Current Gaps in Aflatoxin Control

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Aflatoxin impacts human health, and presents a barrier to trade and economic growth.
Cross Cutting Nature of Aflatoxin

Widespread impact and complex nature requires interdisciplinary approach

Coordinated, African led partnership focuses on 4 key areas:
- Agriculture, and food security;
- Health, nutrition, and food safety
- Communications, advocacy, and political messaging;
- Commercialization
Many people are working to help farmers address the problem, but much more needs to be done.
World Problem

40°N and 40°S are most at risk

Legend
- Green Color Legend
- Blue Color Legend
- Orange Color Legend
- Tan Color Legend
Gaps

Agriculture and Food Security

- Donors have not met their CAADP obligations

- More needs to be spent on agriculture and food security as a percentage of aid.

- African nations doubled agriculture spending but it’s still only 5% of National Budgets and very little is spent on aflatoxin
Gaps

Health, Nutrition and Food Safety

Improving Regulatory Environments

- Only 15 African countries had regulatory limits for aflatoxins as of 2003 (FAO).

- Capacity to enforce regulations is low.

- Almost all food sold in local markets is unregulated.

- Millions of people living in sub-Saharan Africa are chronically exposed to aflatoxins through diet, but knowledge on their impact on human health is lacking-more is know on livestock.
Gaps

Improving Diagnostics

- Testing protocols are not met:
  - Knowledge and testing tools are lacking
  - National protocols, when they exist, are not enforced
  - Wide variety of standards (Codex, EU and US, etc. differ)
  - Tests are expensive
  - Few labs exist
Gaps

Communications, Advocacy and Political Messaging

• Lack of data
• Lack of straightforward solutions
• Cost of solutions
• High level of sensitivity related to staple foods being threatened make communications challenging
Aflasafe Activities to Date by Country and Donor

Presentation of work being done by IITA along with USDA ARS, IFPRI, the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI) and other partners.

Legend
- Completed
- Being Implemented
- Proposal under consideration

ABA – Austrian Development Agency
AATF – African Agriculture Technology Foundation
BMGF – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
EU – European Union Mycore Project
FAES - Foundation Agir pour l’Education et la Sante
GTZ - Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
Coordination Mechanism is needed to share accurate data

Benefits broader community: cheaper diagnostics, practical methods of control, trade related procedures and policies.
Thank You