



Partnership
for Aflatoxin
Control in Africa

Partenariat pour
la lutte contre
l'aflatoxine en Afrique

Parceria para o
Controle da
Aflatoxina em África

الشراكة من أجل مكافحة
الافلاتوكسين في أفريقيا



The First PACA Partnership Platform Meeting

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT.....	3
1.1. BACKGROUND	3
1.2. CONTEXT – THE PACA PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM	3
2. PROCESS SUMMARY	5
3. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
3.1. UPDATE ON PACA, PACA PILOT COUNTRIES AND ONGOING AFLATOXIN ACTIVITIES (SESSIONS 3 AND 5).....	6
3.2. ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION (SESSION 4).....	7
3.3. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY PLANS AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS (SESSION 6)	8
3.4. MARKET PLACE AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS: “DIVING DEEP” DISCUSSIONS (SESSIONS 7-11)	9
3.5. FINANCING OF AFLATOXIN MITIGATION INITIATIVES ON THE CONTINENT (SESSION 12).....	10
3.6. ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS FOR AFLATOXIN CONTROL (SESSION 13).....	11
3.7. LEARNING FROM RECENT EVENTS (SESSION 14)	13
4. KEY OUTCOMES AND ACTION PLANS	14
4.1. ACTION PLANS BY THEMATIC AREAS	14
<i>Topic 1: Practical Value Chain Management.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Topic 2: Incentives policies, regulations, and markets to change behaviours</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Topic 3: Nutrition and health</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Topic 4: Surveillance and testing</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Topic 5: Communications.....</i>	<i>20</i>
4.2. ACTION PLANS BY COUNTRIES AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES.....	22
4.3. ACTION PLANS BY PACA SECRETARIAT	23
5. WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS.....	23
5.1. KEY MESSAGES FROM THE PACA PPM	23
5.2. NEXT STEPS AFTER THE PACA PPM	24
ANNEX 1: COUNTRY ACTION PLANS	26
ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANT LIST	35

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1. Background

The aflatoxin problem has been recognized as one of the biggest challenges to food and nutrition security, trade, and health across the African continent. Aflatoxins are highly carcinogenic toxins that are produced by strains of the fungi *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. Aflatoxin contamination is a complex problem. The prevention and control of aflatoxins, therefore, requires a comprehensive, systematic, integrated and multi-sectoral approach involving a broad range of stakeholders in Africa and globally. This recognition led to the establishment of the Partnership for Aflatoxin control in Africa (PACA).

PACA was established at the 7th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform meeting held in Yaoundé, Cameroun, in March 2011. It is an innovative consortium that aims at coordinating aflatoxin mitigation and management across the agriculture, health and trade sectors. PACA's overall aim is to support agricultural development, safeguard consumer health and facilitate trade by catalyzing, coordinating and increasing effective aflatoxin control along agricultural value chains in Africa. The PACA initiative seeks to catalyze and marshal efforts across Africa — capturing synergies, avoiding duplication and hence enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation while also facilitating scaling and the mobilization of new resources.

PACA has developed a [10 year Strategy 2013-2022](#), based on stakeholder input provided during the PACA Strategy Development Stakeholder Consultation Workshop held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in April 2013. In the Strategy, stakeholders have identified five complementary strategic thematic areas (STAs) as the focus of work for PACA: a) generating and promoting research and technology for the prevention and control of aflatoxins; b) developing policies, legislation and standards for the management of aflatoxins; c) growing commerce and trade and protecting human health from aflatoxins; d) enhancing capacity for effective aflatoxin prevention and control; and e) increasing public awareness, advocacy and communication. Within these STAs, key results areas (KRAs) have also been identified where interventions will be undertaken by PACA, strategic partners and stakeholders at all levels. Read the PACA Strategy at www.aflatoxinpartnership.org Based on the ten year Strategy, the PACA Secretariat developed a Mid-Term Strategic Plan (2014-2017). The Plan includes actions that need to be undertaken in the mid-term period to bring about tangible results in the control of the aflatoxin problem on the continent.

1.2. Context – The PACA Partnership Platform

The PACA Strategy identifies the **PACA Partnership Platform** as the foundation of the PACA structure. The partnership platform is an innovation platform with broad membership base of diverse partners who have a stake in aflatoxin control in Africa. The platform provides a forum for

information sharing, identification of systemic challenges to aflatoxin prevention and control and co-creation of solutions. The PACA Platform will convene on-going, virtual and face-to-face forums for identifying challenges and co-creating solutions. The Platform Meeting is the major forum where stakeholders can exchange critical information, share lessons learned, discuss and generate consensus on the most efficient and effective ways to collectively advance PACA's agenda, and is held every two years.

This report summarizes the outputs of the first PACA Partnership Platform Meeting (PPM) held at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7-9 October 2014 under the theme "*Working together to accelerate actions to reduce the harmful effects of aflatoxin in Africa.*" The first PPM coincided with the 2014 African Year of Agriculture and Food Security marking the tenth anniversary of CAADP.

The PPM created a forum for the full array of stakeholders involved in the management of aflatoxins including AUC, RECs, national governments, private sector, health organizations, regulators, civil society groups, and development partners. Specifically, the objectives of the PPM were to: i) provide a means for alignment and synergy with the broader PACA agenda and future direction; ii) exchange information, share experiences and lessons in aflatoxin mitigation and management, including evidence from more recent studies, as well as embracing the PACA Strategy as a driving instrument for attainment of results and impact; iii) share implementation challenges faced to date and obtain perspectives of stakeholders on how these may be addressed; and iv) engage stakeholders to support efforts in the fight against aflatoxins on the African continent. The meeting's expected outcomes were mainly to: realize full commitment from stakeholders on PACA's strategy on tackling the aflatoxin problem; ensure concrete alignment and synergy on strategies capturing best practices and lessons; and endorsement of plans to work together and avoid duplication of efforts.

The PPM brought together 191 participants, drawn from AU Member States (government ministries from agriculture, trade and health), RECs, farmers' organizations, the private sector, civil society, development partners, and the African Union, among others. The Participant List is provided in Annex 2. The PPM served as an information sharing platform which provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to discuss, evaluate, and identify challenges and opportunities, including action areas in the various areas of intervention in 2014 and beyond.

2. PROCESS SUMMARY

The PPM was structured around a total of 18 Working Sessions spanning three days. The Sessions included a mix of: a) Plenary Keynote Addresses, Presentations and Roundtable “Buzz groups” Discussions; b) Panel Discussion Sessions; c) Thematic and Country Breakout Sessions; and d) Gallery Marketplace showcasing participant’s exhibitions and activities. A participatory approach was used throughout with a balance between plenary and breakout sessions, the latter designed to drill deeper on specific issues.

The first day of the PPM on 07 October 2014 was dedicated to “*Sharing of Experiences*”. It started with the official opening session, moderated by Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director of Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, and included welcome remarks by Dr. Amare Ayalew, Program Manager, PACA; Opening Speech by H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC; Keynote Address by Hon. Mrs. Janet Mbeni, Deputy Minister for Industry, Republic of Tanzania; and Keynote Speech by Mr. Jeff Hill, Director of Policy Unit for the Bureau of Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), who also represents development partners on the PACA Steering Committee. The opening session was followed by plenary presentations by PACA Secretariat staff, and two panel discussions on *Activities in the Regions* providing updates from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and *Cross-Cutting Issues in Developing Country Plans and Implementing Actions* focusing on country-level experiences. The day was concluded by a market place exhibition showcasing participant activities through posters and speed presentation (2-minute talk) of their work to provide highlights of current technologies and interventions inspiring participants.

On the second day of the PPM on 08 October 2014, which focussed on “*Deep-Dive Discussions*”, the delegates went into in-depth discussions in five group breakouts to discuss the *State of Knowledge, Technologies, and Best Practices*, and *Partnerships and Institutional Arrangements* to explore opportunities and challenges to improving technical and policy platforms, innovative partnerships and institutional arrangements for abating the harmful effects of aflatoxin. The breakouts also discussed *Actions along the Entire Value Chain* to identify common themes and opportunities to create synergies. The group breakouts were defined around the following five topics that constitute key elements of a comprehensive approach to reduce the harmful effects of aflatoxin:

- 1) *Practical value chain management* – pre- and post-harvest management, processing and alternative uses;
- 2) *Incentives – policies, regulations, and markets* to change behaviours;
- 3) *Nutrition and health interventions* to reduce health effects of aflatoxin exposure;
- 4) *Surveillance and testing* to monitor prevalence and exposure; and
- 5) *Communications* to create awareness of impacts and solutions and advocate for action.

The break-out group discussions were followed by a plenary panel discussion on *Financing of Aflatoxin Mitigation Initiatives on the Continent* before the day concluded with a set of three presentations on *Learning from Recent Events*.

The last day of the PPM was dedicated to “**Defining the Path Forward**”. The day started with a panel discussion on the *Role of Parliament in Developing and Implementing Solutions for Aflatoxin Control*. This was followed by plenary discussions on *Setting Priorities and Defining PACA Community Actions*, and buzz groups at tables, on *Strengthening Regional and Country Actions*, during which participants were organized by country (or group of countries together) to discuss how best to leverage actions by the PACA Secretariat to further advance aflatoxin control at the country and regional levels. The final session covered the *Next Steps and Evaluation* before the closing remarks, given by Mr. Stephen Muchiri of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) on behalf of the PACA Steering Committee.

3. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Update on PACA, PACA Pilot Countries and Ongoing Aflatoxin Activities (Sessions 3 and 5)

The PPM included updates on the progress of PACA and the pilot countries on-going activities which were covered by the following plenary presentations given by PACA Secretariat staff:

- 1) “[State of PACA Report](#)” by Amare Ayalew;
- 2) “[PACA Pilot Country Activities and Next Steps](#)” by Wezi Chunga-Sambo;
- 3) “[Support to country-led food safety and aflatoxin situation analysis and action planning \(PACA Activity 1: C-SAP\)](#)” by Benoit Gnonlonfin; and
- 4) “[Overview of Aflatoxin Actions across Africa](#)” by Winta Sintayehu Gebremariam.

The ensuing Q&A and discussions that followed these presentations generated the following **recommendations**:

- a. That PACA secretariat should **develop a clear strategy for engaging the private sector**;
- b. It was observed that in many countries, the aflatoxin agenda is moving ahead of the food safety agenda. It was recommended that **aflatoxin be used as a trigger to enable countries prioritize strong food control systems**. Aflatoxin mitigation and control activities should be linked to the broader food safety arena so as to be integrated into the national food control systems;
- c. The PACA Secretariat should **explore how non-pilot countries could provide data** for uploading to the AfricaAIMS portal, such as using AU-IBAR’s ARIS2 platform to collect data, if appropriate.

3.2. Activities in the Region (Session 4)

A panel discussion on “*Activities in the Regions*” provided an opportunity for representatives from three RECs – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – to share their experiences in supporting countries as well as the challenges they face in implementing regional strategies on reducing aflatoxin contamination and exposure in countries.

This panel discussion was moderated by Ed Rege, and involved the following panellists:

- William Olaho-Mukani, the Regional Veterinary Governance Project Coordinator, EAC;
- Ernest Aube, Principal Programme Officer and Head of Agriculture, ECOWAS; and
- Martha Byanyima, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Expert, COMESA.

The panel discussion focussed on what RECS are doing, can do and how to work with PACA Secretariat; highlighted the awareness at the regional level; identified priority action areas; identified, acknowledged and elaborated on what should be done to address shortcomings in the current interventions. The panel discussion and the ensuing plenary Q&A highlighted the following on-going **actions, achievements and recommendations**:

1. Aflatoxin is a trans-boundary and multi-country issue and needs to be tackled through regional action. PACA Secretariat should work with and leverage the resources that come through RECs, by identifying and supporting regional actions, to ensure that country actions are complementary to the regional actions.
2. The EAC has developed a Roadmap to addressing aflatoxin challenge in the region. The next steps will involve: i) approval of a regional policy; ii) development of a regional strategy and action plan; and iii) development of a communication strategy on aflatoxin by March 2015.
3. Through the tri-partite framework (with SADC and EAC), COMESA has developed a legal instrument to address food safety, plant health and animal health issues and harmonized food control systems. The next step will be the signing of this instrument by Member States following the completion of the current negotiation on tariffs among the regional blocks.
4. ECOWAS will focus on three priority areas, namely: capacity strengthening for Member States, including better institutional co-ordination and support on infrastructure and expertise; packaging and dissemination of best practices among Member States to create more awareness among the public; and, following up on the financial commitments by governments and partners, building on the 2015 Budget for ECOWAS which has funding allocation for aflatoxin.
5. Stakeholders, particularly in the health sector ***need to gather data and generate evidence on the impacts of aflatoxin*** on human health so as to raise awareness and make a case to policy makers on the required interventions

ECOWAS Regional Lunch Meeting – During the PPM, ECOWAS, represented by Mr. Ernest Aubee, convened an informal lunch meeting with participants from the West Africa region. The meeting focused on sharing information about aflatoxin relevant activities in West Africa, including, but not limited to: PACA Pilot Country activities; ECOWAS Aflatoxin Action Plan; various activities funded by USAID, CORAF, and others in the Gambia, Senegal, and elsewhere in West Africa, and Meridian Institute’s work on agricultural development in Africa. Participants suggested that PACA Secretariat involve sub-regional actors such as CORAF, ACTESA, and ASARECA in pilot country activities in their respective regions. These sub-regional organizations work and fund projects related to aflatoxins. Participants emphasized that ECOWAS’ new program on “quality enforcement in West Africa” should be considered and engaged when addressing issues of standards and regulations in the region. It was also suggested that actions should be taken to ensure that aflatoxins and related issues are reflected in the West African Agriculture Program (WAAP) for greater synergy of activities in the region. Mr. Ernest stated that the regional aflatoxin action plan, developed in early 2014, will be submitted for approval and endorsement with ECOWAS policy makers. Once approved, the document will be validated and presented to the relevant ECOWAS Ministers.

3.3. Cross-Cutting Issues in Developing Country Plans and Implementing Actions (Session 6)

A facilitated panel discussion on “*Cross-Cutting Issues in Developing Country Plans and Implementing Actions*” explored cross-cutting issues, including the following: the approaches to encourage collaboration across agriculture, health, and trade sectors; how to engage public and private sector actors in planning and implementing aflatoxin control actions; aflatoxin and food safety systems; institutional structures needed to support implementation of aflatoxin control actions; and innovative interventions that have shown promise and success.

This panel discussion was moderated by Ed Rege and the panel consisted of:

- Muctarr Sonko, Deputy Director General, Food Safety and Quality Authority, The Gambia
- Isaac Briandt Gokah, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Industry & Trade, Malawi
- Senghor Lamine, Head, Plant Pathology Laboratory, Direction de la Protection Végétaux, Senegal
- Martin Kimanya, Dean, School of Computational and Communication Science and Engineering, The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania
- Abel Atukwase, Senior Lecturer, Department of Food Technology and Nutrition, Makerere University, Uganda.

The **recommendations** from the panel discussions included the following;

1. A **multi-sectoral platform** that involves collaboration among agriculture, health and trade sectors is required as a critical mechanism for coordinating aflatoxin control and

management activities **at country levels**. Countries should develop this collaborative platform and inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanisms based on their unique circumstances and approaches.

2. Panelists identified some of the critical key issues in countries such as the development of a food safety control system (Uganda), capacity building including strengthening laboratory (Gambia) and training on aflatoxin control (Senegal), building a food safety system using aflatoxin as an entry point (Malawi), and raising awareness in terms of the available value chain management options (Tanzania).
3. The need to **scale up the engagement of consumers** in interventions and to ensure that outreach to citizens is done by design and not by default to enable consumers make the right choices in protecting themselves from aflatoxin.
4. In terms of PACA's engagement with countries, the Secretariat should **use the existing institutional frameworks** to the extent possible and should not create parallel structures. However where there is no framework, countries should be facilitated to design the institutional structures – which are best suited for their contexts.

3.4. Market Place and Breakout Sessions: “Diving Deep” Discussions (Sessions 7-11)

During Session 7 (at the end of the first day), participants shared activities, technologies, approaches and other wares, including two-minute “speed presentations” in a *market place* design. Posters and exhibitions were used to showcase many exciting activities/programs and technologies on aflatoxin control and management across Africa. Many participants were elated with the market place exhibition as an opportunity for “sharing of best practices, lessons and experiences” as expressed by participants in the workshop evaluation.

During Sessions 8 to 11, participants self-selected themselves to work in five break-out groups, in two rounds – on the second and the third days, respectively. Each break-out group session included a brief presentation followed by in-depth discussions of state of knowledge and technologies to mitigate aflatoxin, and the opportunities and challenges to improving technical and policy platforms, innovative partnerships and institutional arrangements that reduce the harmful effects of aflatoxin. Summary reports of the five groups are provided in Section 4.1. On *Partnerships and Institutional Arrangements*, the groups focused on what should be done now or done differently to resolve implementation and other challenges in their specific topic areas. Specifically, participants addressed the following tasks:

- 1) What are the most important barriers and challenges to implementation of actions to mitigate aflatoxin?
- 2) What are promising opportunities to resolving implementation and other challenges?
- 3) How can actors create linkages based on shared interests to enhance action and impact?

On *Actions Along the Entire Value Chain*, the groups focused on common themes and opportunities to create synergies across topic areas. Specifically, participants addressed the following tasks:

- 1) What aflatoxin control activities could be scaled up or utilized in other regions?
- 2) Are there ways through which better coordination (among health, agriculture and trade, for example) could improve aflatoxin control?
- 3) How are current institutional arrangements supporting aflatoxin control?

3.5. Financing of Aflatoxin Mitigation Initiatives on the Continent (Session 12)

A facilitated panel discussion on *Financing of Aflatoxin Mitigation Initiatives on the Continent* addressing the specific challenges, opportunities, and innovative ideas to fund actions to reduce harmful effects of aflatoxin provided perspectives from the private sector, public sector and philanthropy. This panel discussion was moderated by Boaz Blackie Keizire, the Head of Agriculture and Food Security Division at African Union Commission. The following panellists were involved in the discussions:

- Emile Victor Coly, Plant Protection Agency Senegal (public sector);
- Mary Onsongo, USAID, East Africa Regional Mission;
- Gerald Masila, CEO of Eastern Africa Grain Council; and
- John McDermott, Director of CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (International Food Policy Research Institute).

Recommendations from the panel discussions included;

1. Funding of aflatoxin mitigation requires ***adequate financing of research, marketing and quality control processes***, including certification.
2. A ***mix of public and private sector funding is*** therefore ***required*** to ensure that financing is not considered as a stand-alone issue, but is part of an integrated process of meeting consumer needs and national development objectives.
3. ***Resources should be aligned in*** two areas: a) ***commercial sector***, which can and will work through public and private funding; and b) the ***informal market***, which should be a priority for research taking a broader food safety approach to addressing the aflatoxin challenge. In the commercial market, the approaches should involve strong incentives and regulations while in the informal market approaches should include development of incentives, and support for capacity building based on solutions developed by local communities.
4. Funding ***support from donors is best realized through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach*** because donors are interested in the end game, including understanding the interconnections between the sectors and how these collectively lead to large impacts.
5. Government and ***public financing of public goods***, including research for technology development, construction of laboratories, training of personnel, and funding of collective

- action interventions such as farmer mobilization, training and strengthening of governance processes ***is essential and are critical*** elements of addressing the aflatoxin challenge.
6. Researchers and research institutions must ***ensure that information, knowledge and technologies reach the end users***, including farmers, journalists, policy makers and industry players
 7. PACA Secretariat should plan to ***provide countries with support to align stakeholders and raise awareness*** on aflatoxin but also to develop clear plans and resource mobilization strategies which includes a mix of donor, private sector and government funding.
 8. There is proposal to ***establish African Food Safety Coordination Mechanism*** based on decisions by the AU Heads of State, which also is expected to address issues of aflatoxin from a food safety perspective at the continental level.
 9. There are ***some interventions that do not require finances***, for example, dietary diversification and behavioral changes. Such interventions should be fast-tracked even as resources are being sought for other resource-demanding activities.
 10. The ***private sector should be encouraged to promote and implement the approach of self-censorship***.
 11. ***Actions to promote and develop markets for aflatoxin free products and food*** represent potential big wins.
 12. PACA should ***consider engaging with innovation funds (e.g. Ashoka Fund) to generate funding for the “missing middle”*** through credible partnership between farmers and retailers.

3.6. Role of Parliament in Developing and Implementing Solutions for Aflatoxin Control (Session 13)

A facilitated panel discussion on *Role of Parliament in Developing and Implementing Solutions for Aflatoxin Control* created a very lively platform of exchange of ideas about the role of Parliamentarians on issues such as, awareness, policy review, policy harmonization, regulations and standards for control of food safety at national and regional levels. The panel discussion was moderated by Ed Rege and had the following two panellists:

- Hon. **Judith Pareno**, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly, serving in the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Tourism; and
- Hon. **Janet Mbene**, Member of the National Assembly, and Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, United Republic of Tanzania.

The following five issues were covered during the rich panel discussions with the two members of parliament:

1. The two parliamentarians expounded on the Parliamentary structures and processes at both the national and regional assemblies. They noted that Parliaments have different

committees with specific sub-committees to deal with issues affecting different sectors such as health, education, agriculture and etc. They further noted that ***it was critical to engage groups of parliamentarians through the relevant Committees and Sub-Committees*** to lobby on specific issues such as aflatoxin control in order to get parliamentarians to support motions for policies and laws. In this way, the sustainability of the issues raised will be ensured by the organs of the parliament – that is, going beyond individual members.

2. They observed that parliamentarians are responsible for representing different constituencies and communities in parliament. Parliamentarians are also accountable to their constituents and are therefore expected to show exemplary performance in their duties.
3. The functions of the regional and national parliaments are the same - to represent people, ensure oversight for and on behalf of the people, and enact legislations. The difference is that the national parliament deals with national issues while regional parliament deals with regional issues. The two Parliaments (regional and national) communicate through the relevant committees of parliament.
4. On aflatoxin, they noted that ***it is critical for Parliamentarians to understand the issues and how aflatoxin impacts health, business and economic sectors***. The PACA community should engage parliamentarians more strategically to help in advancing the agenda at the political level. More specifically, the communication on aflatoxin should target the relevant committees of parliament that are directly responsible, such as the agriculture, the social services, the economic and industry, and the health committees, to create awareness and form alliances with the Parliamentarians sitting in these committees.
5. They highlighted the different avenues to reach the parliamentarians, including through public meet-the-people tours (town hall meetings), direct meetings, memoranda and petitions to the Speakers, and Seminars and trainings.

Specific immediate actions from this panel were:

- a. ***Initiate steps to work collaboratively with the Women Parliamentarians Caucus***, e.g. those in both Kenya and Tanzania - who are concerned especially about the negative effects of aflatoxin on the health of women and children.
- b. PACA Secretariat to ***develop a Parliamentary Engagement Plan*** starting with two issues; a) identifying and supporting parliamentary Champions in all the Regions (there are two from East Africa); and b) coordinating regional training for parliamentarians.
- c. PACA Secretariat to ***develop a communiqué targeting Parliaments***, following this meeting.

3.7. Learning from Recent Events (Session 14)

In this session, which was moderated by Ms. Lucy Muchoki, the CEO of Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium (PanAAC), the following three presentations were made:

1. [“Aflatoxin Control Measures: A Basis for Improved Health in Developing Countries”](#) by Martin Kimanya of Nelson Mandela African Institute for Science & Technology, Tanzania (Presentation made on behalf of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC)
2. [“What We Can Learn From Regional Aflatoxin Projects: The Case of Sorghum Mycotoxins”](#) by Kerstin Hell, IITA, Benin (presentation made on behalf of FAO);
3. [“Continental SPS Agenda and Aflatoxin Control: A presentation highlighting the continental efforts in the area of SPS and how they relate to aflatoxin control”](#), by Diana Akullo, Policy Officer, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), African Union Commission.

4. KEY OUTCOMES AND ACTION PLANS

4.1. Action Plans by Thematic Areas

During the PPM, participants worked in five groups in two sessions, to discuss “*State of Knowledge, Technologies, and Best Practices*” (**Session 8**) and “*Partnerships and Institutional Arrangements*” (**Session 9**). The synthesis of the group reports is provided below:

Topic 1: Practical Value Chain Management

Key points from the breakout group sessions included:

- a. Aflatoxin is a pre-harvest and postharvest issue and should be addressed at the source (e.g., biocontrol). Aflatoxin affects crops and livestock.
- b. Many effective technologies and practices are available to reduce aflatoxin contamination (e.g., irrigation and water conservation; liming and gypsum; biocontrol developed with native, non-toxic strains; combinations of appropriate post-harvest handling and management), and they need to be packaged in a manner appropriate for farmers in different ecological zones. Options exist to create markets and/or decontaminate grains with different (even very high) levels of contamination.
- c. Value chains need to be strengthened in order to create incentives for adoption of existing best practices. Adapt successful examples of partnerships between buyers, farmers, processors, etc. based on shared values, especially for small and medium enterprises in Africa.
- d. Adoption of best practices to manage aflatoxin levels requires partnerships and building networks between public sector, private sector, farmers and farmers organizations, consumers, extension services, education and knowledge institutions. The partnerships should help create a quality oriented approach from farm to consumer. Africa needs a supply of good quality product, before government can effectively enforce regulation.
- e. Food safety should be integrated into efforts to attain food security and reduce post-harvest losses, and aflatoxin control should be incorporated in national food control systems. All food should be safe to eat.

Action Area 1: Develop packages of existing technologies and practices that effectively and efficiently manage aflatoxin levels in food chains. These packages should be custom-designed to address the needs of different agro-ecological zones and user preferences.

Activity	When	Who
1. Develop an inventory of pre-harvest, post-harvest, and processing technologies and practices for different agro-ecological zones	March 2015	PACA Secretariat coordinates with other stakeholders, including private sector and research institutions
2. Test and cost these packages	2015-2017	PACA Secretariat coordinates with other stakeholders

3. Scale up adoption of these packages	continuous	PACA Secretariat coordinates with other stakeholders
Action Area 2: Work with African small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to identify value chain models that have worked well for engaging farmers and managing aflatoxin levels. Multinational companies have developed successful models; these should be adapted for African SMEs.		
Activity	When	Who
1. Create demonstration centers (or “modeling centers”) where SMEs can learn about good practices. Some countries already have demonstration sites and need to start using them more effectively	First quarter of 2015	Member state government agencies, private sector, SMEs, NGOs
2. Develop Training and Capacity Building Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop simple training materials that target SMEs and describe in very practical terms how you address the problem of aflatoxin contamination. Make facilities and equipment (e.g., storage and drying facilities) available and accessible to SMEs. 	Initiate in Second quarter of 2015	Member state government agencies, private sector, SMEs, NGOs
Action Area 3: Raise awareness and train/build capacity of stakeholders that play key roles along supply chains. For instance, processors and aggregators of crops need to be better informed about aflatoxin and best practices to minimize contamination; and border control agents should be made aware of the implications of delays.		
Activity	When	Who
1. Develop an awareness raising and communication framework that can be adapted in many countries.	December 2014	PACA Secretariat
2. Prepare and implement country level awareness creation, advocacy, and training programs ¹	March 2015	PACA country focal points

Topic 2: Incentives policies, regulations, and markets to change behaviours

Key points from the breakout group sessions included:

¹Note: member state government agencies, companies and NGOs should work together to develop targeted awareness campaigns for SMEs. Communication channels for SMEs should include ICT and media

- a. Aflatoxin mitigation investments should not only be concentrated at the end of the value chain (e.g. testing), however, there is need to balance the interventions – more attention should be paid at the beginning of the value chain by ensuring right soils, seeds and GAP are practiced.
- b. Alternative safe uses of contaminated crops should be identified to ensure that the local population is not consuming or selling aflatoxin contaminated crops to unsuspecting local consumers.
- c. Establish Pan African Centers of excellence to train people and develop manuals for aflatoxin testing.
- d. Assess African laboratory capacity gaps for aflatoxin analysis and establish effective self-sustaining laboratories across the continent.
- e. The majority of Africans consume food traded through informal markets, therefore more attention and deliberate action should be taken to ensure that food traded through this route is aflatoxin safe.
- f. Countries should establish food safety control systems within which aflatoxins can be addressed.
- g. Private Public Partnership are critical. Deliberate attempts to engage the private sector should be made, as the private sector is key in creating incentives for aflatoxin mitigation along the value chain (e.g., linking farmers to and or providing premium markets of aflatoxin safe products).

Action Area : Develop or improve National Food Safety Control Systems which include aflatoxin control		
Activity	When	Who
1. Conduct Food safety situation analysis in PACA Pilot countries (identify gaps)	Year 1	PACA & Pilot Country contact points: Gambia ,Senegal , Malawi (MOIT, MAPAC), Tanzania , Uganda To engage with relevant ministries / authority responsible for food safety
2. Review and cross reference Food Safety situation analysis for pilot countries re: REC harmonisation of SPS & food safety standards	End of Year 1	Pilot Country technical working group work with PACA and engage with RECs SPS / Food safety contact points: Gambia (ECOWAS), Senegal (ECOWAS), Malawi (COMESA & SADC – Martha) Tanzania – (EAC ,Uganda)
3. Develop food control policy or integrate aflatoxin control into existing food control policy (including the use of voluntary labelling and testing standards)	2 to 3 years	As above with support from UN Agencies e.g., FAO re: CODEX
4. Use the food safety policies to develop food safety legal framework and food laws	4 to 5 years	PACA and pilots country contact point engage with relevant staff of parliamentary committees
5. Enforcement of existing or new food laws	Ongoing	Food Safety Authority, CSO
6. Strengthen & invest in analytical infrastructure and technical capacity	Ongoing	PACA Africa AIMS with pilot countries

7. Establish and / or build capacity for food safety enforcement	Food Safety Authority & Private sector
8. Strengthen & invest in infrastructure and technical capacity along the value chain (including smallholder farmers) to respond to emerging food safety laws and REC harmonisation standards	Private sector

Topic 3: Nutrition and health

Key points from the breakout group sessions included:

- Aflatoxins are a “silent killer” with broad societal impacts at all levels, and across the continent.
- Diagnosis of aflatoxin levels in humans is as important as in food, and very difficult to obtain. Tests are expensive, and limited labs exist in the world that can properly analyze blood serum for aflatoxin content.
- Best diagnosis test is the blood serum test, but it requires extensive laboratory capability. Urine analysis also is reliable, but only for 24-48 hours after exposure.
- Cancer is a well-established linkage from aflatoxin contamination in food. Studies show that reductions in aflatoxin levels in food in Africa to acceptable limits could reduce deaths from cancer by 15-20% on the continent.
- Immune suppression and childhood stunting impacts from aflatoxin exposure are also linked, but cause-effect has yet to be demonstrated. Immune suppression as a result of aflatoxin exposure could be as important as HIV, without the viral infection. The health effects are the same and connect strongly to malnutrition.
- Micronutrients, such as selenium and folic acid, are being shown to reduce the effects of aflatoxin in humans.
- Children are the most susceptible to the harmful effects of aflatoxin, and mothers are known to be the best avenue for education, advocacy and maintaining childhood health.
- Lack of knowledge and information is a huge problem in every sector of African society, from governments to private sector, civil society, etc.
- In the health sector, action is needed at all levels from the institutional to the family level, through health education programs and regional health teams down to the consumer. And, different communication strategies are required to be targeted to different audiences.

Action Area 1: Develop Lab Testing for Aflatoxin in Blood Serum and Urine on the African Continent in the Next 2-4 Years		
Activity	When	Who
1. Locate a regional lab in Africa that can be accessed by many countries	2-3 years	
2. Connect to GAIN, Global Alliance, as they agree on siting of 3-4 laboratories in Africa	Immediately	
Action Area 2: Create a Major Communication Strategy for all Sectors on the Health Effects of Aflatoxin Exposure in the Next Year.		
Activity	When	Who
1. Integrate this strategy within the health and agricultural sectors, particularly working with private sector partners, academia and their health information		

networks.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 2. Focus on women, chiefs and childhood education curricula. | |
| 3. Utilize the PACA Communications Officer to develop and advance the strategy within Africa, using all of PACA's convening and knowledge management resources. | PACA Secretariat |

Action Area 3: Work with EAC to develop lessons learned from Hepatitis B vaccination program and scale these to continental level in the next 1-3 years.

- | Activity | When | Who |
|---|------|-----|
| 1. For a continent-wide vaccination program, develop necessary information and justification; create partnership agreement between EAC and PACA Secretariat to advance a program, and work together with donor partners to develop a program. | | |

Action Area 4: Increase active engagement with the private sector to advance aflatoxin control on the global agenda immediately

- | Activity | When | Who |
|--|---------------|-----|
| 1. Immediately seek cooperation with Mars and WFP to include aflatoxin management actions in the agreement being developed. | | |
| 2. Create a "Grand Challenge" for the private sector on nutrition and health issues, and make specific requests on action areas needed to control aflatoxin on the continent. | | |
| 3. In support of gaining access and reference to the UN General Assembly: (1) Request that the Rome and Geneva based Member State Representatives from each African country, include language in the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action documents, being drafted for consideration at the International Conference on Nutrition(ICN2) in Rome from November 18-21, 2014; (2) refer to the significant and pervasive development challenges and barriers that aflatoxins present for the African population: (3) place aflatoxin strategies and interventions at the highest priority level for food security, nutrition and safety implementation initiatives to create solution paths to mitigate the human, health, economic and social impacts. | November 2014 | |

Topic 4: Surveillance and testing

The key points from the breakout sessions included:

- a. Additional aflatoxin testing capacity is needed at the farm, community and national/country level. Rapid farm-level tests exist, but they have a number of technical and safety issues that need addressed. Testing at the community scale (village, mill, and cooperatives) could be particularly effective at catalyzing aflatoxin control efforts, including pre- and post-harvest solutions, as well as alternative uses. Additional capacity is needed at the national level. Many current labs struggle to have the necessary equipment and qualified lab personnel.
- b. Regions provide an important opportunity to increase lab capacity, standardize monitoring and surveillance tools, and harmonize national, regional and continental surveillance structures. Countries within a region could share labs as a way to address capacity challenges. Harmonizing sampling methods within regions and across the continent would be helpful to promote effective information sharing.
- c. Cross- and inter-sector engagement at the national level could be helpful in addressing challenges to surveillance and developing the most effective aflatoxin control activities.

Action Area 1: Develop rapid mobile and cheap testing

Activity	When	Who
1. Assess the accuracy, affordability, and safety of current rapid, mobile, and cheap testing on the market	April 2015	PACA Secretariat to convene an expert team
2. Engage companies to manufacture kits in Africa	2-3 years	Private sector and PACA technical committee

Action Area 2: Take actions to fast-track cross-border harmonization

Activity	When	Who
1. Identify and strengthen human resources and infrastructure capacity at reference lab for each REC	Mid-term: 6 months Long term: 2-3 years	RECs, with support from PACA Secretariat
2. Develop standard harmonization and surveillance tools	1 year	PACA Secretariat and RECs
3. Conduct Situation Analysis to understand the existing availability and capacity of national and regional harmonization	2015	
4. Establish regional structures to support cross-border harmonization	2 years	RECs
5. Develop a standard protocol for testing and surveillance compatible with	2 year	PACA Secretariat in partnership with

AfricaAIMS		RECs
Action Area 3: Establish local aggregate labs		
Activity	When	Who
1. Develop training materials for sampling procedures	July 2015	BeCA-ILRI Hub, PMIL, GOIC, IITA
2. Develop training materials for extraction procedures and assays	Jan 2015	Helica, ZA analytics South Africa, GOIC, Egypt
3. Develop a Capacity Building Plan that includes curriculum, roles and resources	Oct 2015	BeCA-ILRI Hub, University of Nairobi, IITA, Helica, NAF DAC, others
4. Develop and finalize a cumulative implementation plan	Dec 2015	PACA Secretariat
5. Establish pilot local aggregate labs at the community (village) level	June 2015	BECA, NM-AIST, NAFDAC
Action Area 4: Build human and lab capacity at country and regional levels		
Activity	When	Who
1. Training of lab technicians and extension services	Ongoing	RECs
2. Training of farmers and extension services through cooperative societies	Ongoing	Extension agents, with government, REC and PACA Secretariat support
3. Inform and engage heads of state and governments to ensure sufficient funds are allocated to equip labs and build technical capacity	2014-2017	Parliamentarians

Topic 5: Communications

The Communications Group discussions underscored the need to raise awareness among the different stakeholders, and noted that PACA should develop a comprehensive communications guideline.

Action Area 1: Build capacities at PACA Secretariat, national and RECS levels to develop a responsible and targeted communications and awareness strategy on the aflatoxin challenge.		
Activity	When	Who
<i>1.1 Develop communications guidelines.</i>		
• Review the FAO Food Safety Communications Guidelines and adapt relevant areas.	January 2015	PACA Secretariat
• Implement PACA Communications Staffing Plan (TORs, recruitment, interviews, hiring, relocation, inception/orientation, etc.)	November – May 2015	PACA Secretariat
• Adopt policy statement on PACA position on Communications and Awareness position on aflatoxin (value position)	February 2015	PACA Steering Committee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and adopt Guidelines/Guiding Principles for PACA (continent-wide) Communications Strategy 	August 2015 ²	PACA Secretariat/PACA Steering Committee
<i>1.2 Build Country and REC communications and awareness teams</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication stakeholders mapping 	February 2015	PACA Secretariat/PACA Steering Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications stakeholder consultation/briefing to initiate engagement in development of strategy 	June 2015	PACA Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support team and existing communications structures at REC and Country levels through ongoing training, materials production, information dissemination, teleconference press briefings, etc. 	ongoing	PACA Secretariat
<i>1.3 Build capacities of communication teams</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communications materials and other resources to support communications strategy 	August – Dec. 2015	PACA Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify (in collaboration) and train national and REC level spokespersons 	August – December 2015	PACA Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train spokespersons and communications teams at national and REC levels 	August – Dec. 2015	PACA Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Press Briefings featuring national and REC level spokespersons and/or communications reps 	August – Dec. 2015	PACA Secretariat
Action Area 2: Develop the inclusive country and REC communications and awareness strategy highlighting health, food safety, trade impacts & food security challenge of aflatoxin.		
Activity	When	Who
<i>2.1. Engage Consultant to Draft Communications Strategy</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct research and consultations for strategy 	June 2015	PACA Secretariat/PACA Steering Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategy, messages 	July – August 2015	Consultant/PACA Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validate strategy through country meetings 	August – October 2015	Consultant/PACA Secretariat
	Jan – March 2016	PACA Secretariat

² Assuming this awaits the Communications person for staff leadership (although it doesn't have to) and would be approved by Steering Committee at August 2015 meeting. Can be fast tracked if external capacities are utilized.

Action Area 3: Monitor and evaluate progress on communications and awareness interventions		
Activity	When	Who
3.1. Develop M&E for communications strategy	June 2015	PACA Secretariat/ PACA Steering Committee
3.2. Monitor & Evaluate	September 2015	PACA Secretariat
3.3. Identify and scale up successful models	Ongoing	PACA Secretariat

4.2. Action Plans by Countries and Groups of Countries

During the session on *Action Plans by Countries and Groups of Countries*, participants identified, for each country or group of countries, the top three actions that are both ripe for action and significant in terms of aflatoxin control, proposed priority actions that are needed and in what time frame, and identified who will take the lead to make these actions happen on the ground. The actions proposed focused on the following clusters: **communication advocacy and awareness; policy review and implementation; capacity building** including laboratory and human resources (training); **technology development and use**, including for pre- and post-harvest handling; and **strategic research** to support specific interventions, including situational analysis.

A full list of the country action plans is included in the **Annex 1**.

4.3. Action Plans by PACA Secretariat

In the discussion on action plans by the PACA Secretariat, it was noted that the Secretariat Strategic Direction includes continental, regional, and country level activities. Although country level activities will focus on pilot countries, the Secretariat will implement many activities that support other countries (i.e., non-pilot countries). Furthermore, the PACA Secretariat encouraged the PACA Community to capitalize on the energy and momentum to take action at all levels through partnerships and collaboration. The four action areas for the PACA Secretariat include the following:

1. Convenings and Mainstreaming: Organize continental and inter-regional convenings to promote alignment, share new developments and best practices, resolve specific challenges and bottlenecks across countries and regions, and promote advocacy and awareness; organize regional convenings to promote the execution of country plans and REC priorities; support harmonizing regulatory frameworks and prioritize aflatoxin control efforts through regional frameworks; and support mainstreaming into relevant frameworks.
2. Information Sharing and Knowledge Management: Identify, document, and disseminate information on best practices and effective technologies to mitigate the aflatoxin problem; serve as a technical knowledge hub through AfricaAIMS and database (including frameworks for sampling and testing, collecting and sharing data); create an inventory of capacities, policies and strategies; monitor aflatoxin control outcomes across the continent; and support communications (e.g., frameworks and templates for communication strategies).
3. Support to Countries:
 - a. For Pilot Countries, support evidence generation to inform government-led stakeholder aligned plans, build consensus around the plans during and after development, support implementation roadmaps, and provide catalytic support for plan execution and progress monitoring.
 - b. For Non-Pilot Countries, provide support to start the process of evidence-based country planning and implementation, celebrate their successes and increase attention, facilitate them to collate and upload the available data into the continental aflatoxin database, and serve them through continental and regional activities.

5. WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

During the closing session, Dr. Amare Ayalew, Program Manager, PACA, summarized the key messages coming out of the platform meeting and shared the next steps.

5.1. Key Messages from the PACA PPM

Dr. Amare noted that the first PACA PPM:

1. Initiated a promising process of identifying priority actions by and for the PACA Community, emphasizing the need to undertake business unusual.

2. Demonstrated the need and value of a continental “platform” for aflatoxin.
3. Provided valuable constructive feedback on PACA Secretariat strategic direction, and on the role of pilot countries as a mechanism for bringing more countries on board.
4. Highlighted the priority actions that are needed on the five topic areas discussed. These include:
 - a. the integration of aflatoxin in national food safety control systems;
 - b. risk analysis for prioritizing food safety problems in countries;
 - c. the need for communication approaches that are holistic, to develop stories and targeted messaging for different audiences to ensure effective aflatoxin management;
 - d. to recognize and address the informal sector as a key area for confronting aflatoxin control in the future, going beyond high value markets;
 - e. the need to use, as entry points to countries, the existing inter-sectoral institutional modalities and to facilitate their creation where they do not yet exist;
 - f. the critical role of RECs including suggestions for specific RECs activities in aflatoxin control;
 - g. attention to financing issues, including going beyond donors, holding governments to account, engaging the private sector and exploring social financing (including innovative funds);
 - h. appreciation of the role of Parliament in aflatoxin control (in this regard, the meeting reaffirmed the importance of engaging parliamentarians and identifying champions); and lastly,
 - i. the lessons learned, particularly to ensure that more time is provided and dedicated to stakeholder networking at next PPM.

5.2. Next Steps after the PACA PPM

Dr. Amare presented the 12 immediate steps, listed in the table below, that will follow the conclusion of first PACA PPM.

What	Whom	When
1. Update PACA Community Database with all PPM participants	PACA Secretariat	25 Oct 2014
2. Communiqué of PACA PPM 2014	PACA Secretariat	25 Oct 2014
3. Share mechanisms for AfricaAIMS coverage beyond pilot countries	PACA Secretariat	Nov. 2014
4. Report of the PPM	PICO-EA/PACA Secretariat	Dec. 2014
5. PACA Secretariat staff hiring	PACA Secretariat	Oct 2014 - June 2015

6. Develop Communication guidelines	PACA Secretariat	Mid-2015
7. Validate pilot country plans	Country teams and PACA Secretariat	Mid 2015
8. Inventory of aflatoxin testing facilities, communication strategies, policies	PACA Secretariat	Mid-2015
9. Pilot country plan implementation	Country stakeholders and PACA Secretariat	2015-2017
10. Analyze proposal requiring PACA Sec. input and provide feedback to the PPM 2014 participants	PACA Secretariat	Early Dec. 2015
11. Seek funding support and complete meta-analysis on impact of aflatoxin in Africa by the PACA PPM 2016	PACA Secretariat	2015-2016
12. Second PACA PPM	PACA PP	2016

ANNEX 1: Country Action Plans

TANZANIA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Practical value chain management-pre and post-harvest management, processing and alternatives	Development and deployment of best practices and technologies for use along the value chain such as research on development of resistant/resilient maize varieties and biological control	By 2018	NM-AIST, BECA-ILRI, SUA, NAS, ICRISAT and IITA
2. Incentives, policies, regulations and markets to achieve change of behaviors	Accelerate the review/development of food safety policy, food security policy and food nutrition policy and Agricultural Products Marketing Policy which incorporate mycotoxin issues, control and prevention	By 2017	Ministries responsible for health , agriculture and trade
3. Surveillance and testing-monitoring prevalence and exposure	To build capacity of multi toxin analysis using LC-MS/MS	By 2016	TFDA,TFNC,ZFDA,TGC
4. Communications-creating awareness of impacts and solutions advocating for actions	Raising public awareness and advocacy	By 2016	Ministry of health and social welfare and Ministry of agriculture, Consumer association, LGAs Food processors, famers associations and the media

GHANA, COTE D'IVOIRE, BENIN, BURKINA FASO			
Action Area	Specific Activities	By when (end date)	By whom
1. Establish country Steering Committee	Identify key stakeholders Define TOR based on PACA guidelines Inaugurate Steering Committee	March 2015	PACA/REC/KK as SPOC
2. Develop a Communication Strategy	Form communication team Define strategy	June 2015	Steering Committee/PACA
3. Conduct Country baseline study	Define TOR Seek Funding Engage Consultant	June 2015 September	Steering Committee/PACA

		2015
4. Secure Funding	Develop Bankable Proposal	December 2015
	Lobby REC to allocate funding lines for country activity	June 2015

UGANDA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame (when)	Institution (Who)
1. Policy review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations Standards DSIP Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation analysis Identify gaps Address gaps 	March 2015	MTIC MAAIF MOH (Ministry of Health)
2. Awareness and Advocacy	Develop a national communication strategy Convene a national platform (identify stakeholders) Link aflatoxin control to Hepatitis – B vaccine	June 2015 January 2015 Immediate	PACA Focal Point MoH
3. Capacity building in pre-and post harvest handling and scale up	Identify and document best practices Training stakeholders along the value chain Demonstration of best practices	December 2014 June 2015	MTIC MAAIF Private sector

SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Conduct situational analysis on aflatoxin	Establish the existence of database on a) testing facilities; b) researchers/areas and c) available data	March 2015	Zanalyttix and NWU
2. Rapid lab testing	Provide information about Rapid testing and laboratory methods on aflatoxin	January 2015	Zanalyttix and NWU
3. Communication and Advocacy	Host a symposium on aflatoxin for the region	June 2015	TUT, Zanalyttix and NWU

BURUNDI AND RWANDA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Establish FS and MT Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of resources Identification of stakeholders and prioritizing their needs Development of MT policy and regulations 	In 3 years time (2017)	Government agencies including the following ministries 1. MINAGRI

			2. MINCOM 3. MINEDUC 4. MOH
2. Building human and laboratory capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings • Purchase of equipments 	In 3 years time (2017)	1. Government 2. Development partners 3. PACA Secretariat
3. Awareness creation	Development of different media materials and tools/strategies	1-2 years (2016/17)	BCC and CAC Ministries

KENYA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Communication	Develop communication/media strategy Engage the FSCC	June 2015 December 2014	FSCC Prof. Kangethe
2. Practical Value Chain management	Undertake an inventory of technologies for aflatoxin management in Kenya	December 2014	Ministry of Agriculture Prof. Kairo
3. Policy	Review food safety policy	May 2015	Ministry of Health (Division of Food Safety)

CAMEROUN			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Conduct situational analysis on aflatoxin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline survey and analysis • Stakeholders mapping • Establish national committee on aflatoxin control 	June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries: Agriculture and rural development; Research; Trade and industry ; and Health • National farmers organization • Civil society • PACA Secretariat
2. Awareness and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of communication tools • Trainings • Development of advocacy plan 	January to December 2015 and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National platform/committee • PACA Secretariat • IAPS/CPI
3. Formulation and adoption of regulations on aflatoxin control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key actors • Elaboration of proposed policies • lobbying 	December 2015 and thereafter ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National platform/committee • Government

- Parliamentarians
- PACA Secretariat

NIGERIA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Include aflatoxin in food safety policy which is currently in draft form	Create an advocacy group that includes the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Trade • MSN • CSOs 	2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Food Safety Committee • PACA National Steering Committee
2. Create awareness advocacy and strategic communication targeting law and policy makers, farmer groups, private sector, consumer marketers and manufacturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication materials • Organize training workshops/seminars • Use of ICTs and media 	2015	MSN Farmer Groups
3. Surveillance and testing across the country	Set up a national laboratory for food and animal based testing Supply of rapid tests for all stakeholders Conduct surveys to gather reliable exposure data Capacity building Setting up aggregate zonal lab (private sector and NGOs)	2015-2016	MSN Private sector PACA National Steering Committee

The GAMBIA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Creation of a National PACA Committee	Convene stakeholders meeting Launch the NPACA Committee	Early November 2014	FSQA
2. Development of a national aflatoxin control strategy	Recruitment of a Consultant Validation	End of January 2015	Focal point (FSQA) and Committee
3. Development and implementation of a national workplan and budget	Identification of priority list of activities Develop a budget and schedule for implementation	January – December 2015	PACA Working Group

SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN AND EGYPT			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Strengthening of awareness among stakeholders/policy makers	Improve communication using the following media a) ICT b) Posters c) Flyers d) Media e) Workshops	Latest end of 2015	Ministry of agriculture Ministry of Trade Ministry of Health SSMO PACA Secretariat
2. Capacity building	Improve existing laboratories Training of personnel on mycotoxin analysis	2015 (second quarter)	PACA Secretariat Ministry of Health SSMO
3. Conduct Research on Aflatoxin control	Detoxification Biological control	ongoing	1) Research Institutes 2) Vet laboratories 3) Private sector 4) PACA Secretariat

SWAZILAND AND NAMIBIA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Awareness creation at political level	Write a Cabinet Note for information	End of October 2014	PACA Partnership Country Representative
2. Identification of focal persons	Contact three (3) major ministries to nominate three (3) focal persons	February 2015	Permanent Secretaries of three Ministries involved
3. Sensitization of Parliamentarians	Presentation to relevant portfolio committees	March 2015	Focal persons through line Ministries

ETHIOPIA			
Action area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
1. Awareness and capacity building	Sensitization workshop Media coverage Training Infrastructure Leaflets, posters etc	6 months – to 24 months	ILRI PACA Secretariat Trade Ministry of Health Ministry of Agriculture
2. Surveillance	Situation analysis	3 years	Universities Research institutes NGOs PACA secretariat
3. Practical value chain	Inventory of existing knowledge and	3-4 years	Universities

management	practices Validation/testing Scaling up of best practices	Trade agents Ministry of Health Ministry of Agriculture Private companies
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SENEGAL			
Action area	Specific activity	Timeframe	Institution
1. Inform and alert actors and stakeholders to facilitate uptake at national policy levels (NAIPs)	1.1 Convene an information session for decision makers (Economic, Social and Environmental Council – CESE; National Assembly)	1 st quarter 2015	AWG
	1.2 Take into account PA/Aflatoxin into NAIP	2015	DAER/DAPSA
	1.3 Develop TV and broadcast programmes (for consumers)	Dec 2014	PF
	1.4 Information session for producers and agro processors	Dec 2015	ANCAM BAS/ Ministry of Trade
	1.5 Organise open day on aflatoxin and control strategies		DPV / AWG
2. Transfer and dissemination at large scale of efficient technologies control of aflatoxin	2.1 Disseminate aflasafe	2017	DPV
	2.2 Disseminate table processing for home-made oil		ANCAM, TTA
	2.3 Sort grains (electronic or manual)		Ministry of Trade, ISRA
3. Monitor negative effects of aflatoxins	3.1 Assess the level of exposure of populations	2015	Ministry of Health
	3.2 Systematize vaccination against B type Hepatitis	2016	Ministry of Health

DR CONGO			
Action area	Specific activity	Timeframe	Institution
1. Establish a technical expert committee	1.1 Identify stakeholders	Oct 14 – March 15	Ministry of Agriculture (Specialised Secretariat, CODEX - SPS) Ministry of Health Ministry of Trade
	1.2 Identify food locally consumed and cash crops		
	1.3 Assess infrastructure and laboratories capacity		
	1.4 Gather available data as appropriate		
	1.5 Convene a workshop on communication and assessment of		

	current situation with regard to aflatoxin control		
	1.6 Put in place strategic actions	April 2015 – June 2015	Technical Expert Committee and stakeholders
2. Build capacity	2.1 Provide training, equipments and infrastructures 2.2 Gather sample	July 2015 – Nov 2015	PACA, donors and the Government
3. Establish an awareness programme and strengthening communication with partners (producers, consumers and decision makers)		Dec 2015	Technical Expert Committee and stakeholders

MALAWI			
Action Area	Specific activity	Time frame	Institution
Policy: Develop or improve National Food Safety Control Systems which include aflatoxin control	Conduct Food safety situation analysis in Zambia and Malawi (identify gaps)	Malawi Year 1	PACA & Malawi – MAPAC
	Review and cross reference Food Safety situation analysis for pilot countries re: REC harmonisation of SPS & food safety standards	End of Year 1	Malawi technical working group on aflatoxin in collaboration with PACA and RECs SPS / Food safety contact points: (Tripartite – Martha)
	Develop food control policy (including aflatoxin and the use of voluntary labelling and testing standards)	2 to 3 years	As above with support from UN Agencies e.g.: FAO re: CODEX
	Use the food safety policies to develop food safety legal framework and food laws	4 to 5 years	Malawi technical working group on aflatoxin with relevant parliamentary

	Enforcement and advocacy of new food laws	Ongoing	committees Food Safety Authority, CSO
	Strengthen & invest in analytical infrastructure and technical capacity	Ongoing	PACA with all stakeholders
	Establish and / or build capacity for food safety enforcement	Ongoing	Food Safety Authority & Private sector Private sector
	Strengthen & invest in infrastructure and technical capacity along the value chain (including smallholder farmers) to respond to emerging food safety laws and REC harmonisation standards		
Public awareness & communication	Form an awareness & communications team	Malawi - Dec 2014	National aflatoxin working group within MAPAC
	Engage an expert to develop awareness & communication strategies that create awareness of the impact of aflatoxin on food safety and nutrition. (deliberately focus on health, agriculture and trade)	March 2015 (3 months)	National aflatoxin working group within MAPAC
	Develop training material and build capacity for communications team	June 2015 - ongoing	National aflatoxin working group within MAPAC
	M&E program to monitor behaviour change	June 2015 ongoing	National aflatoxin working group within MAPAC
Capacity building along the value chain Food safety, trade, market access, nutrition & health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop laboratory capacity (infrastructure and technical expertise) e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training in AfricaAIMS Establish protocol for aflatoxin sampling & testing for AfricaAIMS Upgrading aflatoxin laboratory equipment for food safety and human health labs. Conduct capacity 	By July 2015	PACA AfricaAIMS – MAPAC & development partners

building/training for all players
along the VC

PACA AfricaAIMS –
MAPAC

ANNEX 2: Participant List

PACA PPM 2014 Participants					
	Last Name	First Name	E-mail	Organization	Country
1.	Abdallah	M.Mouharam Fouad	marahuom@hotmail.com	Ministere Delegué Chargé du Commerce	Djibouti
2.	Abegaz	Mulat	mulatabegaz@yahoo.com	BLESS laboratory	Ethiopia
3.	Affognon	Hippolyte	haffognon@icipe.org	The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)	Kenya
4.	Ahmed	Nafisa	anafeesa34@yahoo.com	Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization	Sudan
5.	Akolo	Judith	jdakolo@hotmail.com	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation	Kenya
6.	Akullo	Diana	AkulloD@africa-union.org	African Union Commission	Ethiopia
7.	Aleke	Margaret	alekem@kebs.org	Kenya Bureau of Standards	Kenya
8.	Amoah	King-David Kwao	kdkamoah@yahoo.com	Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers (GFAP) National Farmers Platform	Ghana
9.	Arecksamy	Alain	allenarecksamy@gmail.com	National Plant Protection Office	Mauritius
10.	Assefa	Dereje	derejeaa@yahoo.com	Mekelle University	Ethiopia
11.	Atanda	Olusegun	olusegunatanda@yahoo.co.uk	McPherson University/Mycotoxology Society of Nigeria	Nigeria
12.	Atukwase	Abel	abelatukwase@gmail, atukwase@yahoo.com	Makerere University	Uganda
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