



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
الأفلاتوكسين في أفريقيا



Republic of Gambia Roundtable Discussions

on

**Support towards the abatement of the health, food
and nutrition security, and economic impacts of
aflatoxins**



Venue: Banjul, Gambia: 14-15 August 2014

Meeting Outcome Report and Consensus



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Workshop Discussion Outcomes

The Gambia Government represented by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Health and Social Welfare and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment informed delegates that agriculture is the mainstay of Gambia's economy. It was indicated that the mitigation of aflatoxin can result in the increase of crop production, however it was noted that increase production of crops and livestock cannot translate into increased income for the farmers if the output is of poor quality. It was therefore stressed that increase in agricultural output should correspond with the increase in quality of the produce.

Delegates were informed that the impact of aflatoxin in Gambia is evident not only in the trade and agriculture sector but also in the health sector. It was therefore noted that that Gambia has one of the highest liver cancer and hepatitis B cases on the continent. Therefore it was said that the roundtable discussion, which will propose concrete way forward in combating aflatoxins in Gambia, is extremely relevant and important.

The Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) representative commended PACA for the work that it has embarked on in the efforts of harmonizing and coordinating aflatoxin mitigation interventions in country and across the continent. The delegates were informed that the ECOWAS Secretariat is pleased to work with AUC, NEPAD and the Government of Gambia to mitigate aflatoxins in Gambia as well as in the West Africa Region. He noted that Gambia is one of the biggest groundnut producers in the ECOWAS region which has been adversely affected by aflatoxins. He further commended the government of Gambia for having being selected as a PACA Pilot Country and appealed that Gambia shares its lessons in mitigating aflatoxins with other Africa countries during the pilot period with PACA.

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) representative encouraged the Gambia delegates and PACA Secretariat to continue the efforts towards aflatoxin mitigation especially through the review of NAFSIPs to mainstream aflatoxin mitigation strategies, which are in line with the continental vision of sustaining the CAADP momentum.



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The AUC congratulated Gambia for having been chosen as a PACA Pilot country through the intensive process that was endorsed at the 10th CAADP PP. It was noted that the Gambia, though small, has become a force to be reckoned with. It was noted that the Gambia Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA) has become a prime example in Africa for inter-sectoral coordination for addressing aflatoxins as well as other food safety issues.

The PACA Program Manager informed the delegates that African Governments are key to addressing aflatoxin mitigation; yet, little support is given to governments to play this role. He informed that PACA will work closely with governments and provide appropriate support, where possible, to enable them to play the key role of combating aflatoxins in the country. The PACA Program Officer gave an overview of the PACA Country Activities Inception workshop that was held on 10-11 June 2014 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She explained the various steps and methodologies that were agreed upon with pilot country delegates, AUC and RECs for implementing PACA Pilot Country Activities.

Session Ib

Presentation 1: Mr. Mbenga Ismaila gave an overview of aflatoxin prevalence in Gambia which revealed that the aflatoxin issue was rampant in the country. It was noted that contamination of aflatoxin in The Gambia has increased over time in different farm products especially groundnuts. It was further noted that significant contamination was found in foods such as maize, millet, rice, sorghum and leaf sauces. It was therefore clear that in the Gambia, aflatoxin contamination appears widespread in different foodstuffs. It was also noted that low quality, especially manifested by high levels of aflatoxin and pesticide residues, has excluded Gambian nuts from the lucrative European market in edibles, relegating them to the birdfeed market. It was synthesized that Gambia has the potential to increase groundnut quality output and the prospect to secure better prices for those produce, consequently improving the revenue for the smallholder farmers.

Presentation 2: Mr Ernest Aubee gave an overview of the Gambia National Agriculture Investment Plan (GNAIP). Delegates were informed about the various steps that



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culminated to the development of the GNAIP. It was noted that the GNAIP is aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Through the CAADP Framework ECOWAS has developed a Regional Agriculture and Investment Plan (the ECOWAp). ECOWAS Member States have therefore been supported by ECOWAS to formulate National Agriculture Food Security Investment Plans such as the GNAIP of Gambia which is a priority investment programme in the agricultural sector of Gambia. Mr. Aubee gave an overview of the steps that were taken to formulate the GNAIP which include:

1. Economic analysis/ modeling to identify priority intervention areas
2. Sector studies
3. Validation meetings for the sector studies
4. Draft GNAIP – which were validated by stakeholders in a business meeting
 - a. National Compact signing by the government and key stakeholders
5. Financing mechanisms identified
 - a. National
 - b. Global agriculture food security program (GAFSP)
 - c. World Bank
 - d. IFAD

Presentation 3: Ms. Moalosi presented on the CAADP Nutrition Initiatives and highlighted the steps that were taken in reviewing NAFSIPs to mainstream nutrition. Ms. Moalosi noted that the PACA approach for mainstreaming aflatoxins into the NAFSIPs is similar to the steps taken in the CAADP Nutrition Initiatives of NEPAD. The following similarities were drawn on:

- PACA Situation Analysis is similar to the Nutrition Country Papers;
- The *PACA Country Activities Inception Workshop* is similar to the *CAADP workshop on the integration of nutrition in National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plan workshop*; and
- The Aflatoxin Action Plan that will be mainstreamed into the NAFSIPs is similar to the road maps developed for the nutrition initiative.

Ms. Moalosi also noted that the costing exercise of the intervention areas of the aflatoxin national action plans is a similar step that the nutrition initiative conducted in costing nutrition interventions with the World Bank.



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Discussions arising from Presentations:

- The PACA Secretariat was requested to (during the establishment of the AfricaAIMS) take note of the existing information systems in the Gambia that are currently operating such as the Gambia trade information system.
- The Gambia was encouraged to bring on board more young scientists to ensure that capacity is built for continuity especially in laboratories such as the NARI laboratory.
- The PACA Secretariat was encouraged to take into consideration and build upon (when carrying out the situation analysis) some studies that the FSQA and also some studies supported by EU on aflatoxin contamination along groundnut value chain.
- Gambia delegates were encouraged to mainstream aflatoxin issues into the GNAIP before the next phase (2018- onwards) which will entail the review of the current GNAIP.
- It was noted that should several countries in the ECOWAS region mainstream aflatoxins into their NAFSIPs, the aflatoxin issue will become a regional issue which ECOWAS will subsequently have to address as a regional priority to mobilize funds.
- Mr. Aubee informed delegates that ECOWAS with the assistance of PACA Secretariat is also in the process of developing a regional action plan for aflatoxin mitigation.
- Delegates were informed that information sharing and documentation (synergy and coordination) is key to the plight against aflatoxins in the continent, therefore Gambia was encouraged to share lessons and make information available to other African Countries.
- It was noted that the Codex Committee has a Quality Task force for Groundnuts, Sesame and Cashew that has been set up by the National Codex Committee, chaired by the department of Agriculture, supported by The Gambia Bureau of



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Standards. With the following membership: National Codex Sanitary and Phytosanitary committee, FSQA, The Gambia Standards Bureau, Ministry of Trade, NAWFA, Gambia Cashew Alliance, Departmentt of Agriculture, ASPA, EIF. There are efforts that are underway to incorporate the health sector as well as other stakeholders outside of the public sector into this committee. It was concluded therefore that such mechanisms should be used to embed the aflatoxin working group

- Issues of laboratory accreditation should be considered in the situation analysis study. In addition laboratory accreditation is critical and should therefore be addressed by the Government of Gambia.
- The PACA Secretariat was requested to assist the NARI laboratory in the process of accreditation
- It was noted that the Industrial Policy which was developed in 1996 needs to be revised as it is out of date.



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Meeting Recommendations and Consensus

Representatives of the Government of The Republic of Gambia, Africa Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Community for West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) having met to engage in Roundtable Discussions on Support towards the Abatement of the Health, Food and Nutrition Security, and Economic Impacts of aflatoxins on 14-15 August 2014 in Banjul, Gambia:

TAKING NOTE of the progress that Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) has made since it was initiated by African Union at the 7th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in March 2011,

ALSO TAKING NOTE of the PACA pilot country inception workshop which was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 10-11 June 2014 to sensitize pilot countries on the activities planned for in 2014 and kick-start the implementation process; agree on the methodology or the implementation of AfricaAIMS; and agree on a timeline for the implementation of all three Pilot-Country activities,

COMMENDING that aflatoxin mitigation should address across the three sectors of health, trade and agriculture

RECOGNISING the efforts that the Gambia stakeholders have made in establishing the Food and Safety Quality Authority (FSQA)

RECOGNISING that the proposed PACA activities are in are in line with and contributing to the implementation of the Malabo Declaration adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government in June 2014 and

UNDERTAKE TO:

Implement the following activities to catalyze aflatoxin mitigation:

1. Establish Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS);
2. Support Country-led aflatoxin and food safety situation analysis and action planning; and
3. Mainstream aflatoxin control through the PACA initiative in CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs).

Agreed to implement the above activities through the following steps and timelines:

1. Establishment of AfricaAIMS

- i) Gauge Pilot Country laboratory capacity gap through questionnaire;
- ii) Fill lab capacity gap through PACA support; and
- iii) Conduct PACA supported trainings in data analysis and submission on AfricaAIMS through the ARIS II interface

2. Country-Led aflatoxin and Food Safety Situation Analysis and Action Planning:

- Gambia government officials from the three sectors (health, trade, agriculture) as well as the Aflatoxin Technical Working Groups (ATWGs) to identify firms or individuals qualified to conduct the Country-Led aflatoxin and Food Safety Situation Analysis and Action Planning
- Invite expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified firms/individuals
- Select best firm to conduct the work
- Outcomes of the country-led situation analysis should propose an action plan that will be mainstreamed into the GNAIP

3. NAFSIP Reviews

- Roundtable Discussions to get consensus and commitments on the country activities.
- Engage national consultants to facilitate in NAFSIP reviews including stakeholder mapping and consultations
- Convene NAFSIP Review Workshop
- Costing Exercise of priority areas/ activities to be mainstreamed into the NAFSIP
- Convene a Business Meeting with Gambia Government, Development Partners, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to agree on priority areas and commit funding
- Implementation tracked through the CAADP Results Framework; Country M&E Systems; and PACA M&E and AfricaAIMS

4. **RECOMMENDING** the FSQA to house a PACA focal point due to the legal, regulatory and institutional framework of the FSQA which will allow for better coordination along the three sectors of health, trade and agriculture.
5. **RECOMMENDING** that the GNAIP should be the framework to mainstream the aflatoxin action plan and strategy



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ANNEX 2: Program: Day

Program: Day 14 – 15 August

Time	Topic of Discussion	Time Allocation	Chair
9.00 am- 10:00am	Opening Session <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks: Mr. Ernest Aubee, Principal Program Officer, Agriculture - ECOWAS Welcome Remarks: Ms. Kefilwe Moalosi, Nutrition Officer, CAADP-NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) Opening Statement note: Ms. Diana Akullo, Policy Officer, Crop Production, Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC Opening Remarks: Mr. Lamine Lo, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Director of the Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture 	(10 min) (10min) (10min) (10 min)	Mr. Lamine Lo, <i>Director of the Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture</i>
10:30 – 11:05am	Coffee/Tea Break Group Photo Press Briefing	(15 min) (5 min) (15 min)	
11:05 am-13:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Objectives: AUC-PACA- Mrs Wezi Chunga-Sambo – Program Officer, PACA Secretariat, AUC Introductions of people in the meeting Session I: Background Discussions Support towards the abatement of health and economic impacts of aflatoxins – Dr. Amare Ayalew, Program Manager, PACA Secretariat, AUC Overview of PACA Country Action Activities --- Mrs Wezi Chunga-Sambo, PACA Program Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation Analysis AfricaAIMS (AfricaAIMS) 	(15 min) (10 min) (20 min) (15 min)	Ms. Diana Akullo, <i>Policy Officer, Crop Production, Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC</i>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NAFSIP Reviews</i> <p><i>Questions and Discussions</i></p> <p>Presentation: Aflatoxin Situation in Gambia: Dr. Lamine Sengor, <i>Head, DPV Plant Pathology Lab</i></p> <p><i>Questions and Discussions</i></p>	<p>(20 min)</p> <p>(20 min)</p> <p>(10 min)</p>	
13:00pm-14:00pm	Lunch	60 min	
14.00 pm- 15:00pm	<p>Afternoon Session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Afternoon Session Objectives</i> Objectives: Dr. Amare Ayalew – PACA Program Manager 2. <i>Presentation – PNIA and PNIA financing Mechanisms– CAADP</i> Focal point 3. <i>Presentation - Nutrition NAFSIP reviews – lessons to draw from and past experiences</i> Ms. Kefilwe Moalosi, <i>Nutrition Officer- CAADP, NEPAD</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Group Discussion template overview- Mrs Wezi Chunga-Sambo: <i>Program Officer, PACA- AUC</i></p>	<p>(7 min)</p> <p>(15 min)</p> <p>(15 min)</p> <p>(15 min)</p>	<p>Mr. James Maringwa, Trade Expert, Department of Trade and Industry, AUC</p>
15:00pm-15:15pm	Tea/coffee	15 min	
15.00 pm- 17:00 pm	<p>1a. Breakout Group Discussions¹: Implementation modalities – how to implement aflatoxin strategy in PNIA while working across the 3 sectors</p>	(120 min)	<p>Ms. Diana Akullo, <i>Policy Officer, Crop Production, Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC</i></p>

¹ Groups will breakout within health, trade and agriculture and discuss areas of concern using a template to guide discussions



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Day II – 15 August 2014

Time	Topic of Discussion	Time Allocation	Chair
9:30-10:45	Presentation: Plenary Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Trade • Agriculture <p>Questions and Answers</p> <p>Plenary Group Discussions and agreements</p>	(20 min) (20 min) (20 min) (20 min) (20 min)	Mr. Ernest Aubee, Principal Program Officer, Agriculture - ECOWAS
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	(15 min)	
11:00- 11:30pm	Session I: Group Discussions Presnetation of Consensus and agreements of Roundtable Discussions: Mrs. Wezi Chunga- Sambo, PACA Program Officer, AUC	(20 min)	Mr. James Maringwa Trade Expert, Department of Trade and Industry, AUC
11:30-12:15	Closing Session Closing Remarks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Ernest Aubee, Principal Program Officer, Agriculture - ECOWAS 2. Ms. Kefilwe Moalosi, Nutrition Officer, CAADP- NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) 3. Mr. Foutin Diatta, Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment 		



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Annex 3

Gambia Roundtable Discussion 14-15 August 2014

Breakout Session Template

Kindly use the following worksheet to guide discussions in your working group and record the outcomes from your discussion. It is fine to extend your conversation beyond the topics proposed below.

Implementation Modalities of Mainstreaming Aflatoxins into the Gambia National Agriculture Investment Plan (GNAIP)

The NAFSIP review will entail the mainstreaming of a comprehensive food safety and aflatoxin action plan into the GNAIP. This might entail embedding some of the activities that are currently being led by health or trade into the GNAIP that is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

Based on the PPT presentation given by NPCA, the CAADP Focal Point and overview given by PACA Program Manager, discuss in your groups, the implementation modalities of the aflatoxin action plan into the GNAIP:

1. How do we achieve the mainstreaming of aflatoxin control into GNAIP?
 - a. Propose concrete mechanism for mainstreaming aflatoxin activities into the GNAIP
 - b. Propose modalities for implementation of aflatoxin action plan into the GNAIP (such as mainstreaming a budget into the GNAIP for the aflatoxin action plan)
2. How do we practically achieve multi-sectoral coordination along the three sectors (health, trade and agriculture) in implementing the aflatoxin action plan that will be mainstreamed into GNAIP?
 - a. Explore ways of using the various technical working groups of the GNAIP –that can address aflatoxins/house the aflatoxin technical working group/ “Uganda Chapter”
3. If PACA manages to have the PACA focal point, where do you envision them to be housed in order to effectively coordinate, mobilise action and progress? Why?
4. Are there other frameworks in health and trade you feel are necessary to mainstream some aflatoxin issues?



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Participants List

	Name	Organization	Position	Email
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4	Mr. Ernest Aubee	ECOWAS Commission	Principal Program Officer- Agriculture	Aubee2008@yahoo.com
5	Mr. Jawara Lalia	FSQA	Principal scientific officer, lab assessment and residue monitoring	ljawawra@gmail.com
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20	Dr. Amare Ayalew	Africa Union Commission – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture – Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa	PACA Program Manager	amarea@africa-union.org



PACA

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21	Mrs. Wezi Chunga-Sambo	Africa Union Commission – Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture – Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa	PACA Program Officer	chungaw@africa-union.org ; wezichunga@hotmail.com
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14/08/2014

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PACA, Secretariat

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