Malawi Country Biennial Report

Presented by
Mphatso Dakamau

at the second PACA Partnership Platform Meeting
11 October, 2016
Entebbe, Uganda
Outline

• Background
  • Objectives of MAPAC
  • Aflatoxin Problem in Malawi
  • Call for Action

• Key Activities and Achievements (2014 – 2016)

• Challenges and Proposed Solutions

• Prospects for 2017 - 2018
Background

• The PACA was called into being in 2011

• In 2013, PACA developed its ten year strategy (2013-2022)

• PACA strategy recognizes that central to the aflatoxin issues, governments have influence through policies and implementation of behavioral initiatives

• Malawi was selected to be part of PACA Pilot Countries for 2014

• Malawi’s prevention and control of Aflatoxins is guided by the Malawi Program for Aflatoxin Control
### Objectives of MAPAC

**Objective:** To develop Malawi’s capacity to effectively control aflatoxin in key value chains

**Three Main Components**

- To mainstream Good Practices and Technologies into key Value Chains
- To strengthen the Testing, Standards & Policies
- To create Public awareness, advocacy, and consumer education
Aflatoxin Problem in Malawi

- Abundance of *A. flavus* in the soil ranged from 829–16,108 colony forming units per gram
- Aflatoxin contamination in groundnut ranged from 0.0 - 3,871 ppb
- Aflatoxin contamination in maize ranged from 0.0 - 1,335 ppb
- 60% of groundnuts produced was used for domestic consumption
- 100% of the maize produced in the country is for domestic consumption
- Over 35% of farmers in Malawi were NOT aware of aflatoxins
- 73% of the g/nuts samples had aflatoxin levels more than EU acceptance limit
- Between 2005-2008, Malawi registered a total of 10 groundnuts container rejections at EU Borders

*Source: Monyo et al, 2009 and ICRISAT, 2009*
Government’s Call for action

“As Government, we are aware that dietary exposure to aflatoxin contaminated groundnuts-based and maize-based products has been associated with various human health-related conditions including the high incidence of liver cancer, growth retardation in children, reproduction impairment and the suppression of cell-mediated immune responses. It is for this reason that interventions to control aflatoxin will go a long way in minimizing the problems of aflatoxins in maize, groundnuts, and other crops”

Honourable Dr George Chaponda, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016

Establishment of ATWGs and PACA Focal Points and Engaging policy makers

Achievements

- Establishment of MAPAC
- The former Minister of Agriculture, Dr Allan Chiyembekeza was the Champion of aflatoxin in Malawi
- Ministry of Industry and Trade raises funds for MAPAC implementation
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development through the DARS is the current Chair-person of MATWG
- Increased traction of the MATWG. Key stakeholders participate in MATWG (i.e. Consumers Association of Malawi, Malawi Bureau of Standards, FAO and WHO)
Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016 ....

Establishing the Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System

- One of the major challenges in mitigating aflatoxin in Africa is the lack of adequate information and harmonized data collection on the subject.
- Information is needed to
  - inform policy and interventions
  - inform prioritization of resource allocation;
  - promote country capacity and awareness on the aflatoxin issue.
Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016 ......

Establishment of AfricaAIMS

• Upgraded the capacity of Chitedze Laboratory (through the provision of new equipment) to be able to conduct aflatoxin analysis.

• Built the capacity of 20 Malawi experts in data analysis and submission on AfricaAIMS through the ARIS II interface

• 1,500 samples of soil and grain samples collected across the ecological zones
### Supporting the C-SAAPs

- The country-led C-SAAP aims are to catalyze strategic action in countries affected.
- Identify existing programs that can integrate aflatoxin control measures; and
- Avoid duplication of efforts.

### Achievements

- Malawi has MAPAC
- MAPAC missed the economic impact of the aflatoxin in Malawi
- C-SAAP focus on strengthen the MAPAC
- Malawi has engaged two independent Consultants to conduct the Aflatoxin Economic Impact Assessment
- Results to be ready end November, 2016.
... Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016 ...

**Mainstream aflatoxin control in NAFSIPs**

- Mainstreaming aflatoxin for more effective and sustainable intervention
- Focus was to:
  - Revise the MAPAC
  - Maintstream aflatoxin in the ASWAp
  - Develop Food Safety and Quality Policy (FSQP) and Food Safety and Quality Bill (FSQB)

**Achievements**

- Set-up National Food Safety Task Team
- Development of a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the FSQP and FSQB
- Initiated process of identifying a consult has to develop FSQP
... Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016

Conduct advocacy on aflatoxin control

- Media involvement has increased
- Produced Communication and Awareness Strategy
- Skills Development Plan
- IEC Materials such as brochures, Posters produced and distributed
## Challenges and Proposed Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
<th>SOLUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tax clearance of equipment for AfricaAIMS was a challenge</td>
<td>Sign letters of agreement between AUC and focal laboratory on use and maintenance of equipment</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Malawi received very little rain in the 2015/2016 agricultural season. This has caused serious water shortages at Chitedze Laboratory – affecting analysis work due to lack of water for distillation and cleaning of glassware after analysis</td>
<td>Install solar water pump for water supply to the Chitedze laboratory</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Delay or slow in maintenance of broken analytical equipment for the laboratory</td>
<td>Centralise some activities to allow the fixing of broken tools within Malawi</td>
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<td>Procurement of some analytical items i.e. chemical reagents to be done locally within the country where possible</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Low knowledge of the impact of aflatoxin by the public</td>
<td>Need to intensify awareness creation intervention</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Inadequate funding for most of the activities</td>
<td>Lobby development partners to support some interventions</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Delayed implementation of the Situation Analysis</td>
<td>Select consultants who have demonstrated capacity and experience in doing similar work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Priorities and Prospects for aflatoxin control in Malawi

Research
To contribute to improving the understanding of the prevalence identification and piloting of cost-effective technological and management solutions
To provide available diversity of technologies to end users

Testing, Standards & Policies
Strengthen the capabilities for diagnostic, sampling and testing of aflatoxins
Develop and Update relevant standards
Supportive regulatory policy framework
Mainstreaming of aflatoxins as a critical component of relevant policies.

Coordination, capacity building and awareness creation
Create awareness and develop capacities across value chains
Training and education programs to facilitate the adoption/piloting of specific technologies
Create networks and sharing knowledge and experiences.
## Budget Estimates for 2017 to 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAPAC Component</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Budget Estimate (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Component 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Identifying and promoting good practice and technologies in aflatoxin control across G/nuts and maize value chains</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scale of the aflatoxin (fumonosis) problem quantified through analyzing blood samples and relating it to dietary intakes</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biocontrol of aflatoxins to reduce maize and groundnut crop contamination deployed/Registration by regulatory authorities</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cost-effective drying, storage and shelling methods are identified and validated</td>
<td>199,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Options for the use of contaminated product and de-contamination of sub-products (oil and cake) in small-scale enterprises identified and validated</td>
<td>113,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AfricaAIMS data regulary updated</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<td>Strengthen learning alliances and thematic hubs as critical platforms for the exchange of experiences among groundnut and maize stakeholders</td>
<td>80,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>892,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Component 2-Testing, Standards and Policies</td>
<td>Facilitate accreditation of Malawi laboratoies to carry out aflatoxin (mycotoxins) analysis in support of monitoring systems, research projects and commercial services to the industry</td>
<td>350,000</td>
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<td>Develop and implement the Food Safety and Quality Policy and Bill</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<td>Mainstream Aflatoxins as a core part of agriculture, nutrition &amp; health, and trade policies</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>865,000</strong></td>
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<td>MAPAC Component</td>
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<td>Component 3</td>
<td>Strenghthen capacities for effective aflatoxin control, and of extension services (public and private)</td>
<td>230,000</td>
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<td>Pilot, mainstream and promote effective awareness, training and communication tools and methods through groundnuts and maize value chains</td>
<td>690,000</td>
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<td>Build the capacity of farmers, private sector players and other key actors in effective control of aflatoxin in maize and groundnuts value chains</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<td>Proactive participation in regional and sub-regional initiatives related to aflatoxin control</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,480,000</strong></td>
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Thank you for your attention!