**Aflatoxins in dairy cattle feed in Senegal**

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**Aflatoxins and milk**

- Aflatoxins are toxic compounds produced by certain moulds that grow on crops – they are a major food safety concern particularly in developing countries.
- If lactating cows ingest aflatoxins through contaminated feed, they can excrete aflatoxin metabolites in their milk.
- Human consumption of aflatoxins – including in contaminated cereals and milk - can lead to liver cancer and may increase the risk of childhood stunting.

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**Aflatoxins levels in Senegal dairy cattle feed**

- In this pilot work we measured aflatoxin B1 levels in dairy cattle feeds sampled from smallholder farms in Senegal. Aflatoxin levels in individual samples of a feed-type varied, but tended to be higher for particular feeds (see graph).

![Aflatoxin levels in Senegal](image)

- The percentage of feed samples that were above the WHO recommended limit for aflatoxin in animal feed (of 5ppb) was high in commonly used feeds, for example 96% for groundnut cake, 80% for millet bran, and 69% for concentrate.

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**Implications**

- Some feed samples had aflatoxin levels high enough to potentially affect milk safety and livestock productivity, indicating the need to further monitor both feeds and milk.

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This work was funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Food Africa program, and the Livestock and Fish CGIAR Research Program.

Presented at TROPENTAG, Vienna 2016

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