



Partnership  
for Aflatoxin  
Control in Africa

Partenariat pour la  
lutte contre les  
aflatoxines en Afrique

Parceria para o  
controlo das  
aflatoxinas na África

الشراكة من أجل التحكم في  
الافلاتوكسين في أفريقيا

# Aflatoxin Partnership Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa  
Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2013

## Updates on PACA Activities

### PACA Welcomes New Program Manager

We are pleased to announce PACA's new Program Manager, Dr. Amare Ayalew, who began on 3 June 2013. We are fortunate to have Amare join the AUC-based Secretariat, as he brings over 20 years of research and program management experience in mycotoxicology and on aflatoxins. He joins Wezi Chunga-Sambo and Winta Sintayehu, Programme Officers, at the AUC-based Secretariat for PACA.

### Strategy Development Workshop

The PACA Strategy Development and Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was held from 10-12 April 2013 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop brought together continent-wide technical knowledge and expertise on Aflatoxin to build understanding of PACA's work to date, provide input on PACA Strategy and future direction, prioritize specific intervention activities based on agreed criteria, and to develop key results areas for action. The workshop was attended by more than 110 experts and stakeholders from the different sectors of agriculture, trade and health. The meeting was officially opened by Hon. Dr. Hussein A. Mwinyi, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania and closed by the Honourable Dr. DonanMmbando,



## Upcoming Events

### PACA Events:

26-27 August | PACA  
Steering Committee  
Meeting  
Johannesburg, South  
Africa

30 September- 2  
October | Aflatoxin  
Challenge in West  
African States  
Accra, Ghana

### Other Events:

4-6 September |  
African Green  
Revolution Forum  
Maputo, Mozambique

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania.

A document outlining a ten-year strategy for PACA is being finalized and will be made available in September 2013. [Meeting Documents >](#)



### **PACA Staff present at ALiCE and EAFF meetings**

Amare Ayalew, PACA Program Manager, presented at the African Livestock Conference and Exhibition 2013 (ALiCE) on 26-28 June 2013 and Winta Sintayehu, PACA Program Officer, presented at the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF) Farmers Congress 2013 on 5 August 2013. [See Presentations>](#)

### **Job Announcement | PACA Technical Advisor**

PACA is pleased to announce the opening of a Technical Advisor position to support the PACA Secretariat. The Technical Advisor will strengthen the PACA Secretariat with their ability to apply strong technical knowledge of aflatoxin impacts in Africa, help design effective strategies and interventions for aflatoxin control, and support, coordinate, and – as needed – help manage a range of projects contributing to the success of specific aflatoxin control interventions. The position will be based at the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Full Position Description >](#)

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## News and Information on Aflatoxins

### Demonstration-scale manufacturing facility for aflasafe™ nearing completion

Based on a design prepared by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Agriculture Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS), a demonstration-scale manufacturing facility for aflasafe™ is currently undergoing test runs of the manufacturing line. Aflasafe™ is a biological control product, which utilizes non-toxic strains of native beneficial fungi to reduce aflatoxin contamination. The state of the art facility will have the capacity to produce 5 tons aflasafe™ per hour. Located on the IITA campus in Ibadan, Nigeria, the objectives of the facility are to demonstrate and provide blueprint for aflasafe™ production to potential manufacturers in Africa; produce aflasafe™ products for various countries to fulfill current demand; and refine and improve the manufacturing process.



*Installation of sterilized grain storage at the aflasafe manufacturing plant.*

## Tanzania National Forum on Mycotoxins Control developing a three-year plan for mycotoxin control

In December 2012, the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority, with support from Abt Associates, convened a multi-stakeholder workshop to develop a country action plan on mycotoxins control. Participants in the meeting recommended forming a National Forum and National Steering Committee on Mycotoxins Control. Workshop participants developed a three-year action plan for mycotoxins control in Tanzania and the Steering Committee is seeking to gain key institutional support to implement the plan.



## Study finds link between aflatoxin and HIV/AIDS

A recent study by researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and published in the [World Mycotoxin Journal](#), examined the association between aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> albumin adduct (AF-ALB) levels and HIV viral load. The study data show strong and consistent increases in HIV viral load with increasing AF-ALB levels. The results indicate that the effects of aflatoxin may result in higher HIV viral loads.

[Read more >](#)

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**Our mailing address is:**

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa

PO Box 3243

Addis Ababa W21K19

Ethiopia

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