



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

Communiqué: PACA Steering Committee Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

30 October - 1 November 2012 Meeting and Outcomes

On 31 October 2012, the African Union Commission (AUC) hosted the launch ceremony for the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), and inaugurated the PACA SC. The launch coincided with the African Union celebrating Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security. Before the launch on 30 October 2012, members of the soon-to-be-inaugurated PACA Steering Committee (SC) met at the Africa Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for an orientation to the role and responsibilities of the SC and the organizational structure and governance documents developed by the Interim Steering Committee (SC). After the launch, on 1 November, the SC convened to review, adjust as needed, and build on the progress made by the Interim SC regarding PACA structure and governance, and to begin planning for 2013 PACA activities.

PACA SC Orientation – 30 October 2012

The soon to be inaugurated SC reviewed all the governance documents developed by the interim SC and recommended them to be used as a foundation for PACA. These documents are posted on the PACA website at: <http://www.aflatoxinpartnership.org>.

SC members confirmed the primary role for PACA as supporting and providing consistent coordination and coherent leadership across multiple projects and programs for management and control of aflatoxin in Africa. SC members confirmed that PACA reports to the CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) via the continent-wide SPS Working Group. The Secretariat and SC will explore whether there are continent-wide platforms for health and trade, similar to CAADP (e.g., Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) post-2015 may provide an appropriate platform for engagement of the health community. SC members expressed interest in learning about aflatoxin control strategies that are most effective in developing country contexts outside Africa.

PACA Steering Committee Inaugural Meeting – 1 November 2012

Following the inauguration of the SC by the AUC during the PACA launch on 31 October 2012, the PACA SC conducted their first full meeting and focused their discussions on three areas: Broader Community Outreach – Platform Meeting; PACA Budget, Governance, and Project Activities; and the Africa-based Secretariat.

1. Engaging PACA's broader constituency – PACA Platform Meeting

SC members decided to convene a PACA Platform meeting in 2013 to engage the broad community of stakeholders working on and interested in aflatoxin issues across Africa.

The meeting will bring together African-based experts in aflatoxin and trade, agriculture, and health, as well as representatives of African and global stakeholders involved in aflatoxin control activities and research in Africa. Participants will include technical representatives from the agriculture and food security, trade, and health sectors. The SC recommended the event be held in late March or early April 2013. The SC established a PACA Planning Group (ECOWAS, AMREF, FARA, USAID) to guide the organization of the Platform Meeting. The SC will also work to identify existing meetings and opportunities to share information about PACA.

2. PACA Budget, Governance, and Project Activities

The SC requested that the Interim Secretariat provide relevant proposal and budget documents to the Budget, Finance and Administration Subcommittee to provide greater clarity on milestones and available funds for SC, Secretariat, and other activities. A Budget, Finance and Administration Committee will convene to discuss the budget in more detail and recommend additional agenda items for consideration by the SC.

The SC decided to:

- Utilize a transparent process for proposal submissions and selections for 2013 in order for African organizations and others dealing with Aflatoxin control in Africa to apply for funding. The proposal review process for grant application will be discussed and finalized, possibly at the next SC meeting.
- Continue to operate under current PACA travel policy until the Secretariat transition is complete and the AUC as the African host institution's policies apply.
- Structure the PACA SC according to a Board of Directors model. The SC is a governing body, and oversees the Secretariat. The Secretariat is responsible for administration of PACA programs and projects.

3. Transition to African Secretariat

For purposes of establishing PACA, Meridian is serving as the Interim Secretariat. Meridian Institute and the AUC are fully committed to a quick, but well-planned transition of the Secretariat to the AU. SC members emphasized that the Secretariat must be lean, effective and flexible. As part of the transition, Meridian and the AUC recently hired two AUC-based, temporary staff. PACA will start the process to hire a Program Manager and Technical Officer for 2-year terms.

The SC requested that Meridian Institute and the AUC develop a transition plan for review by the SC that will include:

- Information about the budget available to support an AUC based Secretariat;
- Lessons learned from existing models that might apply to PACA (e.g., the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) and The Land Policy Institute);
- A process and plan for hiring staff in 2013.

Dr. Akinbamijo and Meridian Institute will arrange a meeting with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to discuss matters regarding the Secretariat transition, funds, future plans and objectives of PACA.

4. SC Meetings, Conference Calls and Communication

There will be continued and regular e-mail communication and periodic conference calls for the SC members and PACA Secretariat, as well as bi-annual in-person SC meetings.

5. Other next Steps

- Revise and align governance and other documents to incorporate SC input.
- Explore inviting the African Development Bank (ADB) to get involved in PACA, given their interest in aflatoxin.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and indicators for evaluating PACA's success.
- Develop a PACA communications strategy.

For the latest updates on PACA, please visit the PACA website at: <http://www.aflatoxinpartnership.org/>



PACA Steering Committee Members; Interim Steering Committee Members; Secretariat Members, and Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director of DREA