



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

PACA Strategy Development – Stakeholder

Consultation – *Objectives and Strategic Thematic Areas for Action*

– April 2013

PACA Vision, Mission and Objectives

Within the general framework of CAADP and its continent-wide and regional efforts on sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) issues, PACA will provide consistent coordination and coherent leadership to the continental efforts on aflatoxin control.

PACA will achieve this by working to attain its vision, mission, and objectives, as adopted. Based on these elements, PACA Steering Committee seeks stakeholder input on 6 major thematic areas for programmatic action.

PACA Vision

That African farmers, farm households and consumers live healthier and more prosperous lives as a result of reducing aflatoxin exposure to achieve safe levels.

PACA Mission

To improve the health, income, and livelihoods of African farmers, farm households and consumers, PACA seeks to address the agriculture and food security, health, and trade issues associated with aflatoxin prevalence and exposure in Africa by working at all levels (continental, national, regional and local). Specifically, PACA's mission is to:

- Improve consumers' health by reducing their aflatoxin exposure to safe levels.
 - Improve smallholder farmers' access to markets and increased incomes by achieving safe aflatoxin levels.
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PACA Objectives and Strategic Thematic Areas for Action

Objective 1: *Integrate aflatoxin programs within existing frameworks:* Support the mainstreaming of aflatoxin issues into the CAADP framework and SPS activities at regional and country levels.

Discussion: A comprehensive aflatoxin program should consider all of the major components of aflatoxin control, from effective policies, standards and regulations to training and information sharing on economic, food security and health. A comprehensive program should create results at all levels, continental, regional and country-level.

To date, the PACA leadership indicates that at continental level, PACA should work within AUC framework to provide continental leadership, communications, networking and awareness-raising, capacity development at regional and national levels, advocacy for aflatoxin control, as well as providing additional funding for effective programs.

At the regional level, the Regional Economic Communities, as building blocks of the AUC, develop and implement various programs to advance regional integration. With respect to PACA, RECs should have responsibility for:

- Reviewing project technical proposals with member countries and other stakeholders to ensure PACA activities are synergized with regional SPS programs and CAADP investment plans at regional and country levels.
- Working with implementing agencies to mobilize actions around the CAADP investment plans.
- Continuously monitoring progress with country and regional level program implementation partners (through CAADP and regional SPS Committees).

At the country level, national priorities should be developed by appropriate stakeholders and government representatives that will be closely aligned with the PACA and regional priorities. Aflatoxin mitigation activities should be linked to CAADP implementation at country level. PACA activities should strengthen existing SPS programs and complement existing resources.

PACA should support country-level actions, including:

- Adoption and implementation of technologies, especially drying and storage, and biocontrol;
- Enhancing the regulatory environment to support harmonization and scaling up of technology solutions;
- Raising awareness raising and conducting public education; and
- Conducting additional country assessments (for countries that request it).

In general, PACA will support creation of Public Goods, for example a publicly available information platform, and an on-line aflatoxin prevalence map. PACA should undertake activities that it can uniquely accomplish with a continent-wide emphasis. In particular, PACA should give preference to activities that are trans-boundary in nature, or can be “scaled up” to regional or continent-wide levels, focusing on projects that only PACA can complete.

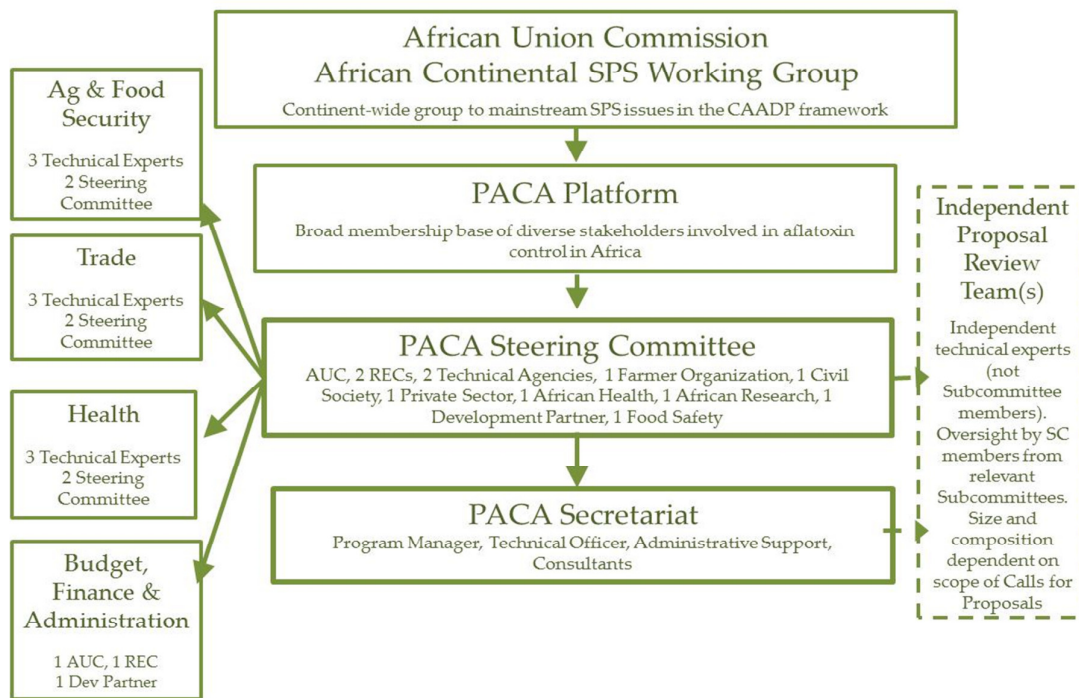
Key Questions:

- Are there additional steps PACA could take to integrate within the CAADP framework?
- What are the areas and levels of activity most appropriate for PACA?
- What are the most important areas for action at the continental, regional and country level for PACA?
- What can PACA uniquely accomplish?

Objective 2: Create an innovative, durable structure and transparent governance system: a lean organizational structure will be developed that can effectively coordinate aflatoxin mitigation across the health, agriculture and trade sectors of Africa, serving as a holistic model for a multi-sectoral solution.

Discussion: Through meetings and consultation in the last year, PACA has established an AUC–based Secretariat, multi-sector Steering Committee (SC) that has been launched through the leadership of the AUC. The PACA SC developed the organogram below of its structure.

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa Organogram



In addition to the primary bodies in the center, PACA may seek to develop sub-committees and an independent proposal process, as outlined above.

Key Questions:

- How can the AUC-based Secretariat best support the Steering Committee, PACA Platform, and aflatoxin control programs and projects?
- Should subcommittees be formed that support or oversee activities in each sector? Or should subcommittees be cross-cutting in nature?
- Should an independent process be formed to oversee proposal review and selection?

Objective 3: Advocate for aflatoxin control and engage leadership across sectors:

PACA will seek endorsement of aflatoxin control by the highest political leadership in Africa, and will engage leadership from all sectors of society in advocating for aflatoxin control in Africa.

Discussion: The goal of PACA and the AUC is to achieve continental coordination, working through existing structures and especially RECs as the building blocks, on aflatoxin policy, regulation, and control mechanisms.

Responsibilities for the AUC, and the AUC-based Secretariat in general, in support of PACA's continent-wide role, include:

- Advancing policy advocacy and reform, coordinating with relevant institutions, especially in agriculture and food security, trade and health policy .
- Supporting awareness of risks of aflatoxin, incentives for safer foods, and harmonized standards in domestic markets.
- Promoting inter-REC collaboration and the sharing of experiences.
- Providing political leadership and strategic guidance on development of PACA.
- Convening Steering Committee meetings and Subcommittee meetings.
- Reviewing budgets, managing the funds of PACA, and monitoring and disbursing finances.
- Mobilizing resources for the development of regional and national aflatoxin control programs.

Key Questions:

- Are these areas the key roles and appropriate areas for AUC and PACA for engaging leadership across Africa for aflatoxin control?
- How can the AUC, and the AUC-based Secretariat in general, best address these responsibilities?
- What other areas should be addressed?

Objective 4: Establish a PACA network and information sharing platform: PACA will provide tools for communication, sharing of lessons learned, and coordination between the many organizations and individuals working on aflatoxin control throughout Africa.

Discussion: The PACA community plays a vital role in the partnership, exchanging information and lessons learned about effective strategies for aflatoxin control in the areas of agriculture and food security, trade, and health; nominating individuals for and serving on the PACA Steering Committee and technical subcommittees; providing input on PACA policies, including the PACA action plan and results framework; and participating in aflatoxin control projects.

The AUC-based PACA Secretariat plans to undertake many activities, including development and maintenance of a database of interested stakeholders, development of PACA newsletters, development and dissemination of technical materials, reports, policy briefs, and other materials, as needed, on aflatoxin prevalence and control strategies, and dissemination of the latest research and information.

The Secretariat plans to conduct regular Stakeholder Consultations, PACA Platform meetings, Regional Workshops, development of mapping tools on aflatoxin prevalence and control strategies, and other activities to support dissemination and adoption of good management practices.

Key Questions:

- Are the planned activities the best support to aflatoxin control in Africa? Are these areas the key roles and appropriate areas of work for the AUC-based Secretariat?
- What should be the benefits/responsibilities of members of the PACA community? Should PACA members be able to:
 - Share lessons learned from aflatoxin control projects and research?
 - Provide input into the strategic direction of PACA?
 - Offer expert advice to the Steering Committee upon request?
 - Nominate/serve on the Steering Committee/Subcommittees?
 - Network with other members and form partnerships?
 - Attend training workshops offered by PACA?
- How should PACA communicate with members? Via annual meeting, regional workshops, website, periodic emails, newsletters, other? Should there be a fee for membership? How often should a Platform meet?

Objective 5: Mobilize resources and develop a funding mechanism for future aflatoxin control projects: Provide a coordinated funding mechanism, modalities for submitting proposals for aflatoxin related activities, and a transparent and accountable process and criteria for evaluating proposals.

Discussion: PACA plans to develop an African-based finance mechanism, probably a Joint Project Agreement (JPA), for other agencies and donors to utilize in contributing funds to continent-wide aflatoxin control programs and projects.

As part of establishing a transparent and accountable finance mechanism, PACA SC may undertake to form an Independent Proposal Team to solicit and review proposals for project activities on agriculture and food security, trade and health. This group (or groups) would be comprised of technical experts, prepared to complete comprehensive, independent reviews of submissions according to detailed criteria outlined in broadly disseminated calls for proposals.

Key Questions:

- Is this an appropriate area of work for PACA?
- Is a JPA the most efficient and effective mechanism for holding and disbursing funds for aflatoxin control in a transparent way? If not, what other models should be considered?
- How should proposals be solicited and selected and by whome? Should Calls for Proposals require integrated proposals that address agriculture, trade, and health? Or should proposals be invited separately in each of these three areas?
- Should independent teams be formed? How should membership be solicited? How should teams be managed?
- What else can be undertaken to support the objective?

Objective 6: Support implementation of effective aflatoxin control projects: PACA will fund and support on-the-ground projects to assess aflatoxin prevalence and economic impacts; prevent contamination and support control strategies; to reduce exposure; and to improve agriculture and food security, health, and trade.

Discussion: A broad range of activities can be supported by PACA to meet this objective, including conducting country assessments (such as those modeled in Nigeria, Tanzania and perhaps elsewhere), and executing country-specific projects. Activities could include policy development, development of new standards, awareness raising, promotion of good management practices, promotion of techniques for reducing aflatoxin contamination, technology dissemination - such as bio-control, improved storage facilities, drying and storage technologies, low-cost diagnostic equipment – and health interventions to reduce aflatoxin exposure .

Key Questions:

- How can PACA best address these responsibilities?
- What should be the priority activities and projects that PACA can uniquely support? What criteria should be considered in order to prioritize activities and projects? Is there a sequence for undertaking aflatoxin prevention/control that would be most effective?
- What else can be undertaken to achieve the objective?

Other key issues: All PACA activities must be pro-poor and promote gender and generational equity, human and livestock health, sustainable natural resource management and conservation of biodiversity. The empowerment of women is of particular importance

because of the vital roles that women traditionally play in African agricultural production systems.