



The Republic of Uganda

**Speech by Honorable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
Industry and Fisheries**

Aflatoxin Pattern-ship Platform Meeting (PPM)

VENUE: IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL

DATE: 11 - 13TH OCTOBER 2016

Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Uganda,
Your Excellency, Doctor Jakaya Kikwete,
Your Excellency, Janet Edeme, Acting Director, Rural Economy and
Agriculture of the African Union Commission,
Your Excellency, Rhoda Tumusiime; Commissioner Rural Economy
and Agriculture of the African Union Commission,
Your Excellency, Heads of Diplomatic Missions Present;
Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliament Present
Development Partners;
Representatives from public institutions;
Representatives from Civil Society and Private Sector;
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Permit me to once again welcome you to this important meeting and our Country at large. As you know already, we are here as a continent to reflect, advance and forge strategies that should enable collective responsibility in the effective management and control of Aflatoxins on the continent.

As you are probably aware, Aflatoxins have been associated with liver cancer which is a potentially public health problem in Africa and in my country Uganda. In the agriculture sector the major impact is in the health and productivity of poultry and fish due to contaminated feeds and the rejection of contaminated agriculture products in the target markets. It will therefore be hard to fully develop our agriculture sector on the continent without management of aflatoxins . Needless to emphasize therefore, aflatoxin have wide spread negative impacts on health, food security, trade and the overall regional economy. Therefore, it will be hard for us to realize our CAADP development aspirations without management of aflatoxin on the continent.

At this juncture, I am happy to note the leadership that AU through PACA has provided for aflatoxin control and prevention on the continent. Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen; my country is strongly committed to the implementation of the AU-NEPAD's CAADP that aims to accelerate growth and eliminate poverty; and to-date, the country has signed the CAADP Compact and also mainstreamed CAADP Pillars into the national Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan.

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In this regard, my Ministry and the country at large will embrace Aflatoxins mitigation under its Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP for the period 2015/2016 to 2019/2020), and also takes into account the multi-disciplinary roles of agriculture, health and trade ministries in the mitigation of the harmful effects of Aflatoxins in the country. My ministry therefore pledges total commitment to working closely with other stakeholders at national and continental level in interventions geared towards prevention and control of Aflatoxins on the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me to mention and outline achievements that the country has made in confronting Aflatoxins and moreover with AU-PACA support. These include-: the mapping of Aflatoxins distribution and prevalence on major foods, elaborating national plan of action for mitigation with of aflatoxins, instituting a National Mycotoxins Mitigation Steering Committee and holding a business meeting for possible funding of the national aflatoxin mitigation action plan, recently in late July, this year. A mycotoxin coordination secretariat is also in the process of being set up at the Ministry.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

My sincere compliments go to the African Union Commission especially the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, for the efforts they have put in place to ensure Aflatoxin menace is managed to acceptable levels in Africa, and in particular, selecting Uganda to be the 1st country outside the AU headquarters to host the 2nd [Partnership Platform Meeting](#). I also take this opportunity to thank development partners who have funded this meeting and other aflatoxin mitigation initiatives on the continent.

Let us be here, deliberate and forge a workable way forward, taking into account the available resources on the continent if we are to achieve our objectives as well as prioritize our social obligations of impacting human lives around us.

Last but not least, ~~also,~~ permit me to use this opportunity to convey my appreciation to my countrymen and all people in Africa who have put in their time, energy and resources in the fight against this aflatoxin menace on our continent. I am convinced, if we join forces together in the continent as evidenced in today's [PACA Partnership Platform Meeting](#), it is possible to sustainably rid our continent of aflatoxin and thus contribute to the wealth and health of our people.

I thank you so much.

For God and My Country

Hon. Minister Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
Entebbe-Uganda