermines efforts to streamline SPS issues continent-wide

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Aflatoxin impacts on agriculture and food security

- When contaminated food is condemned unsafe for food, the supply is impacted (e.g. recently in east Africa, large quantities of maize was taken out of the food chain)
- Contaminated food is likely to be consumed by smallholder farmers and their families affecting food safety (food security)
- 25% of the world food supply is contaminated with aflatoxins (FAO, 2000)

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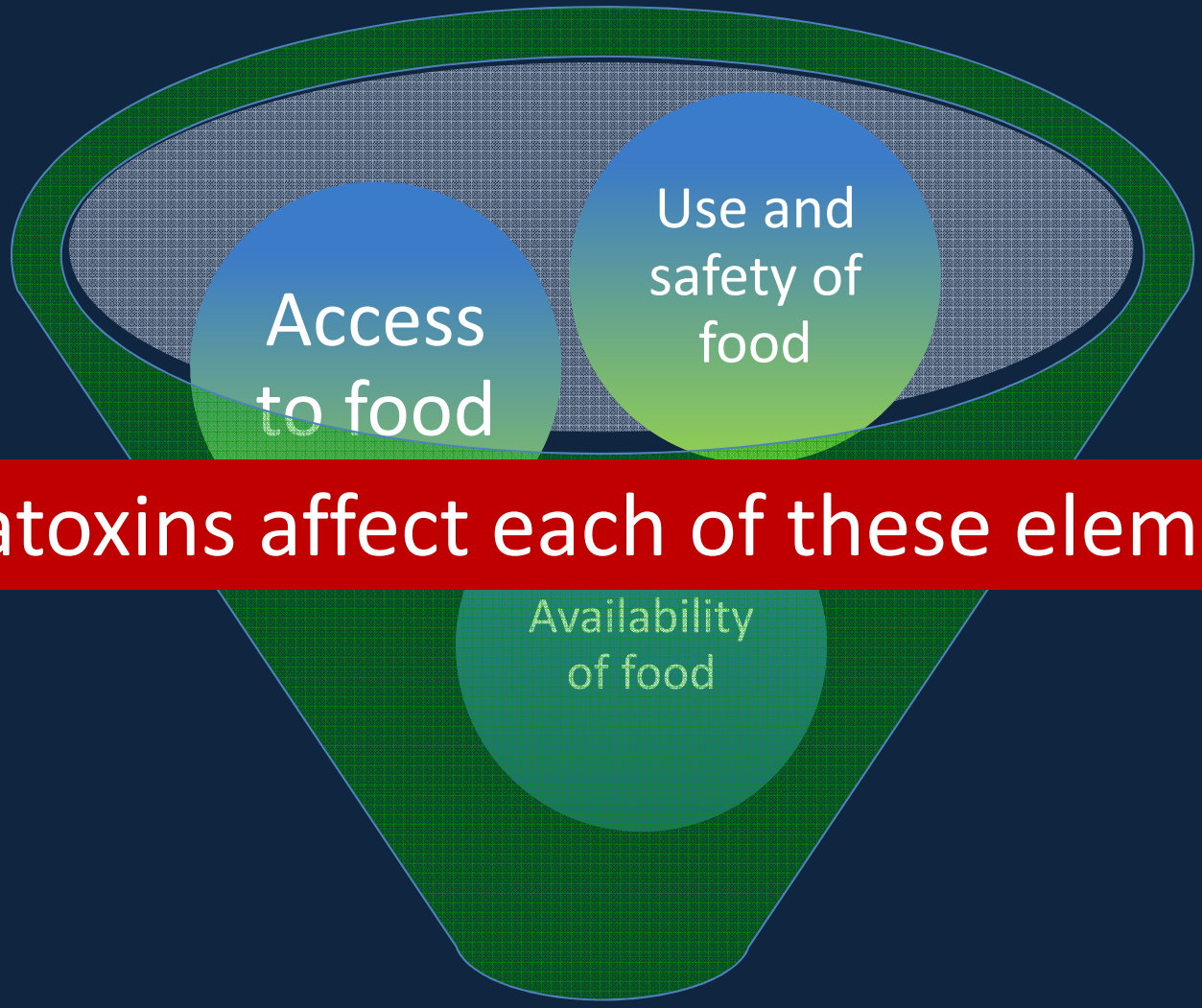

Aflatoxins affect each of these elements

Food and Nutrition Security

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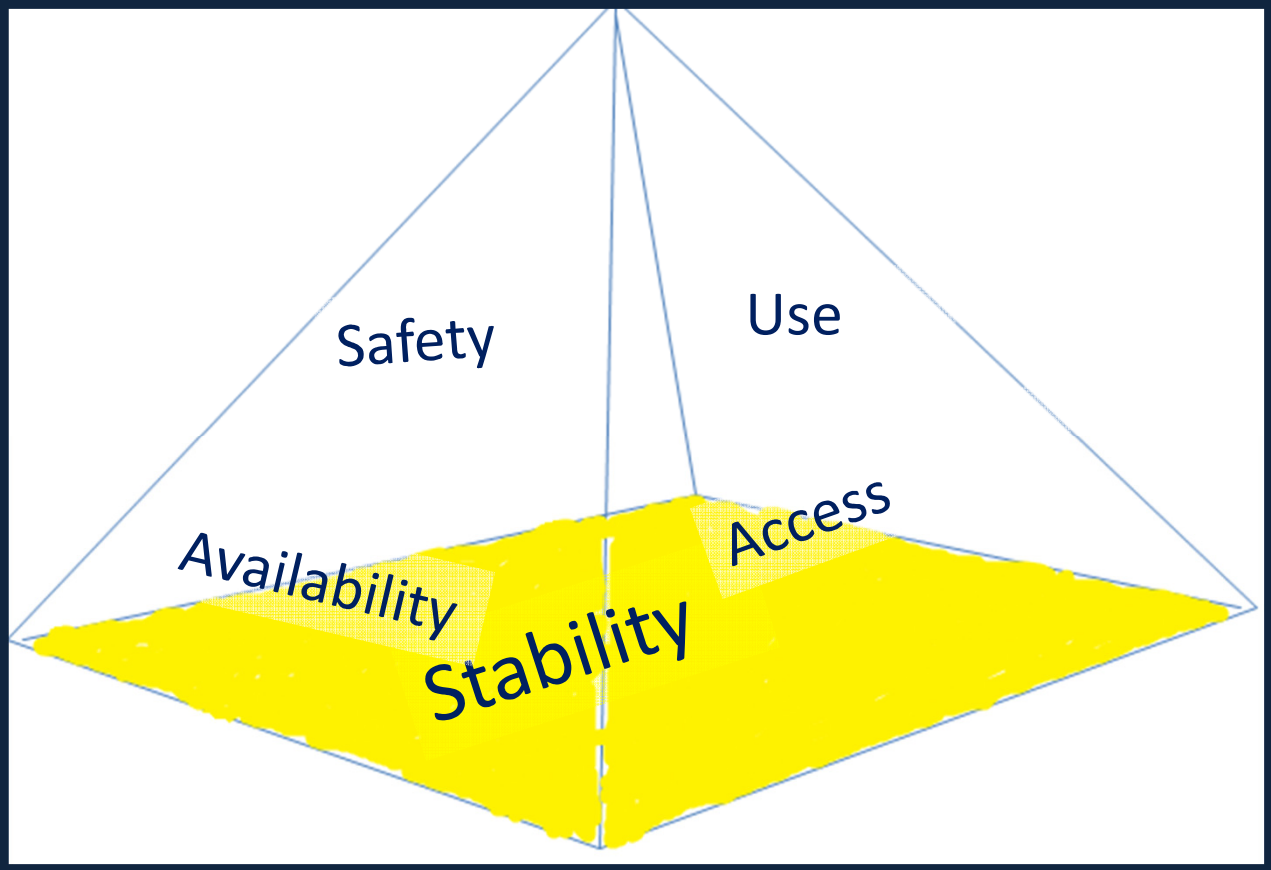
Availability
Access
Food and Nutrition Security
Safety

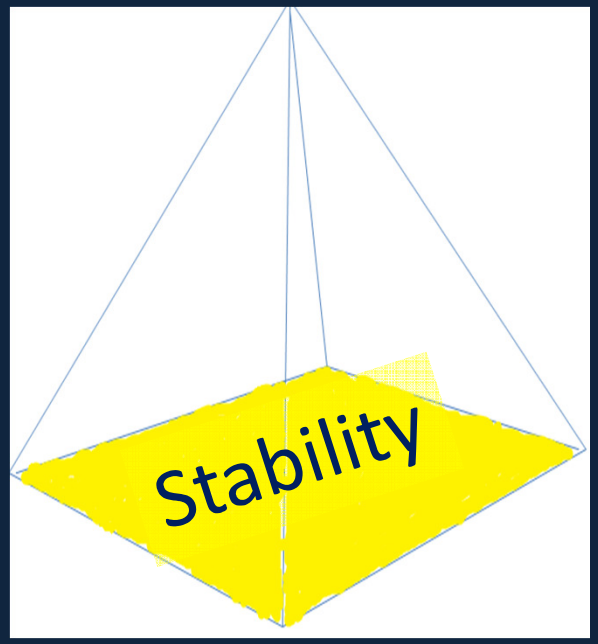

Availability
Access
Food and Nutrition Security
Safety


Availability
Access
Food &
Nutrition
Security
Safety

When components of F&NS are at optimum stability is at its best



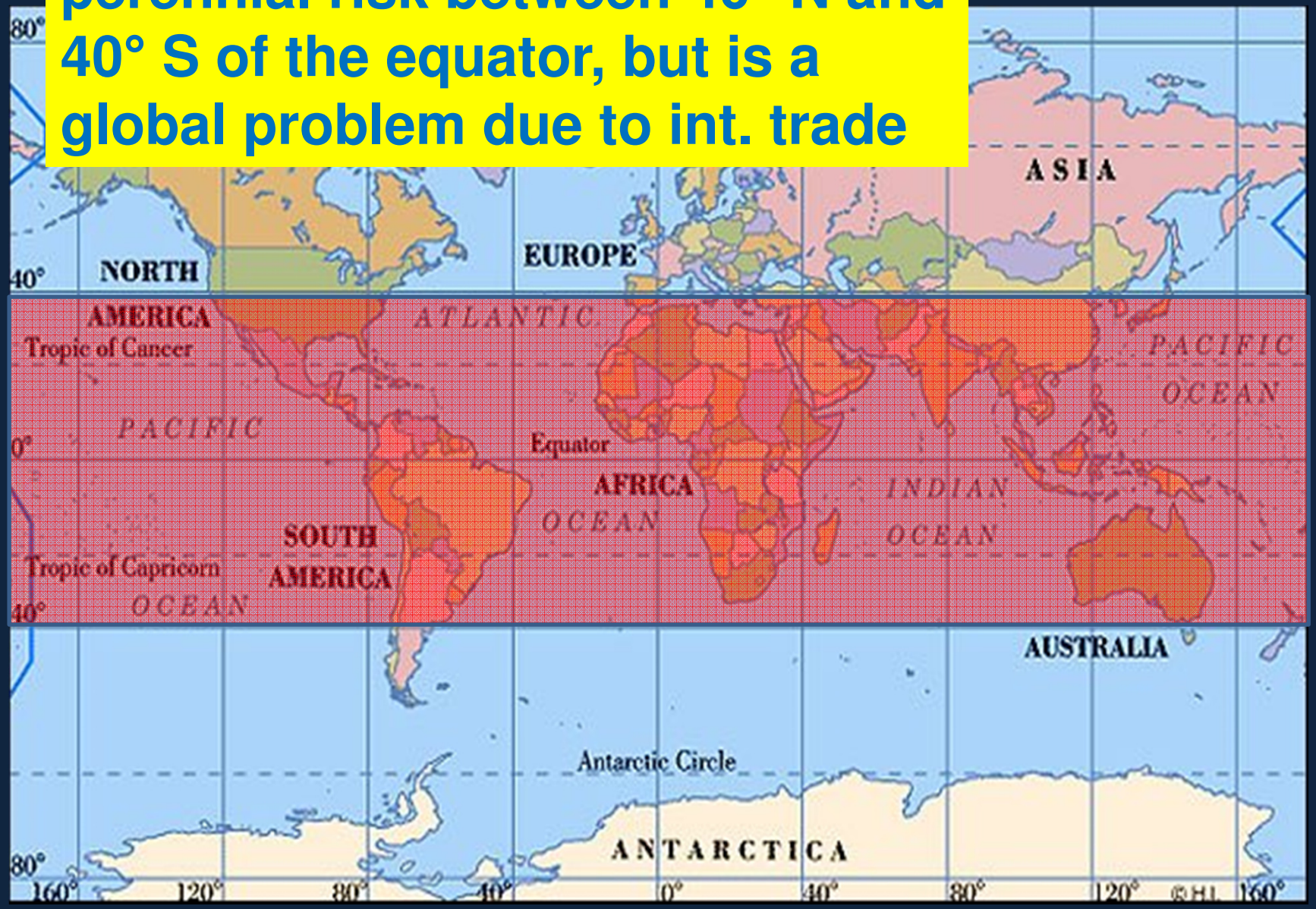
When aflatoxins affect components of F&NS, “stability” is impacted



Factors in the Aflatoxin Challenge in Africa:

- Conducive climatic conditions
- Traditional crop production practices
- Inadequate harvesting, drying and storage practices
- Policy and institutional capacity
- Lack of awareness

Aflatoxin contamination is a perennial risk between 40° N and 40° S of the equator, but is a global problem due to int. trade



Aflatoxin control

- Aflatoxin contamination is a complex problem:
  - Hard to solve by a single actor/discipline
  - Requires multi-stakeholder actions
  - Need to focus on the cause rather than the symptoms
  - No single answer
- Integrated and coordinated actions needed

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A ‘bag of tricks’(integrated valid options) to address the complex aflatoxin problem:

Photo credit: africabags.org

What is PACA?

- Innovative consortium aiming at coordinating aflatoxin mitigation and management across health, agriculture and trade sectors in Africa.
- Africa-based, Africa-led effort
- Aims to adapt proven solutions, and identify new ones, that will work for African situation.

PACA Genesis

Date and Location	Event
23 March 2011, Yaoundé, Cameroon	CAADP PP, asked AUC to explore establishment of PACA
3-4 October 2011, Nairobi, Kenya	PACA organizational planning meeting under the auspices of AUC
1-2 March 2012, Maputo	PACA Interim Steering Committee meeting
25-27 June 2012, Ibadan	PACA Interim Steering Committee meeting
31 October 2012, Addis Ababa	PACA officially launched at AUC
01 Nov. 2012, Addis Ababa	Steering Committee inauguration
April 2013, Dar es Salam	PACA Strategy consultation workshop
Since May/June 2013	PACA has developed frameworks and started sustained actions


AFLATOXINS: FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVED FOOD SAFETY
Mobilizing Political Support: Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
AMARE AYALEW, WEZI CHUNGA, AND WINTA SINTAYEHU
CGIAR
RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
LED BY IFPRI
2020 VISION
FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
FOCUS 20 • BRIEF 15 • NOVEMBER 2013
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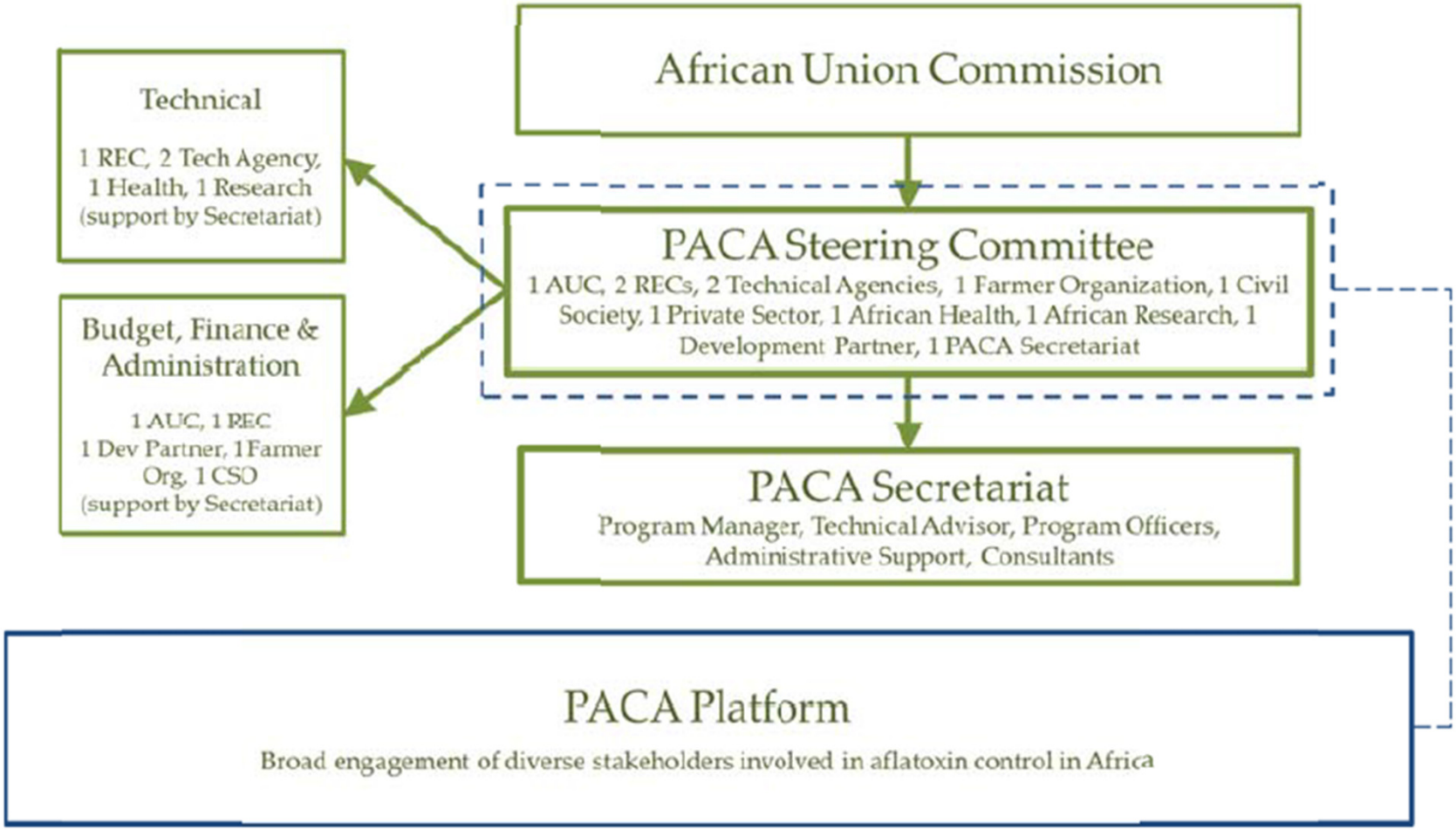
Africa free from the harmful effects of aflatoxins
MEP/T – PNUD
SALLE DE PRESSE
PACA Strategy
2013-2022

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa Organogram



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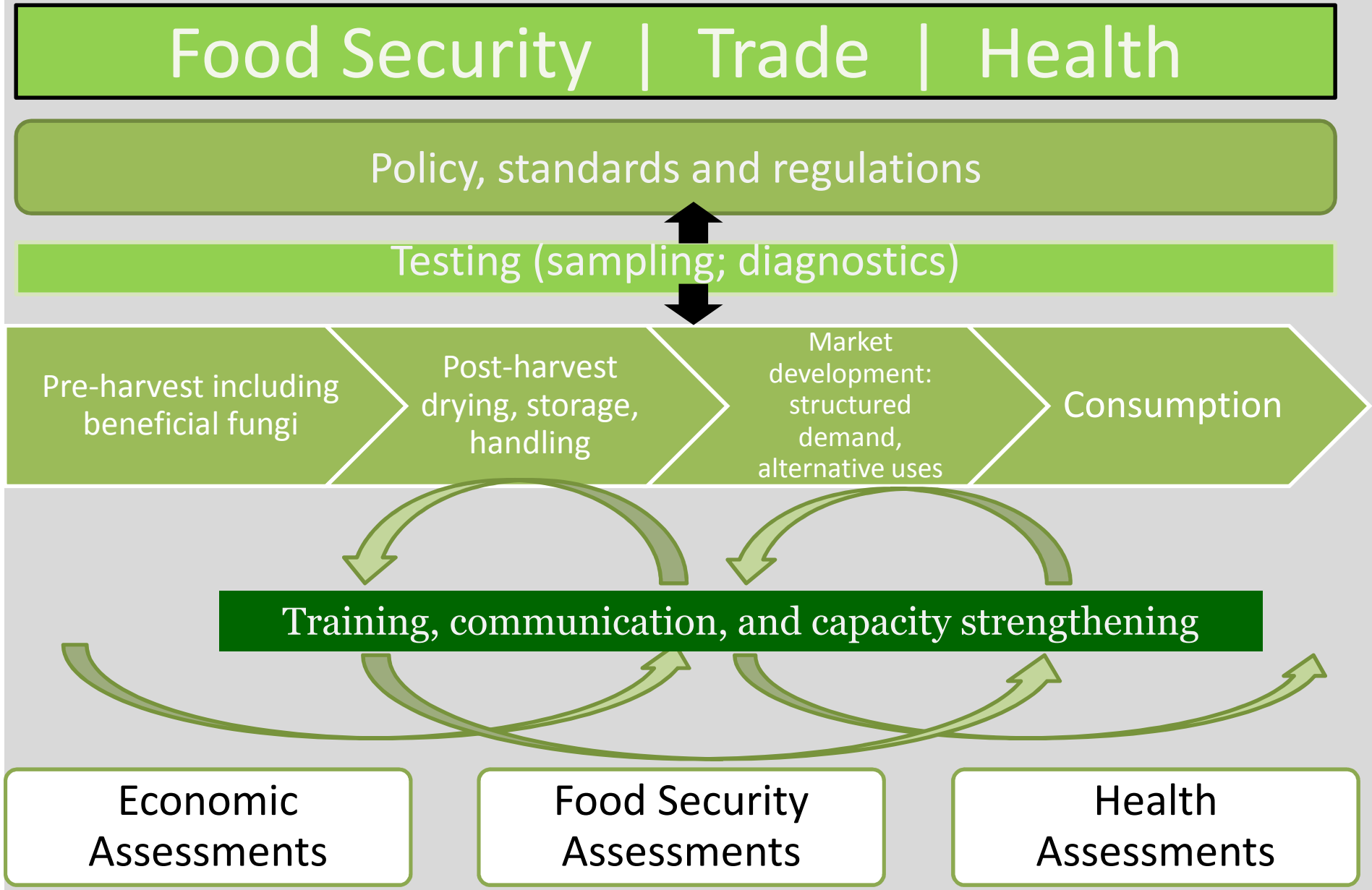
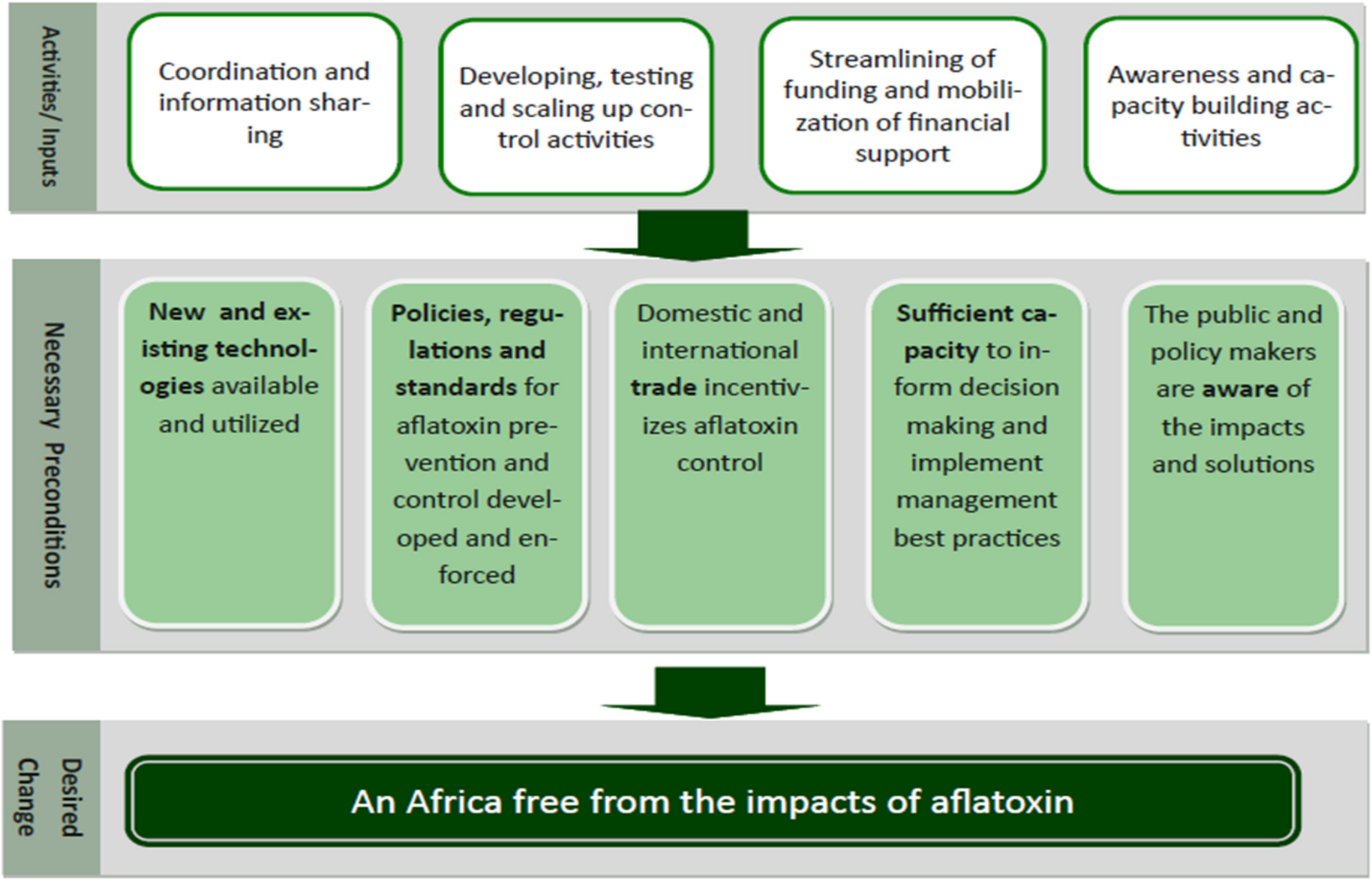
PACA's engagement approaches

- PACA aims at mainstreaming aflatoxin control in existing mechanisms:
  - the CAADP framework
  - Health and nutrition frameworks
- RECs, Member States, Technical Organizations, Private Sector and CSGs and take lead in implementation of PACA's Strategic Plan
- PACA's partner engagement guideline is under review by stakeholders

PACA Comprehensive Program



PACA's theory of change



The PACA Strategy

2013 - 2022

Strategy Development Process

- Key actors involved: AUC, experts, donors, CSGs, etc.
- Strategy development consultation workshop held in April 2013
- Drafting by consulting firm – PICO
- Comment and thorough review and refinement, technical accuracy by Secretariat
- Review by Strategy Workshop participants
- Incorporation of comments
- Steering Committee endorsement

Strategy document

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Background and context
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Vision, Mission of PACA
- Guiding principles and role of PCA
- Strategic thematic areas
- “Making it happen” section

Strategic Thematic Areas of Work

1. Research and technology for prevention and control of aflatoxins
2. Policies, legislation and standards for the management of aflatoxins
3. Growing commerce and trade and protecting human health from aflatoxins
4. Enhancing capacity for effective aflatoxin prevention and control
5. Public awareness, advocacy and communication

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Conclusion

- Aflatoxins are insidious poisons that affect public health, trade and food security
- Aflatoxin contamination is a complex problem that can be addressed through integrated measures and coordinated actions
- The competitiveness of the African agriculture is seriously undermined unless the aflatoxin problem is addressed proactively
- Member States, RECs and AUC are prioritizing aflatoxins in their agenda, but more needs to be done in terms of institutionalizing aflatoxin control

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