REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

Hon. Amelia Kyambadde (MP)

At The

The 2nd Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) Meeting

11th October, 2016
Imperial Resort Beach Hotel Entebbe, Uganda
DIGNATARIES PRESENT

- Your Excellency, Rhoda Tumusiime; Commissioner Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission,
- Director General, EAC
- Hon, Members of Parliament Present
- Heads of Diplomatic Missions Present
DIGNATARIES PRESENT

- Development Partners
- Representatives from Public Institutions
- Representatives from Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Media Fraternity
- Distinguished Delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen
WELCOME NOTE

I welcome you all to this important continental forum that brings us together to deliberate and chart a way forward to address the challenge posed by aflatoxins.
Structure of the Presentation

- Uganda at Glance
- Aflatoxins Challenge in Africa
- Socio-Economic Impacts of Aflatoxins
- Strategic Actions undertaken by MTIC
- Conclusion
UGANDA, THE PEARL OF AFRICA-
Trade and Investment Guided by the National Vision

Vision of National Development Plan (NDP)

“A transformed Ugandan Society from a peasant to a modern & prosperous country within 30 years.” (set in 2010)

Elements of NDP

- Stability & Peace
- Knowledge based economy
- Exploitation of resources gainfully & sustainably
- A strong federated East Africa with an effective African Common market,
- Private Sector led economy

Uganda Vision 2040 stresses the above
MARKET

Uganda - 38* million
East Africa - 180* million
Great Lakes - 190* million
COMESA - 19 member countries
- 489 million people.

- Region Imports over USD 150bn p.a.
- Tripartite: COMESA, EAC & SADC -
  ▪ 26 member countries
  ▪ 632 million people (57% of Africa’s Population)
  ▪ USD 1.3 Trillion GDP

AGOA - US
EU – EBA
China – Easy Access
Japan – over 173 agric. Products
Wildlife and Tourism
Cross Boarder Trade
What are Aflatoxins?

- Aflatoxins are naturally occurring toxins produced by certain fungi, scientifically named as *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*.

- The fungus can be recognized by a gray-green or yellow-green mold growing on the affected crop in the field or in storage.
What are Aflatoxins?

Aflatoxins contaminate many African dietary staples such as:

- Maize, Groundnuts, Rice, and Cassava,

This occurs under certain conditions of:

- Dry weather near crop maturity,
- High moisture during harvest, poor drying and storage of crops.

Countries in latitudes between 40°N and 40°S—which covers many Africa Countries—are susceptible to aflatoxin.
CROPS AT RISK OF MYCOTOXINS

e.g. Aflatoxins
EXAMPLES OF AFFECTED CROPS
DIARY INDUSTRY AT RISK
POULTRY AT RISK
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AFLATOXINS

• **Disease Burden** Consuming aflatoxin contaminated foods by humans and animals poses high risks to diseases such as Liver cancer, Hepatitis B, and potential association with stunting and immuno-suppression.

• **5-30%** of all liver cancer cases globally is linked to high exposure of aflatoxins.

• **Africa**, registers a high incidence of **40%** for liver cancer.
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AFLATOXINS

- Contamination in staples such as maize, sorghum and groundnuts can directly reduce availability of Food.
- Aflatoxins contaminate almost \( \frac{1}{4} \) of Global food and feeds for Animal and Poultry.
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AFLATOXINS

In most vulnerable populations, higher exposure of aflatoxins leads to:

**Pregnant Women:** High anemia, give birth to underweight babies and high maternal mortality

**Children:** Stunted growth and cognitive development

- Over 4.5 billion people chronically exposed to Aflatoxin (WHO, 2004)
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AFLATOXINS

• Reduces the competitiveness of African Agricultural commodities in the export markets
• Lowers product quality and discounts export values, which leads to significant economic losses
• Losses of Aflatoxin undermines efforts to streamline SPS issues
• 64% reduction in Food Quality in Africa (WHO, 2001)
• Regulatory limits on Aflatoxin impact Africa’s export trade and income
SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AFLATOXINS

For Uganda,

• Our geographical position in the tropics, climate and weather present a very conducive conditions for aflatoxins to thrive and infest susceptible food crops
• Unfortunately, the affected crops are some of the upcoming commercially traded commodities upon which the population could use to improve their lives.
• In real monetary terms, Aflatoxins impact on trade indicate a loss of US. Dollars 37.56 million and makes our agriculture products less competitive on the market.
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

With Support from African Union Commission;

- Have established the National Mycotoxin Mitigation Steering Committee with representation of public and private sectors, Chaired by MAAIF
- Have established the Aflatoxin Technical Working Group on R and D; hosted by Makerere University- School of Food Science, Headed by Professor Achilles Kaaya
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

Improved the Policy and Legal Framework

National Trade Policy, 2008
National Cooperative Policy 2010
National Standard and Quality Policy, 2012
National Grains and Cereal Trade Policy, 2015, among others
The Warehouse Receipt System Act, 2006
The UNBS Act (Amended in 2013)
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

• In collaboration with the Private Sector, we have constructed Standard Silos and Warehouses Facilities that can ensure effective storage, cleaning, drying, grading, and packaging services that are critical for quality assurance.

• Under UWRSA we have certified 35 storage facilities with capacity 165,400MTs

• Another 92 warehouses have been inspected across the country for certification

We plan to construct additional storage of 700,000MTs in partnership with the Private Sector to increase our Capacity.
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

• In collaboration with UWRSA, UNBS, UN-WFP and the Private Sector we have trained warehouse operators and commodity handlers from 35 facilities about testing for mycotoxins and grading of commodities.

• We have established the Commodities Exchange (UNCE) which emphasises trading in commodities that conform to regional and international standards by use of Warehouse Receipts from certified, standardised warehouses.
NYAKANTONZI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY: STORAGE FACILITY
INSPECTION OF THE STORAGE FACILITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
BY Hon MTIC & MAAIF
H.E, YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI LAUNCHING THE GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY IN NWOYA DISTRICT
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

UNBS has developed and made available the relevant food and agriculture standards to ensure human and livestock safety and within the context of Mycotoxins. These are;

- **the Code of practice** for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals, US CAC/RCP 51-2003 {revised in 2004}
UGANDA’S ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE AFLATOXIN CHALLENGE

- Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins contamination in peanuts.
- Enhanced the Capacity of UNBS with testing equipment to test the cereal products for compliance to Standards.
- Supported MSMEs to certify their products, 250 Certification permits issued.
- Increased public awareness on safety and quality.
Conclusion

As I conclude, I note the following that Aflatoxins:

- There is still low public awareness about this problem
- Hard to solve by a single actor or discipline
- Requires multi stakeholder approach
- Activities for implementation should focus on the cause not the symptoms
Conclusion

✓ Thank AUC and the National Organizing Committee for coordinating and arranging this important event in Uganda
✓ This platform will enable you share information and experiences
✓ Urge you to come up with sustainable solutions and a clear road map to reduce the Aflatoxins to acceptable levels.
Thank you

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