



Already stakeholders from a wide array of sectors are investing in and implementing solutions to better manage aflatoxin in Africa.



Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa

Improving food security, trade and public health

Aflatoxin contamination has wide ranging impacts on health, trade and food security throughout Africa. Prevention and control of aflatoxin requires a comprehensive, systematic and integrated approach, involving a broad range of stakeholders in Africa and globally. The Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, PACA, was established at the 7th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform meeting as 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 the mobilization of new resources.

Aflatoxin is a highly toxic substance produced by fungi. The toxin is linked to cancer, immune-system suppression, growth retardation, liver disease, and death in humans and domestic animals. Governments, private companies, farmers' organizations, research organizations, international institutions, donors, civil society organizations, and others are investing in and implementing solutions to better manage aflatoxin in Africa. As these areas for action are interrelated, actions need to be implemented in a holistic and integrated manner.

Overview of PACA

Within the general framework of a continent-wide effort on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, PACA aims to provide consistent coordination and coherent leadership to the continental efforts on aflatoxin control, acting as the *de facto* clearing house on information, communication and control on aflatoxin in Africa.

PACA's Vision: Africa free from the harmful effects of aflatoxins.

PACA's Mission: To support agricultural development, safeguard consumer health and facilitate trade by catalyzing, coordinating and increasing effective aflatoxin control along agricultural value chains in Africa.

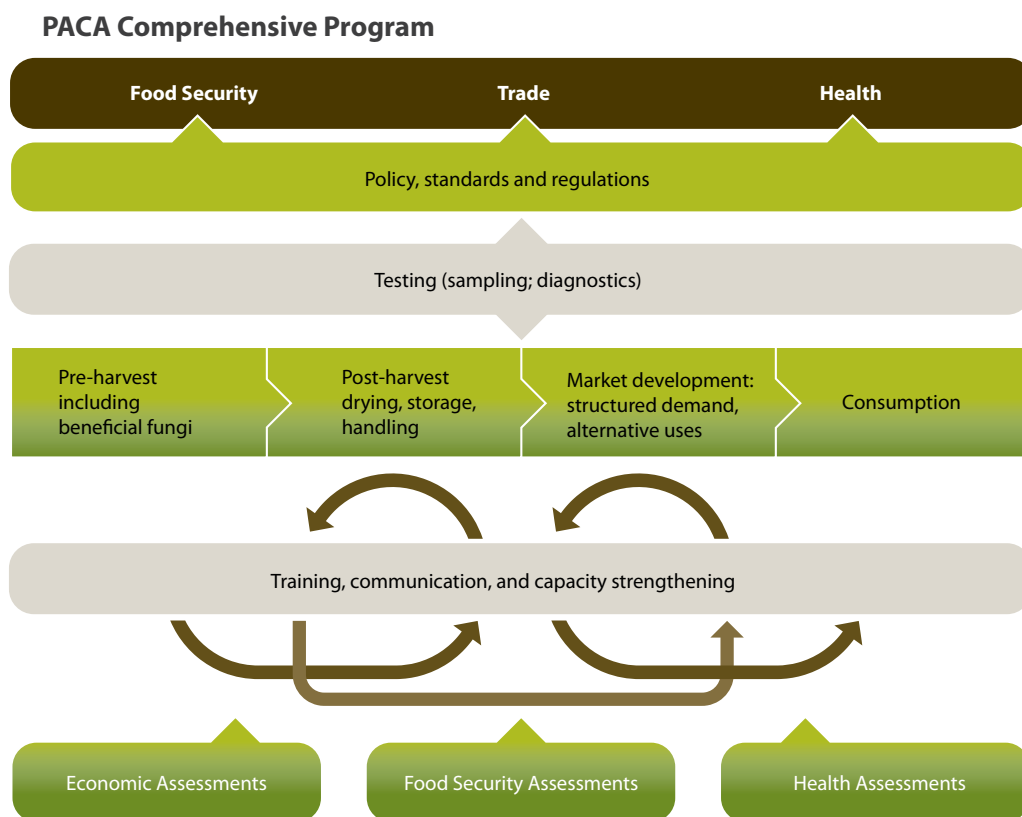
PACA's Guiding Principles: In deciding where, when and how it should act, PACA will be guided by the following principles. Interventions should:

- have a high potential for impact, ideally in the short to medium term, and a high likelihood of success
- be based on sound scientific evidence and risk assessments, as appropriate
- be cross-cutting and address the adverse effects of aflatoxins in agriculture, food security and safety, trade and health
- focus on actions that can be uniquely accomplished by PACA

- take advantage of PACA's close linkages to the AUC to achieve high-level political buy-in
- be trans-boundary in nature, such that successful pilot projects can be scaled up to regional or continent-wide levels
- integrate comprehensive approaches from policy and advocacy, capacity building, and pre- and post-harvest measures into regulations and standards
- proactively seek to meet the needs of, engage with and benefit the resource-poor, women and children, and youth, among other actors
- be economically and environmentally sustainable

PACA's Role: To provide leadership and coordination for Africa's aflatoxin control efforts, acting primarily as catalyst, facilitator, partnership and knowledge broker, project developer and information clearinghouse. PACA will also advocate for the establishment of enabling policies and institutions, increased investment and the mobilization of resources, and should ultimately act as a grant-maker to support priority aflatoxin control activities.

PACA uses a comprehensive approach that focuses on integration across the three sectors, integration of diverse approaches, policy and regulation for aflatoxin prevention and control, as well as creating a knowledge base to inform policies and interventions.



PACA Strategy

PACA has developed a ten 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 thematic areas as the focus of work for PACA. Together these define the main areas that PACA will address during the next decade to deliver on its mission. Within these strategic thematic areas, key results areas have also been identified where interventions will be undertaken by PACA, strategic partners and stakeholders at all levels. The five PACA strategic themes and Key Results Areas (KRAs) are shown below.

Theme 1: Research and technology for prevention and control of aflatoxins

- *KRA 1.1: Generating information and evidence to inform interventions*
- *KRA 1.2: Facilitating adaptation and wider adoption of available technologies and knowledge*
- *KRA 1.3: Developing new technologies and knowledge to improve aflatoxin prevention and control*
- *KRA 1.4: Enhancing access to research facilities*

Theme 2: Policies, legislation, and standards for the management of aflatoxins

- *KRA 2.1: Enhancing policy analysis and formulation*
- *KRA 2.2: Facilitating policy advocacy*
- *KRA 2.3: Promoting development of, and compliance with, standards and regulations*

Theme 3: Growing commerce and trade and protecting human health from aflatoxins

- *KRA 3.1: Facilitating growth in trade and commerce in priority aflatoxin-prone commodities*
- *KRA 3.2: Creating incentives that encourage positive behaviors with respect to aflatoxin management*

Theme 4: Enhancing capacity for effective aflatoxin prevention and control

- *KRA 4.1: Increasing capacity for risk assessment in African institutions to inform decision making*



Photo courtesy of ITTA.

- *KRA 4.2: Improving institutional competency and infrastructure for aflatoxin diagnosis in crop and livestock commodities and in humans*
- *KRA 4.3: Improving capacity of value chain actors, civil society organizations and health practitioners to implement aflatoxin best management practices*



Photo courtesy of Meridian Institute.

Theme 5: Public awareness, advocacy, and communication

- *KRA 5.1: Increasing public awareness, information sharing and knowledge on aflatoxin contamination and health risks*
- *KRA 5.2: Improving policy and political will through targeted communication*

PACA is truly a partnership initiative defined by the engagement of stakeholders in on-going, joint problem identification and solution creation. The success of the partnership, and of the ten-year PACA Strategy, will depend on the degree to which core partners create, implement, and use solutions or products of the partnership.

Based on the ten-year Strategy, the PACA Secretariat developed a Refined Mid-Term Strategy (RMTS). As described in the RMTS, the PACA Secretariat's mission is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of governments to tackle the aflatoxin challenge in Africa. Governments play a central role in mitigating the harmful effects of aflatoxin, because they have the ability to change behaviors and set priorities across a wide range of stakeholders. However, very few organizations are supporting governments in this role. The Secretariat has a comparative advantage in accessing, supporting, and influencing country governments from its position within the AUC. The Secretariat is forging strong partnerships with key stakeholders involved in aflatoxin control (e.g., Regional Economic Communities (RECs), private sector companies, farmers' organizations, NGOs, development partners) to comprehensively support the governments of Africa in addressing aflatoxin. The Secretariat will focus on three primary roles:

- **Convener:** the Secretariat will leverage the AUC's convening authority to work with RECs to organize continental, inter-regional, regional and country meetings that engage all relevant aflatoxin control stakeholders to share lessons and best practices, explore solutions to common challenges, develop broadly supported country and regional action plans, and mobilize resources.

- **Knowledge Manager:** The Secretariat will aggregate evidence, gather knowledge, and disseminate information to support regional and country action plan development and implementation. The Secretariat will also capture knowledge and information about aflatoxin prevalence and exposure, best management practices, and research to support efforts across the continent.
- **Financial Resources Provider:** The Secretariat will provide catalytic resources to support the development, implementation, and progress monitoring of country plans to mitigate the harmful effects of aflatoxin.

Additionally, in 2014-2016, the Secretariat will provide Technical Assistance to governments, but this role will transition to national consultants in the longer term.

Overview of Existing Aflatoxin Research, Prevention, and Control Activities

Numerous public and private funders are supporting aflatoxin research, prevention, and control projects around the world. PACA has begun to catalogue existing and planned activities on aflatoxin control in Africa. These encompass over one hundred and forty individual projects that are supported and led by a wide range of parties and span continental, regional, and country scales. Examples of the type of work that is ongoing or planned include:

- Building an increased understanding and knowledge-base of aflatoxin's prevalence and impacts through **literature reviews, country situation analyses, economic analyses, health impacts studies, an aflatoxin information management system, and database of control interventions.**
- Building capacity to implement aflatoxin prevention and control activities in an integrated manner. These activities include **development of low cost diagnostic tests, training for farmers, capacity building in testing facilities, technical assistance, establishing regional standards, strengthening food safety systems, and exploring alternative uses.**
- Further developing and scaling up existing and new technologies for preventing aflatoxin both pre- and post-harvest. Examples of projects include **variety improvement, food processing techniques, scaling up biological control, and improving and disseminating low-cost storage and drying technologies.**

More information about PACA:

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PACA Steering Committee Members

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African Agriculture Technology Foundation

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African Medical and Research Foundation

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

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Consumers International (Represented by Ms. Onica Makwakwa & Mr. Henry Kimera)

East African Farmer's Federation

(Represented by Mr. Stephen Muchiri)

Economic Community of West African States

(Represented by Mr. Ernest Aubee)

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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