Government of Malawi

Malawi Country Biennial Report

Presented by

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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

Three Main Component

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

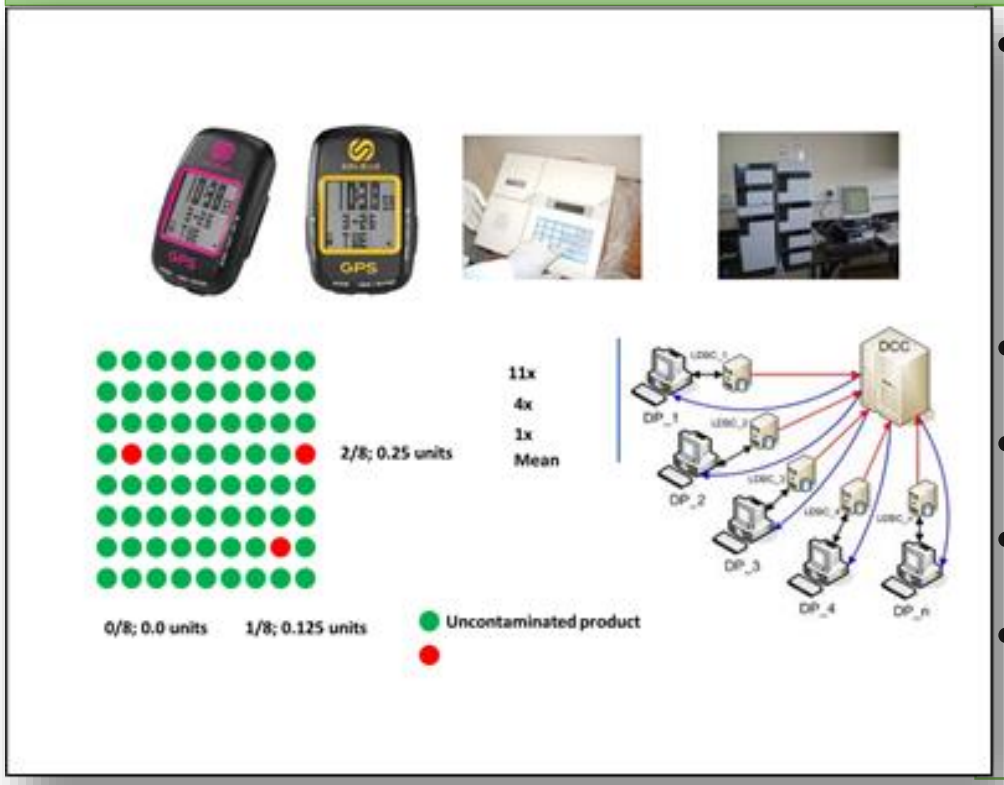
Establishment of ATWGs and PACA Focal Points and Engaging policy makers

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 fo 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

… Key Activities and Achievements between 2014 and 2016 …

Supporting the C-SAAPs	Achievements
• 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	• 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
  - maintsream 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

NO	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
1	Tax clearance of equipment for AfricaAIMS was a challenge	Sign letters of agreement between AUC and focal laboratory on use and maintenance of equipment
2	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	Install solar water pump for water supply to the Chitedze laboratory
3	Delay or slow in maintenance of broken analytical equipment for the laboratory	Centralise some activities to allow the fixing of broken tools within Malawi Procurement of some analytical items i.e. chemical reagents to be done locally within the country where possible
4	Low knowledge of the impact of aflatoxin by the public	Need to intensify awareness creation intervention
5	Inadequate funding for most of the activities	Lobby development partners to support some interventions
6	Delayed implementation of the Situation Analysis	Select consultants who have demonstrated capacity and experience in doing similar work

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

MAPAC Component	Interventions	Budget Estimate (USD)
Component 1 **Identifying and promoting good practice and technologiesin aflatoxin control across G/nuts and maize value chains**	Scale of the aflatoxin (fumonosis) problem quantified through analyzing blood samples and relating it to dietary intakes	100,000
	Biocontrol of aflatoxins to reduce maize and groundnut crop contamination deployed/Registration by regulatory authorities	200,000
	Cost-effective drying, storage and shelling methods are identified and validated	199,000
	Options for the use of contaminated product and de-contamination of sub-products (oil and cake) in small-scale enterprises identified and validated	113,000
	AfricaAIMS data regulary updated	200,000
	Stregthen learning alliances and thematic hubs as critical platforms for the exchange of experiences among groundnut and maize stakeholders	80,000
	SUB-TOTAL	**892,000**

Budget Estimates for 2017 to 2018

MAPAC Component	Interventions	Budget Estimate (USD)
Component 2- Testing, Standards and Policies		
	Facilitate accreditation of Malawi laboratoies to carry out aflatoxin (mycotoxins) analysis in support of monitoring systems, research projects and commercial services to the industry	350,000
	Develop and implement the Food Safety and Quality Policy and Bill	500,000
	Mainstream Aflatoxins as a core part of agriculture, nutrition & health, and trade policies	15,000
	SUB-TOTAL	**865,000**

MAPAC Component	Interventions	Budget Estimate (USD)
Component 3 Public awareness, advocacy, and consumer education	Stregnthen capacities for effective aflatoxin control, and of extension services (public and private)	230,000
	Pilot, mainstream and promote effective awareness, training and communication tools and methods through groundnuts and maize value chains	690,000
	Build the capacity of farmers, private sector players and other key actors in effective control of aflatoxin in maize and groundnuts value chains	500,000
	Proactive participation in regional and sub-regional initiatives related to aflatoxin control	60,000
	SUB-TOTAL	**1,480,000**

Contacts

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Thank you for your attention!