Aflatoxins: serious threat to food safety and food security
But is it related to livestock?

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Introduction

Aflatoxins are hepatotoxic, carcinogenic and immunosuppressing metabolites produced by moulds, mainly Aspergillus flavus, growing on maize or other crops. Humans and animals can get acute disease with fatalities as well as chronic disease.

- Aflatoxins are invisible, tasteless and odourless, and can be present in a wide variety of crops
- When animals eat the toxin they can get sick, and they are less productive, thus producing less food and income for farmers
- Aflatoxins are metabolized by the animals, and a small part of the metabolites is present in animal source foods

Our research approach and questions

- What are the levels of aflatoxin in marketed crops and animal feeds?
- What are the levels of aflatoxins in the crop in the farm?
- How much of different crops are being consumed by different members in a household?
- How much is aflatoxin costing the farmers in terms of decreased production in animals?
- What are the levels of aflatoxins in milk?
- How much milk is being consumed and which family members are at most risk?
- What are the risks for humans and animals?

Research into use

Mapping the current knowledge, dissemination knowledge
- Literature reviews and mapping
- Studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Policy briefs for knowledge dissemination and policy recommendations

Addressing the knowledge gaps
- Risk assessment for human health
- Economic assessment of the impact
- Consumer perceptions and willingness to pay
- Improved detection methods
- Improved risk mapping and forecasts

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