

PACA

Partnership for
Aflatoxin Control
in Africa

Strategy Overview



The Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) envisions an **Africa free from the harmful effects of Aflatoxins**. It's on a mission **to support agricultural development, safeguard consumer health and facilitate trade by catalyzing, coordinating and increasing effective Aflatoxin control along agricultural value chains in Africa**.

This innovative partnership – the only one of its kind in the world – unites over 50 organizations and is supported by all 54 countries of the African Union in the fight against aflatoxins. The partnership members, comprised of Regional Economic Communities (RECS), Government Ministries, Research Institutions, African and Global Companies, NGOs, universities, Private Sector Companies, Farmers Organizations amongst others, coordinate their efforts to fight aflatoxins in myriad various activities. PACA provides strategic leadership and coordination to catalyze the development of evidence-based comprehensive actions for aflatoxin control.

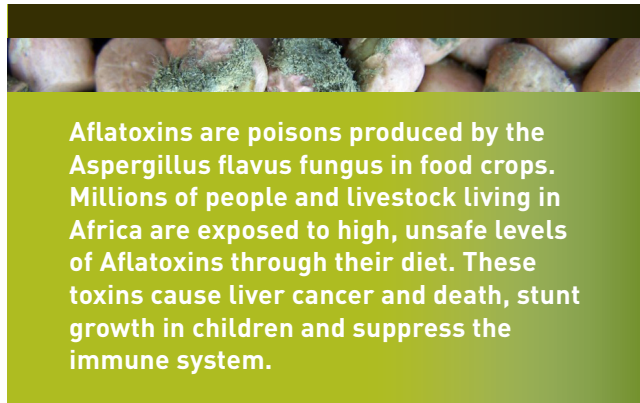


PACA community members support:

- **Research:** That provides new knowledge and information and increases understanding of aflatoxins
- **Solutions:** Development of new technologies, crop varieties and bio-control mechanisms such as Aflasafe
- **Training value chain actors:** As the first line of defense against aflatoxins
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthening institutions fighting against aflatoxins
- **Testing:** Ensuring commodities meet stipulated standards to protect human and livestock health
- **Policy development:** Development of a facilitative aflatoxin policy environment in African countries
- **Awareness:** Increasing knowledge about aflatoxins amongst key stakeholders and the general public

The PACA Secretariat

Hosted at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, the PACA Secretariat plays a critical strategic leadership and coordination role in Africa's fight against aflatoxins. Its unique position allows it to provide cutting edge guidance from policy to implementation to both RECs and African Governments. Under the guidance of a multi-sector Steering Committee, the PACA Secretariat plays three essential roles as Convener, Knowledge Manager and Financial Resources Provider. The Secretariat works at the continental, regional and country level, giving it an edge on trans-boundary aflatoxin activities, policy development and knowledge management.



PACA Secretariat's key roles:

Convener: Mobilizes forums bringing together Governments, RECs, research institutions, development organizations and donors involved in the fight against aflatoxins to identify issues and develop solutions, take stock of the progress and gains made, exchange knowledge and information, and share best practices. This underpins cooperation amongst partners, and supports trans-boundary initiatives, learning and replication of successful interventions.

Knowledge Manager: Gathers, organizes and disseminates existing research, information, knowledge, evidence, best practices and success stories to support various stakeholders and initiatives involved in the fight against Aflatoxins. PACA Secretariat also supports decision making on resource allocation by Governments and donors, policy formulation and the evaluation of impact and progress in the war against Aflatoxins. PACA facilitates the development of new materials to fill existing information gaps.

PACA Strategy

The PACA Community of Practice worked together in 2013 to develop PACA's 2013-2022 Strategy, which is built on four main strategic themes. These include:



Financial Resources Provider: Funds initiatives in targeted countries on evidence generation, procurement of aflatoxin testing equipment, the provision of technical assistance and capacity support for governments in the development of country plans and appropriate aflatoxin policies.

Research and technology for the prevention and control of aflatoxins: Under this strategic theme, the PACA community is developing affordable and appropriate solutions that control the aflatoxin threat, including:

- Generating information and evidence to inform interventions
- Facilitating adaption and wider adoption of available technologies and knowledge to improve aflatoxin prevention and control
- Developing new technologies and knowledge to inform aflatoxin prevention and control
- Enhancing access to research facilities

Policies, legislation and standards for the management of aflatoxins: An enabling policy environment is critical in the fight against aflatoxins. PACA is working with Governments, RECs and other partners in:

- Critical policy analysis and formulation
- Facilitating policy advocacy
- Leading development of, and compliance with, standards and regulations

Growing commerce and trade and protecting human health from aflatoxins: Africa loses nearly USD \$450 million annually in trade opportunities due to aflatoxin contamination. Controlling aflatoxins opens markets,

creating incomes, employment and facilitating economic growth. PACA:

- Facilitates growth in trade and commerce in priority aflatoxin prone commodities
- Creates incentives that incentivize aflatoxin management

Enhancing capacity for effective aflatoxin prevention and control: Africa still lacks the required capacity in aflatoxin research, testing, training and policy formulation. Under this strategic theme, PACA community is:

- Increasing capacity for risk assessment in African institutions to inform decision making
- Improving institutional competency and infrastructure for aflatoxin diagnosis in crop and livestock communities and humans
- Improving capacity of value chain actors, civil society organizations and health practitioners to implement aflatoxin best management practices

Public awareness, advocacy and communication: The fight against aflatoxins will only be won with the support of an array of stakeholders and value chain actors, including farmers, consumers, food processors, and traders among others. Awareness is critical in increasing their understanding of aflatoxins and getting them involved. PACA community is:

- Increasing public awareness, information sharing and knowledge on aflatoxin contamination and health risks
- Improving policy and political will through targeted communication

PACA In Action!

In implementing its strategic plan, the PACA Secretariat, housed in the African Union Commission, conducts the following activities:

<p>Building an increased understanding and knowledge base of aflatoxin's prevalence and impacts through literature reviews, country situation analysis, economic analysis, health and impact studies control interventions.</p>	<p>Building capacity to implement aflatoxin prevention and control activities in an intergrated manner through the development of low cost diagnostic tests, training of farmers, capacity building in testing facilities, technical assistance, establishing regional standards, strengthening food safety systems and exploring alternative uses.</p>	<p>Developing and scaling up existing and new technologies for preventing aflatoxin both pre-and post-harvest through variety improvement, food processing techniques, scaling up biological control and improving and disseminating low-cost and drying technologies.</p>	<p>Working with Governments in 6 pilot countries (Gambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda) to develop and support implementation of comprehensive Aflatoxin Control Country Action Plans that support the development of an appropriate policy environment.</p>	<p>Spearheading the Aflatoxin Information Management System (Africa AIMS) which is cataloguing activities on aflatoxin in Africa such as research and analysis, data testing, development of new control technologies, scaling up existing technologies and building capacity among key actors on the agricultural value-chains. This offers a one-stop shop for all Aflatoxin resources in Africa.</p>
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PACA is catalyzing and marshaling efforts across Africa to capture synergies, avoid duplication and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions against aflatoxins. It coordinates and supports implementation of activities through a holistic and integrated approach by stakeholders.

PACA supports capacity enhancement in government and Regional Economic Communities to enable them to prevent and control aflatoxins. Though African Governments are key to the development of appropriate policies and structures, as well as long term sustainability of interventions through the provision of resources, few organizations focus on them. PACA has been leveraging its influence under the African Union Commission to support this critical stakeholder as part of its strategy against aflatoxins.

PACA's interventions will contribute to improved incomes, reduced poverty and greater employment opportunities among farmers and other value chain actors through emerging trade opportunities from aflatoxin safe commodities. It will help women farmers achieve food security through the consumption of adequate, nutritious and quality foods. It will contribute to reduced child stunting, liver cancer and the consequent mortality that it causes.



PACA Steering Committee Members

African Union Commission

(represented by Dr. Janet Edeme)

African Society of Mycotoxicologists

(represented by Dr. Bradley Flett)

Amref Health Africa

(represented by Dr. Florence Temu)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

(represented by Mr. Orin Hasson)

Consumers International

(represented by Ms. Onica Makwakwa and Mr. Henry Kimera)

East African Community

(represented by Dr. Timothy Wesonga)

East African Farmers Federation

(represented by Mr. Stephen Muchiri)

Economic Community of West African States

(represented by Mr. Ernest Aubee)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(represented by Dr. Jean Kamanzi and Mr. Mohamed Ag Bendeck)

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

(represented by Dr. Nelson Ojijo and Dr. Wole Fatunbi)

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

(represented by Ms. Bonnie McClafferty and Mr. Penjani Mkambula)

International Institute for Tropical Agriculture

(represented by Dr. Ranajit Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Victor Manyong)

Mars, Incorporated

(represented by Dr. David Crean and Dr. Victor Nwosu)

Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium

(represented by Ms. Lucy Muchoki and Mr. Cris Muyunda)

US Agency for International Development

(represented by Mr. Jeff Hill and Mr. Patterson Brown)

PACA Secretariat

(represented by Dr. Amare Ayalew)

More information about PACA visit:

www.aflatoxinpartnership.org

or contact

info@aflatoxinpartnership.org



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