

Catalyzing the use of aflatoxin control
technologies in Kenya and Ghana:
Research findings and opportunities for action

Overview and Implementation of Aflatoxin Policy in Kenya

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MANDATE

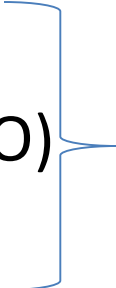
1. Food Safety Policy, Law
2. Guidelines, standards operating procedures, and protocols
3. Implementation
4. **Capacity building**
5. IHR core capacity on food safety and quality
6. Technical backstopping during food safety events

1. Ministry of Health – Food Safety and Quality



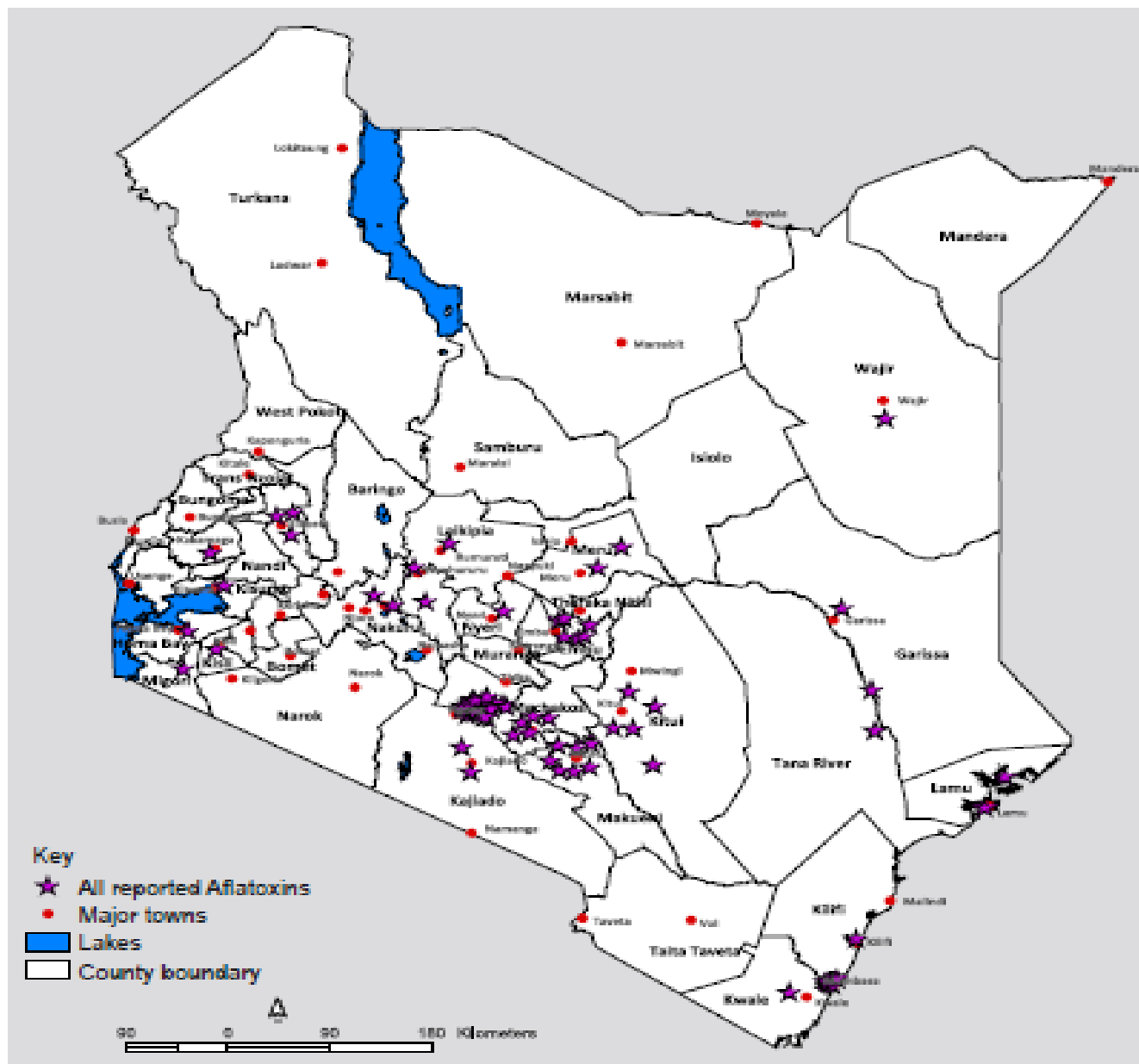
1. Has the Overarching mandate on food safety
2. The Health Act, 2017
3. Human safety – food safety
4. The Food, Drugs and Chemical Substances Act, CAP 254
5. The Public Health Act, CAP 242

Overview of Aflatoxin Contamination in Kenya

- Aflatoxins are contaminants in food, presence above national level render the food UNSAFE
 - Role in food safety:
 - The regulator
 - The Food Business Operator (FBO)
 - The Consumer
- 
- A shared responsibility
- The overall responsibility on food safety rests with the FBO

Since 2004

- Before the 2004, there were cases of aflatoxicosis
- In 2004, a total of 125 deaths occurred, due to consumption of aflatoxin contaminated maize
- Evidence of decline of fatalities. **What does this mean?**
- There is increase in amounts of maize declared unsafe for human consumption.
 - A total of 155,475 bags @ 90Kg of maize valued at KES 465 million were mopped up mainly in upper nad lower parts of eastern region and in Bura irrigation scheme in 2014



Geographical spread of media reports on aflatoxins across the country between 1960 – to date

With aflatoxin poisoning, even dogs are not safe

Eating food or animal produce contaminated with the toxins can kill you in hours

NTV's *White Alert* exposé brought out all that is wrong with the Kenyan food and health authorities, as they have left consumers at the mercy of racketeers out to make profits at all costs.

Since the documentary was aired, a number of people have asked me what they are expected to eat since milk and meat are heavily laced with aflatoxin. The gastronomic dilemma is legitimate considering that many are obsessed with ugali, milk and other related foods.

By coincidence, my most frustrating case this week was acute aflatoxin poisoning in a loved family dog. I empathised with the pet owner and felt their pain when the sun finally set



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FILE | NATION

Food from garbage sites where dogs, goats and cows scavenge is dangerous since chances are it has aflatoxin.

ing aflatoxin-contaminated feed will also expose people to AFM1 when they consume milk.

Aflatoxin poisoning in Kenya is not a new phenomenon. In fact, lots of data exist on the problem but the country has not taken decisive steps in safe-

2004

At least 331 people reported with various levels of aflatoxicosis after consuming aflatoxin-contaminated grain that resulted in 125 deaths in Eastern/Central Machakos, Kitui

Aflatoxin Policy in Kenya

- Approach is 3 tiered:
 - 1) Good Agricultural Practices
 - Aflatoxin contamination is both pre- and post – harvest, and therefore practices at farm level must be good enough to prevent contamination
 - Good practices in planting, harvesting, storage, transportation
 - Use of bio-control technology



2. Good Manufacturing Practices

- FBOs have the overall responsibility on food safety
- Each FBO to have documented and implement good practices

3. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

- It is built on sound GAPs and GMPs
- Measures to be risk-based – the probability of the hazard to cause adverse effects
- Establish CCPs and CLs

- Permissible national total aflatoxin contamination levels for grains and finished products is **10ppb**
- But for peanut butter is **15ppb**
- Aflatoxin M1 in dairy products is **500ppt**

Implementation of Aflatoxin Control Measures

- National Government
 - Regulatory agencies: Ministry of Health (Food Safety Division), Kenya Dairy Board, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Veterinary Services, Livestock Production, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
- County Governments
 - The public health departments

Challenges in Aflatoxin Control

- Coordination of the various regulatory agencies
 - Despite the coordination provided by the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee, challenges are inevitable
- A surveillance programmes will need funds