



Partnership
for Aflatoxin
Control in Africa

Partenariat pour
lutter contre
l'aflatoxine en Afrique

Parceria para o
Controle da
Aflatoxina em África

الشراكة من أجل مكافحة
الافلاتوكسين في أفريقيا

Communiqué: PACA's Interim Steering Committee

1-2 March 2012 Meeting and Outcomes

On 1-2 March 2012, the Interim Steering Committee (SC) of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa met for the first time in Maputo, Mozambique. The representatives (member list attached, as recommended by AU-IBAR, and invited by the AUC in January 2012) discussed and developed recommendations on a number of topics, ranging from review of initial activities; PACA structure, governance, membership and responsibilities of the SC; potential new activities and interests; and plans for the future. The following outcomes were agreed upon by the members present.

PACA aims to provide consistent coordination and coherent leadership to the continental efforts on aflatoxin control. Interim SC members noted that the diverse range of stakeholders who attended the PACA Workshop in October 2011 in Nairobi provided excellent guidance that provides the foundation for PACA. The report from the Nairobi meeting was endorsed by the Interim SC and is attached for reference. The Maputo meeting (1-2 March 2012) of the Interim SC followed closely the guidance offered by the participants at the Nairobi meeting, and built on these recommendations in addressing the following areas:

Review of Comprehensive Approach to Aflatoxin Control in Africa

- The Interim SC confirmed the recommendations of Nairobi PACA workshop that PACA activities should focus on three areas affected by aflatoxin: **agriculture and food security, health, and business and trade**. Interim SC members initiated steps to develop a vision, mission, and goals for PACA and agreed on a corporate identity for the Partnership (as presented above).

Launch and Introduction of PACA at High Level Events

- A progress report will be made to the upcoming CAADP PP. Participants agreed that as much as possible, the PACA initiative will seek endorsement of aflatoxin control by the highest political leadership in Africa. In order to strengthen its advocacy efforts, participants developed a plan of action to put aflatoxin control as a possible agenda item at high level events, including the preparation of necessary scientific and technical documentation. To this end, PACA should compile reports for an experts meeting, and propose agenda items for the 2012 meeting of the Joint Ministerial on Agriculture and Trade.

Creating an Information Platform on Existing and Planned Activities on Aflatoxin Control

- Participants agreed that PACA should become a platform for information exchange and sharing experiences among everyone working on aflatoxin control in Africa. As initial steps, participants agreed that:
 - The Secretariat should develop an inventory of partners to report on recent aflatoxin control activities, in order to periodically update the Summary of Aflatoxin Control Activities in Africa. The survey would include PACA member profiles to track areas of interests and expertise, as well as ongoing activities;
 - PACA should conduct an inception Workshop of technical presentations and topical discussions to mark the official launch of the Partnership in 2012.

Recommendations on Potential Structure, Roles and Membership of PACA

- Full Steering Committee – Participants agreed to adjust the Steering Committee to include representation from the following sectors. It was also agreed that the following specific organizations represent each sector:
 - African Union Commission (1) – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) (Chair)
 - Regional Economic Communities (2) – Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) – these two positions will be filled initially by ECOWAS and COMESA, and then regularly rotated to include other RECs, as requested.
 - Farmer organizations (1) – Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)
 - Civil Society organizations (1) – Consumers International *to be invited*
 - Private sector (1) – Excel Hort Consult
 - African health institutions (1) – World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) *to be invited*
 - African research or academic institutions (1) – [CORAF or ASARECA] *to be invited*
 - African food safety and trade institutions (1) – CODEX Coordinating Committee for Africa (CODEX Africa) *to be invited*
 - Development Partners (1) – US Agency for International Development (USAID)
 - Implementing Partners (1) – African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
 - Technical Agencies (1) – *to be determined*
- The Interim SC would be transitioned to a full-fledged Steering Committee and be inaugurated at the PACA launch event (Inception Workshop) in 2012.
- Subcommittees – The Interim Steering Committee proposed forming three sub-committees: Health; Agriculture and Food Security, and Trade. The technical

subcommittees will provide a technical resource for the Steering Committee and address cross-cutting issues. Each subcommittee will include six technical experts in addition to two Steering Committee members. The Interim SC will develop a nomination and selection process for Subcommittee membership at its next meeting.

- Future activities – The Interim Steering Committee is developing criteria and guidelines for identifying future PACA project activities. The criteria and guidelines will be presented and discussed at the next Interim SC meeting, along with a fully transparent Request for Proposal and selection process.

Plans for Interim SC Activities/Meetings, and Other PACA Next Steps

- Dr. Akinbamijo will present a progress report to the upcoming CAADP PP meeting.
- The Interim SC will meet again in June 2012 in Nigeria (dates to be confirmed, avoiding major events) to continue its business and to plan for the official launch of PACA.
- A full Steering Committee meeting will be conducted in November 2012, in association with the Joint Ministerial on Agriculture and Trade. The PACA launch event is recommended for November 2012.

Acknowledgements

- The PACA Interim Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and DfID for their support. A press release announcing this new funding is attached.
- Appreciation was also expressed to Meridian Institute for secretariat support.
- Additional information about PACA can be found at:
www.merid.org/aflatoxinpartnership.

Attachments

- Interim SC Member List
- Report of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) Workshop, 3-4 October 2011, Nairobi, Kenya
- February 23, 2012 Press Release: *Support for Innovative Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (DfID)* – available at:
http://www.merid.org/aflatoxinpartnership/Press_Release.aspx.

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