



## Aflatoxin Partnership Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2013

### PACA celebrates its first year anniversary at the ADFNS in Niamey, Niger

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

5 November 2013—IFPRI 2020 Vision series on aflatoxins launch event, Washington DC

10-12 November 2013 – World Mycotoxin Forum, Vienna

18-20 November | Aflatoxin Challenge in West African States Accra, Ghana

10-12 February | PACA Steering Committee Meeting Location to be confirmed

The Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) was established at the 7th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform in 2011. However, PACA was not officially inaugurated until 13 October 2012 at the African Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) that was held at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This year, PACA's first year anniversary was celebrated in Niamey, Niger on 30 October 2013 where ADFNS was commemorated. This event was opened by the prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, H.E. Brigi Rafini,



ADFNS Commemoration

who emphasized the need to build resilience among the most vulnerable citizens against food insecurity. He was followed by H.E. Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl, AUC Commissioner for Trade and Industry who delivered a statement on behalf of the AUC Deputy Chairperson, H.E. Erastus Mwencha. The opening session was followed with technical meetings, which took place in parallel, addressing issues of food and nutrition security on the continent. PACA was given a session to highlight the Aflatoxin

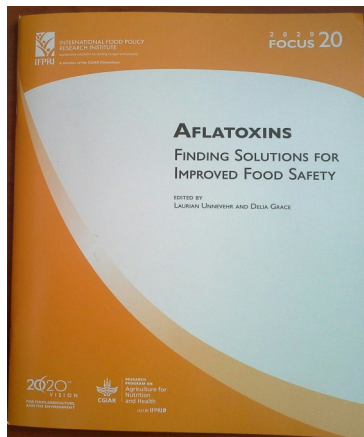
problem and possible solutions to be coordinated by PACA (read presentations on [PACA Website](#)). PACA was also able to exhibit its work and publications for more than one thousand participants. The commemoration of the ADFNS and PACA's first year anniversary were successfully celebrated.

PACA would like to thank the African Union Commission, the Steering Committee, partners, and all involved in PACA's work of combating the aflatoxin challenge on the African continent.



## PACA's first policy brief- IFPRI 2020 Vision Collection

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/mobilizing-political-support-partnership-aflatoxin-control-africa>



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has published a 2020 Vision Policy Brief Collection on “Aflatoxins: Finding Solutions for Improved Food safety”. The nineteen briefs provide different perspectives on aflatoxin risks and

solutions. We encourage you to download the briefs [here](#).

PACA contributed the following brief to this important series of briefs: PACA- Mobilizing Political Support to Address Aflatoxins.

## PACA Steering Committee meets in Johannesburg, South Africa

The second PACA Steering Committee meeting of the calendar year was held from 25-27 August 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. During this meeting the Steering Committee deliberated on several issues of the secretariat and PACA.

The SC approved the long awaited PACA Strategy 2013-2022 developed based on stakeholder input provided during the PACA Strategy Development Stakeholder Consultation Workshop held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in April 2013. Several other documents such as the PACA Mid-term strategic plan, 2014-2017, PACA Work Plan and Budget 2014, PACA Financing Mechanism Con-

cept Note, PACA Country Engagement Guidelines were reviewed and approved.

The PACA Strategy 2013-2022 was circulated to the public in September. (See the [PACA Website](#) for the full Strategy). The PACA Mid-Term Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 is being finalized and will also be made available to the PACA Community. These documents will form the basis for engagement of a range of partner organizations to take the lead in convening and/or develop-

ing aflatoxin control activities in Africa.

In other exciting PACA News, the African Union Commission and Development Partners are developing a financing mechanism for coordinated, multi-year funding of priority aflatoxin control programs and activities in Africa.

Furthermore, PACA is beginning to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to guide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of aflatoxin control activities in Africa. In addition, PACA is developing a brand new website to become a clearinghouse of information on aflatoxin in Africa. The new website will be launched in early 2014.



**PACA Steering committee members, alternates and Secretariat**

## News and Information on Aflatoxins

### Dr. Charity Mutegi wins the Norman Borlaugh Award

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

9-13 December 2013  
-2nd annual GFSP  
Conference,  
Singapore

15-17 May 2014 –  
IFPRI 2020 Event,  
Addis Ababa

19-23 May 2014 –  
Meeting of the Inter-  
national Society of  
Mycotoxigenology,  
Beijing

Dr. Charity Mutegi, a research scientist at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), has received the highly prestigious Norman Borlaugh Award for field research and application. The World Food Prize Foundation has awarded Dr. Mutegi for

her excellent work in combating aflatoxin contamination in staple crops across Africa. According to the Foundation, the award recognizes exceptional,



science based achievements in international agriculture and food production by someone under the age of 40. The individual should also demonstrate intellectual courage, stamina, and

determination in the fight to eliminate global hunger and poverty.

Dr. Mutegi, a Kenyan National, was awarded this prestigious award for her exceptional qualities of persistence, innovation, research and leadership among others.

PACA congratulates Dr. Charity Mutegi on her achievements and thanks her for her invaluable contribution to PACA's work.

### Smartphone App Offers Cheap Aflatoxin Test for Farmers

Researchers from the University of Colorado and a company called Mobile Assay are using a Lab-on-Mobile-Device (LMD) platform to develop technology to detect aflatoxins. The tests would be as accurate as

as a laboratory test, but can be carried out anywhere at a fraction of the cost using a smartphone camera. Field trials of LMD began in five locations in East Africa last September in collaboration with several regional

research universities and research institutions. More information is available at [Article](#).



## Global Agricultural Productivity Report

PACA and several aflatoxin control efforts were recently highlighted in the Global Harvest Initiative’s annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report (GAP Report). PACA is mentioned as developing a work plan for aflatoxin prevention, detection and control. Feed the Future’s Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research is also mentioned for their work

supporting studies in West Africa suggesting an adverse relationship between aflatoxin and maternal and child nutrition and the Peanut and Mycotoxin Innovation Lab for their work developing a groundbreaking dry blanching technology that facilitates detection and sorting aflatoxin contaminated peanuts. The work of PACA and Feed the Future are presented as a case study on

investments on research, science, and technology which exemplifies how a specific investment lays the foundation for strategically targeted resources, improved productivity, reduced loss and waste and a healthier, safer food supply. See page 40-41 of the report > [FULL REPORT](#)

## Development of Regional Biocontrol Strains

International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in collaboration with USDA and national partners, is working to identify regional atoxigenic strains (strains that co-occur in several countries in a region) of native beneficial fungi to reduce aflatoxin contamination (aflasafe™). The

partners hope to identify native strains that can be used in regional products for East Africa and West Africa, with the intent of making this solution to control aflatoxin available as quickly as possible to farmers and

reduce chronic exposure to aflatoxin. In addition, the aflasafe™ manufacturing facility at IITA is near completion and the manufacturing designs will be used as a guide for designing and constructing low-cost manufacturing facilities tailored for a developing country context (as reported in the previous newsletter).



## Aflasafe Commercialization Pilot

Doreo Partners is in its second season of testing a commercialization model for aflasafe™, a biological control product, which utilizes non-toxic strains. Doreo, working with Babban Gona in Nigeria, is successfully working with over 150 small-holder farmer groups to apply aflasafe™ on their farms. Babban Gona is providing services to the farmer groups that ena-

ble farmers to attain relatively high levels of productivity and achieve a sustainable return on investment on their use of aflasafe™. The first season was very successful, resulting in all participating farmers passing the mobile aflatoxin tests and receiving premium payments for their clean maize. The second season pilot will conclude at the end of 2013.



## Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP)

GFSP is a public-private initiative of the World Bank dedicated to improving the safety of food in middle-income and developing countries. GFSP recently formed advisory working groups in the areas of: Food Safety, Com-

munications, IT, and Monitoring and Evaluation. Interested parties are invited to sign up for these working groups by visiting the GFSP website. The 2nd GFSP Conference will be held in Singapore during the week of 9 Decem-

ber 2013. More information is available on the website > [WEBSITE](#)

"AFRICA FREE FROM THE HARMFUL  
EFFECTS OF AFLATOXINS"

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