

Workshop on the Aflatoxin Challenge in West African States

Parallel Working Groups: TRADE

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PART A: **Challenges**, Opportunities, and Solutions

- Difficulty in meeting export standards
 - Standards are too high
 - Export rejects
 - Down-grading of products hence low price is offered
- Standards are not harmonized in West Africa
- Difficulty in reducing aflatoxin level
- Countries do not focus on groups that give them competitive advantage
- Lack of focus on control of aflatoxin in domestic markets
- Too much focus on the international market to the detriment of local, sub-regional and regional markets

PART A: **Challenges**, Opportunities, and Solutions

- Lack of standards for specific food products e.g., maize, maize flour, groundnut paste
- Absence of aflatoxin standard developed based on our consumption patterns
- Lack of testing laboratories
- Some W/A countries do not have standards embedded in their food safety legislation
- Lack of focus on the informal markets (major food traders)
- Awareness is limited to large-scale traders (not the entire food chain)
- Lack of data on the actual economic losses due to aflatoxin contamination

PART A: Challenges, **Opportunities**, and Solutions

- Existing business (market) opportunities
- Governments' awareness of aflatoxin problem
- High demand for aflatoxin susceptible products in W/A and other international countries
- A number of policies within ECOWAS into which we can integrate aflatoxin issues
- Many initiatives and activities are already on-going in W/A that can be leveraged- there are learning opportunities

PART A: Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions

- Create awareness across the entire value chain
- Establish functional and certified laboratories – countries should learn best practices
- Create standards for both human food and animal feed
- Set-up regulatory body for the informal markets
- Capacity building on best practices
- Infrastructure development e.g., dryers, storage facilities, testing kits, build modern markets with sheds and storage facilities
- Socio-economic research on actual economic losses
- Public and private sector investment in aflatoxin reduction technologies

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Solution	Prioritization
1. Awareness creation	Short-term
2. Capacity building-	Short-mid term
3. Establish standards	mid-long term
4. Set up laboratories	mid-long term
5. Set up regulatory bodies for the informal markets	mid-term
6. Infrastructural development	Short-mid-long term
7. Investment in technology	mid-long term
8. Research	mid-long term

PART B: Sequencing, **Prioritization** and Solution Description

- **Top Four Solutions**

1. Awareness creation and capacity building
2. Setting standards and regulations (including regulatory bodies for the informal markets)
3. Infrastructural development
4. Innovation and investment in technology

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 1: Awareness creation and capacity building- What could be done?

- Design a country strategy and harmonize it across the region
- Organize country and regional workshops
- Policy advocacy at country level
- Create national Mycotoxin Associations and they should be formalized
- Establish a W/African aflatoxin awareness Day

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 1: Awareness creation and capacity building- Who will take the lead?

- Multi-stakeholders involvement
- Public,
- Private
- Civil society

Lead Ministry: Ministry of Trade

Other stakeholders: Active participation

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

**Activity 1: Awareness creation and capacity building-
How could it be accomplished, next steps?**

- These could be accomplished through **Human** and **Financial** resource mobilization

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 2: Standards and regulations--**What could be done?**

- Set up committees to come up with standards and regulations
- Draft standards and regulations to be validated at country levels
- Establish institutions to administer the standards and regulations
- Awareness creation on the standards
- Monitoring the effective implementation of the standards
- Organize workshops and seminars to harmonize countries' standards and regulations into the regional standards and regulations

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 2: Standards and regulations--Who will take the lead?

- Technical departments (Technocrats),
- Private sector,
- Civil society and farmers

Lead: National Governments and ECOWAS

Other stakeholders: Implementation

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 2: Standards and Regulations- How could it be accomplished, next steps?

- Through financial and human resource mobilization

Next Steps:

- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 3: Infrastructural development including laboratories--**What could be done?**

- Set up a Committee of experts to take stock of existing national and regional infrastructure as well as available human resource:
- Conduct a needs assessment, find the gaps and fill them
- Financial and Human resource mobilization

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 3: Infrastructural development including laboratories--Who will take the lead?

- Regional (ECOWAS) and National
- Scientists
- Private Sector

Lead: Committee of experts comprising of regional and national scientists and private sector

Other: Assist in the financial resource mobilization and support the process

PART B: Sequencing, Prioritization and Solution Description

Activity 3: Infrastructural development including laboratories-- How could it be accomplished, next steps?

- Through financial and human resource mobilization (internal and external)

Next Steps:

- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation

PART C: Mainstreaming aflatoxin issues in national frameworks:

Relevant National Level Frameworks/Policies/Initiatives

- **Nigeria**--NAVDAC
- **Senegal**-- institute of food technology, using aflasafe, exports have a standard- phytosanitary certificate – DPV, quarantine, framework for importing grain needs to be enforced in informal trade.
- **Gambia**--national standards, standards beaurau. CODEX committee has got standards for various crops. Food Law— control levels of aflatoxins in the local market

Regional Level Frameworks/Policies/Initiatives -- ??

Medaase!

