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|  | **CONCEPT NOTE** |
| **Title** | STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON INNOVATION PLATFORM FOR AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN GHANA |
| **Background** | The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA[[1]](#footnote-1)) is the apex organization for agricultural research for development in Africa. As outlined in the current Strategic Plan (2014 – 2018), the core functions of FARA are perceived to be: 1) facilitating collective action around the promotion of innovations in Africa’s agriculture; 2) strengthening capacity to enhance the functionality of agricultural innovation systems in Africa; 3) offering intellectual leadership for agricultural research for development (AR4D) in Africa; 4) building and managing partnerships to enhance agricultural productivity, competitiveness and markets in Africa; 5) carrying out advocacy and communication for improved AR4D in Africa; and 6) tracking progress in Africa’s agricultural development.  The value proposition of FARA is strengthening Africa’s capacity for agricultural innovation and transformation. A key action under this value proposition is mobilizing, connecting and rallying stakeholders for collaborative and concerted actions around issues and challenges that affect agricultural productivity, food security and trade based on the CAADP framework.  Aflatoxins are naturally occurring harmful toxins produced by the fungi *Aspergillus flavus* Link ex Fries and *Aspergillus parasiticus* Speare, which are highly toxic to humans and animals. The toxins are known to cause a number of human and animal health problems such as immunosuppression, kwashiorkor, impairment of liver function, and reduced growth rate or stunting. They are also potent liver carcinogens. Aflatoxin-producing molds affect grain and other food crops – maize and groundnuts in particular. Millions of people living in Africa are exposed to high, unsafe levels of aflatoxins through their diet. Meanwhile, farmers miss out on export opportunities since their products do not meet international food safety standards.  Aflatoxins contamination in foods and feeds is an agricultural, health and trade issue which needs to be tackled with urgency. For this reason, African stakeholders led by the African Union Commission formed the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) during the 7th CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in 2011 as an innovative consortium that aims at coordinating aflatoxin mitigation and management across the agriculture, health and trade sectors. By combating these toxins, PACA will contribute to improving food security, health, and trade across the African continent. PACA has elaborated a 10-year Strategy (2013-2022) to guide its actions. Currently, five pilot countries (Gambia, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda) have been selected for three early actions areas: 1) establish Africa Aflatoxin Information Management System (AfricaAIMS); 2) support country‐led aflatoxin situation analysis and action plan (C‐SAP); and 3) mainstream food safety and aflatoxin control through the PACA initiative in CAADP National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans.  However, awareness on the deleterious effects of aflatoxin is fast rising and there is increasing demand by country stakeholders for action. Due to resource constraints and limitations in terms of operational scope, PACA may not be able to meet all the demand emanating from countries for imminent solutions to the aflatoxin problem. A group of Ghanaian agricultural sector stakeholders led by Farmers Organization Network of Ghana (FONG) approached FARA (the FARA Secretariat is situated in Accra, Ghana, and therefore easily accessible by the stakeholders) to assist in instigating collaborative action to help local farmers address the problem of aflatoxin.  The commodity value chains most prone to aflatoxin infection include maize, millet, sorghum, groundnut and rice. These are among the most important staple foods in many African countries, including Ghana. Once such contaminated foods are eaten, the toxins get into the blood and cause a variety of health problem such as indicated above. Further, when feeds contaminated by aflatoxins are consumed by livestock, the toxins may appear in processed animal product such as the milk and cheese. Products prepared from food containing aflatoxins also contain the toxins since the toxins are relatively heat stable and are not destroyed by processing. Thus, in Ghana, aflatoxins are known to be present in Kenkey, corn dough, groundnut butter, groundnut oil etc. In Nigeria, aflatoxins were found in ‘donkwa’, a major food item with groundnut as a major ingredient. Presence of aflatoxins in human breast milk shows that babies and infants are also at risk of suffering the harmful effects of the aflatoxins. Aflatoxins are also reported to be present in human semen where they affect the morphology of the sperms and this could lead to male sterility problems.  Despite the negative impacts of aflatoxins and the benefits Ghana stands to gain from producing low aflatoxins foods, Ghanaians are generally unaware of aflatoxins and their undesirable effects. In studies involving 1983 respondents (mainly farmers), only 8% indicated some awareness of aflatoxins. This shows that the toxins and their harmful effects are not well appreciated in Ghana. Thus, a platform which will help raise the consciousness of aflatoxins in Ghana and put in place management measures would be much needed. |
| **Purpose and objectives** | The meeting purposes to form a national platform for aflatoxin management and control in Ghana. This will help raise the consciousness of participants on the subject of aflatoxin contamination of crops in Ghana and brainstorm on possible mitigation strategies.  The main objectives include:   * Discuss key issues relating to aflatoxin contamination in Ghana * Develop aflatoxin mitigation strategies with potential of adoption by farmers and other stakeholders * Table and discuss the formation of Ghana Aflatoxin and Aflasafe Platform (GAAP) * Plan aflatoxin/aflasafe awareness campaigns nationwide * Discuss the way forward |
| **Outputs and milestones** | At the end of the workshop, the following will be achieved:   * Participants would have been well appraised of the scope and seriousness of the aflatoxin challenge in Ghana * The modalities for establishing an aflatoxin platform would have been established * Strategies for aflatoxin awareness creation nationwide would be outlined * The next steps in the aflatoxin management programme in Ghana would have been well defined |
| **Approach and activities** | The meeting will be organized in three parts. The first session will commence with self-introduction of participants and an opening speeches by Executive Director of FARA or his representative and the Convener. A keynote presentation with questions and answers then follows. The next activity will be coffee break after which the second presentation will be made to conclude the first session. Lunch will follow. A one-and-a-half hour ‘break out’ session will commence after lunch to brainstorm on the five objectives in item 6 and come out with recommendations to be presented at the plenary, which will be the third and final session of the meeting. |
| **Location & date** | The workshop will be hosted by FARA on 17th June, 2015 at the FARA Secretariat Conference Hall |
| **Collaborators & participants** | See list below. |
| **Duration** | One Day |
| **Budget** | * Tea/ lunch – US$1,400 * Per diems @US$25 for 40 participants – US$ 1,000 * Travel and terminals @US$ 600 for 2 participant from outside Ghana – US$1200 * Contingencies – US$400 * Total – US$ 4,000 |

**Suggested Programme**

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| **Time** | **Theme/Activity** | **Responsible** |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Arrival of participants | Receptionists |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome and Opening remarks | Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo - FARA ED |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Introductions | Facilitator |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Keynote speech | Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Crops), Government of Ghana |
|  | **TEA/COFFEE BREAK** |  |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Background presentation – 1: Situational Analysis of the Aflatoxin Problem in Ghana | Prof. Awuah, KNUST |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Background presentation – 2: Management of Aflatoxin Contamination in Maize and Groundnut Value Chains in Ghana: The Nestle Experience | Mr. Klutse Kudomor, Nestle |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Background presentation – 3: How to Form Innovation Platforms to Address Aflatoxin Issues in Ghana | Dr. Oluwole Fatunbi, FARA |
| 12:00 – 13 :00 | Group discussions | Facilitator |
|  | **LUNCH BREAK** |  |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Group discussions |  |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Plenary synthesis of group reports | Facilitator |
|  | **TEA/COFFEE BREAK** |  |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Conclusions and Epilogue | facilitator |

**List of Suggested Participants**

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|  | **NAME** | **AFILIATION** | **EMAIL ADDRESS** |
| 1 | Prof. Awuah Richard Tuyee | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) | [awuahrt@yahoo.com](mailto:awuahrt@yahoo.com) |
| 2 | Mr. Klutse Kudomor | Nestle Ghana Limited | [kudomor@gh.nestle.com](mailto:kudomor@gh.nestle.com) |
| 3 | Mr. Eric H. Asamani | Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Pru District | [Ehaja2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Ehaja2001@yahoo.co.uk) |
| 4 | Mr. John Dziwornu | Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen | [dzijo@gmail.com](mailto:dzijo@gmail.com) |
| 5 | Dr. King David Amoah | Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers | [kdkamoah@yahoo.com](mailto:kdkamoah@yahoo.com) |
| 6 | Mr. Mohammed Kadri | Apex Farmers Organization in Ghana | [nakadri@yahoo.com](mailto:nakadri@yahoo.com) |
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| 8 | Mr. Adotey Daniel Akwei | Social Enterprise Development (SEND), Ghana | [danotey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:danotey@yahoo.co.uk) |
| 9 | Mr Anyebuno George | Food Research Institute | [geogeanyebuno@yahoo.com](mailto:geogeanyebuno@yahoo.com) |
| 10 | Mrs. Milly.K. Boamah | Plant Protection and Regulatory Services(MoFA) | [mkyofabo@hotmail.com](mailto:mkyofabo@hotmail.com) |
| 11 | Mrs. Linda Adjei | Ghana News Agency (GNA) | [Lindagyei13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lindagyei13@yahoo.co.uk) |
| 12 | Hon. Gabriel Essilfie | Parliamentary Select Committee | [gkessilfie@comcast.net](mailto:gkessilfie@comcast.net) |
| 13 | Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie | Parliamentary Select Committee | [Oakoto1@gmail.com](mailto:Oakoto1@gmail.com) |
| 14 | Mr. Larbi Ochere Theophilus | International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) | [t.larbi@ifad.org](mailto:t.larbi@ifad.org) |
| 15 | Mr. John Sitor | World Food Programme (WFP) | [johnsitor@wfp.org](mailto:johnsitor@wfp.org) |
| 16 | Mr. Hudu Mogtar | Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) | [Hudu.mogtari@fdaghana.gov.gh](mailto:Hudu.mogtari@fdaghana.gov.gh) |
| 17 | Mr. Asante Krobea | Crop Research Institute (CRI) | [cridirector@cropsresearch.org](mailto:cridirector@cropsresearch.org) |
| 18 | The Executive Director | Ghana Standard Authority (GSA) | [Info@gsagov.gh](mailto:Info@gsagov.gh) |
| 19 | Siegfried Leffle | German and international development cooperation. (GIZ) | [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de) |
| 20 | Dr. Rose Omari | Science and Technology Policy Research Institute [STEPRI}(CSIR) | [Rose.omari@yahoo.com](mailto:Rose.omari@yahoo.com) |
| 21 | Mrs. Mariella Sandini | Ministry of Trade and Industry | [mariella@sandini.info](mailto:mariella@sandini.info) |
| 22 | Dr. Kerstin Hell | International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Benin | [K.Hell@cgiar.org](mailto:K.Hell@cgiar.org) |
| 23 | Mrs. Afia Nyantekyi | Ghana Agricultural Input Dealers Association (GAIDA) | [feliseed@yahoo.com](mailto:feliseed@yahoo.com) |
| 24 | Mr. Amponsah Daniel K. | Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers (GFAP) | [gfapsecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:gfapsecretariat@gmail.com) |
| 25 | Mr. Simon Ogah | Fisheries Alliance Network in Ghana (FANG) | [simonogah@yahoo.com](mailto:simonogah@yahoo.com) |
| 26 | Mrs. Gladys Adusah | Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers (GFAP) | [adusah@gmail.com](mailto:adusah@gmail.com) |
| 27 | Mrs. Vivian Anagbonu | Women Aid Foundation | [Vivian.anagbonu@gmail.com](mailto:Vivian.anagbonu@gmail.com) |
| 28 | Mr. Frederick Q. Ayeh | Federation of Association of Ghanaian Exporters (FAGE) |  |
| 29 | Dr. Yakubu Alhassan | Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Crops) |  |
| 30 | Mr. Paul Tuolonge | Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Tachiman North |  |
| 31 | Mr. Paul K. Ntaanu |  | [ntaany@yahoo.com](mailto:ntaany@yahoo.com) |
| 32 | Country Rep., Ghana | Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) |  |
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| 40 | Dr. Amare Ayalew | PACA | [Amarea@africa-union.org](mailto:Amarea@africa-union.org) |

18 June 2015,

Accra, Ghana

1. [www.faraafrica.org](http://www.faraafrica.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)