



Name of Side Event: CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition

Introduction:

This is a brief report of the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition side event titled “Strengthening Partnerships for Increased Impact of Non-State Actors in Aflatoxin Control”, which took place on 11th October, 2016 at Imperial Resort beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda.

- *Facilitator: Calistus Tandong Jong*
- *Rapporteur: Mphatso Dakamau*
- *Venue: Princess Hall*

Background:

The harmful effects of aflatoxins on crop production, food and nutrition security as well as livelihoods and income are well noted. That is because the contaminating effects of aflatoxins run through the entire crop production value chain from the fields to the market. Aflatoxins contaminate many African dietary staples such as maize, groundnuts, rice, and cassava, particularly under certain conditions: dry weather during planting, high moisture during harvest, inadequate drying and storage of crops. This in itself constitutes a major factor limiting the level of agricultural productivity and the quality of African agricultural products in general. The effects of aflatoxins on agriculture are quite significant, given that they affect all aspects of food security - availability, access, utilization, and stability. The African Heads of State and Government (HoSG) have adopted the Malabo Declaration, which among others, express their commitment to halve poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation. It is important to note that achieving several of the commitments contained in the Malabo Declaration rely on the extent to which Aflatoxins can be controlled.. According to the Africa Progress Panel Report (2014), If Africa is to achieve the transformative economic growth that it needs, there is no alternative to the development of a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector. In order to maximize the desired returns from both public and private investment, it is imperative that not only the best Aflatoxin Control and resilience practices are identified and rigorously analyzed for scaling up, but also the capacity of smallholder farmers at national and regional level need to be strengthened to combat the threats posed by Aflatoxin. For this to happen, all hands must be on deck to ensure sustainable synergies and strong partnerships are built. The PACA PPM is indeed a forum where stakeholders in Aflatoxins control gather yearly to exchange critical information, share lessons learned, discuss and generate consensus on the most efficient and effective ways to collectively advance PACA’s mission. In that sense, this particular meeting, coming after the 2016 CAADP PP where

discussions towards building and sustaining partnerships for agricultural development, indeed defines a very excellent entry point at which the CNC can concretely define a path to NSA engagement in the Aflatoxin control process in Africa. It is in this sense that the CNC, will convene a side event where ways of deepening Non-State Actors partnerships in the control of Aflatoxins with other stakeholders will be explored.

Objectives:

The main objective of the side event is to explore ways through which strong partnerships between Non-State Actors and other categories of stakeholders can be strengthened in the control of Aflatoxins, to envisage measures for a control resilient future of the agricultural sector in order to keep up with the ever increasing frequency and intensity of Aflatoxin related threats.

More specific objectives will be:

- 1) to share information on opportunities for NSAs to learn and reflect on key policies, strategies and other measures necessary for strengthening aflatoxin control in Africa.
- 2) To reflect on identified good aflatoxin control adaptation practices and to benefit from the experiences and lessons learned so far by PACA.
- 3) Discuss and make recommendations for effective NSA participation towards accelerating the implementation of good practices as to enhance aflatoxin control resilience of smallholder farmers.
- 4) Brainstorm on the commitments of NSAs towards supporting the control and management of Aflatoxins in Africa, and develop a statement of commitments to be carried forward through an actionable work program for NSA engagement on Aflatoxin control coordinated through the CNC.

Expected outcomes:

- 1) Enhanced knowledge of NSAs on available policies, measures and best practices for increase of aflatoxin control on the African continent.
- 2) Identification of key opportunities and entry points for Non State Actors to strengthen the aflatoxin control resilience of smallholder farmers.
- 3) Define a strategic role for the CNC to facilitate and coordinate NSA efforts among Aflatoxin stakeholders/decision makers
- 4)

Attendance:

- The meeting was attended by a total of 21 participants from 10 countries as can be seen in the attached List of Participants. Out of these 24% were female.

Participants' Expectations

- To learn and understand the role of non-state actors in aflatoxin mitigation
- To agree actions in order to fasten the initiatives in aflatoxin control
- To learn the expectations of NSA on PACA's operations
- To share knowledge

- To develop partnerships
- To find out how to partner with PACA to be able to control aflatoxins
- To learn how NSA partners with PACA at country level
- To discuss methods of disseminating research results with NSAs in order to develop practical solutions to aflatoxin menace
- To learn strategies to control aflatoxin
- To learn the role of farmers in aflatoxin control

1. Key points from the Presentations segment:

a. Presentation on CAADP Non-state Actors Coalition (CNC) Presentation by Kop'ep Dabugat

- The CAADP Non State Actors Coalition (CNC) was launched in March 2015 at the 11th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting.
- It aims to (i) create awareness; (ii) Advocate for policy reforms; and (iii) Strengthen capacity of NSAs to engage government in agricultural transformation process
- CNC is a Pan African organization which has regional and country level structures for engagement
- CNC membership is all non-state actors including the media, civil society organizations, and farmers organizations

a. Presentation by Morris

- South Sudan has very limited data on aflatoxin
- It does not have laboratory equipment for aflatoxin analysis, and it is equally expensive to conduct this outside the country. Therefore it is very expensive to conduct analysis within the country
- South Sudan does not have legal limits /standards for aflatoxin in crops and food
- PACA should engage Heads of States to lobby for budgetary support on aflatoxin control in Africa
- Researchers should use the media (radio and TV) frequently to disseminate the aflatoxin information to the public
- Researchers in South Sudan are allowed to engage the media at least three times a week by the Minister to be able to talk about aflatoxin control

2. Key points from discussion:

- Aflatoxin control is complex. It requires the efforts of every stakeholders along the value chains to holistically combat it.
- PACA and CNC should work together to strengthen collaboration and partnership structures at regional and country levels in building partnerships and joint program delivery

- Most countries in Africa do not have much aflatoxin data. But there are many signs that aflatoxin is already having a negative impact.
- African governments should commit to the fight against aflatoxins. This should be shown by the budgetary allocation for aflatoxin initiatives (i.e. buying equipment for laboratories to be able to conduct aflatoxin analysis locally); opening up the media to create a conducive environment and debate on the control of aflatoxin; and educating farmers and value chain players, among others.
- Researchers should engage the media (radio and TV) and farmers frequently to disseminate the aflatoxin information to the public.
- Advocacy and awareness creation efforts should be enhanced since most people are not aware of aflatoxin and its impacts to human beings. Such efforts should deliberately target all groups of people in the country including legislators, consumers, and policy makers.
- Communication and advocacy materials should be clear and in the language that local people understand

3. Agreed next steps:

Non State Actors articulated the following commitments in aflatoxins control in Africa:

- To clearly articulate and popularize NSA commitments to aflatoxins control in Africa in order to maximize the desired returns from public and private partnerships
- Define concrete actions to translate NSA commitments into actionable programs that can be tracked for results and impact in the control of aflatoxin along the entire agricultural sector
- Create awareness of the harmful effects of aflatoxin on agriculture, health, international trade and wealth creation among NSA especially smallholder farmers whose livelihoods depend on its control
- Compliment efforts of national governments and development partners towards achieving maximum results on actions towards controlling aflatoxins in all sectors
- Coordinate closely with AUC and PACA Secretariat on continental programs and plans in aflatoxins control
- Track, monitor, and report on the progress and achievements of NSA in deepening the mitigation and aflatoxins in Africa

4. Event Summary and Agenda

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More specific objectives will be:

- To share information on opportunities for NSAs to learn and reflect on key policies, strategies and other measures necessary for strengthening aflatoxin control in Africa.
- To reflect on identified good aflatoxin control adaptation practices and to benefit from the experiences and lessons learned so far by PACA.
- Discuss and make recommendations for effective NSA participation towards accelerating the implementation of good practices as to enhance aflatoxin control resilience of smallholder farmers.
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Time	Topic	Facilitator
08.00-08.20	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome/ Opening Remarks (CNC/ Partners) • Introduction of Participants • Understanding of the background and goals of the side event 	Kop'ep Dabugat
08.20-09.00	Panel Discussion on the Role of NSAs in Aflatoxin Control	Agnes Kirabo
09.00-09.30	Technical Session on Maximizing the role of NSAs in Aflatoxin Control	Calistus Tandong Jong
09.30-09.50	Presentation and adoption of NSAs statement of commitment on sustained partnerships for results and impact in the control of aflatoxins	Kop'ep Dabugat
09:50 - 10:00	Closing Remarks	Kop'ep Dabugat

5. List of Participants for the CNC Side Event

Title	First Name	Last Name	Email address	Job Title	Organisation
Dr	Fayinkeh	Mahamadan	mfayinkeh@gmail.com	Vice President	ROPPA/ECEIAC, the Gambia
Mr	Victor	Mpundu	humblekindness@gmail.com	Standards Officer	ZABS
Dr	Malunda	Mwanza	24059676@nwu.ac.za	University Professor	North West University, RSA
	Abigael	Awuor	vpl2@cik.gov	Public Health Specialist	CDC
Ms	Felistus	Mutambi	fmutambi@garhealth.org	ECSCA fortification Coordinator	Funtal
Ms	Grace	Walakira	gwalakira35@gmail.com	Program Officer	UMA
Mr	Makuaa	Charles	makuwac@keb.org	Principal Analyst	KEBS
Ms	Liz	Ogutu	ogutul@african-union.org	Strategy and Operations Senior Officer	AUC-PACA
Ms	Tina	Ajdic	t.ajdic@ads-insight.com	Consultant, EU Policy	ADS insight
Mrs	Zainab	Towobola	zeeorate@gmail.com		Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abuja
Mr	David	Kyeyune	david.kyeyune@veco-eastafrika.org		VECO. East Africa

Mr	Elijah	Muhati	elija.mbwavi@gmail.com	Director	RegioDev Africa (RDA)
Mr	Tandong	Calistus	tandongcalistus@gmail.com	Coordinator	AMXOFACIE
Mr	Ekwayawa	Monono	ymekwado@yahoo.com	Researcher/farmers	EKWA Farms IRAD Cameroon
Mr	Andrew	Egala	ceo@greenwithoutborders.co.uk	CEO	Green Without Borders
Mr	Samson	Mekusha	jemaneks@africa-union.org	Program Analyst New Alliance	AUC
Mr	Jude	Ssebuliba	judass@gmail.com	Program Officer	Foodrilihts Allianco
Mr	Enerst	Pedro	lpenesco@yahoo.fr	Agro-Economist	PASCIb
Mr	Kopep	Dabugat	kopdabs@hotmail.com	CNC Coordinator	CNC
Mr	Morris	Tabiano	otavisno@gmail.com	Researcher	Min Agri, South Sudan
Mr	Mphatso	Dakamau	mphadakamau@yahoo.com	Country officer	PACA-Malawi