

AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA: ROLE OF POLICY AND FEEDBACK

BY

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INTRODUCTION

- Policy formulation entails analysis and authorisation. It has to be
- **effective** i.e. valid, efficient and implementable and
- acceptable** i.e arrived at through majority-building, making it politically feasible

ANALYSIS + AUTHORIZATION = FORMULATION

Feedback= **Feedback** is a process in which information about the past or the present influences the same phenomenon in the present or future. Interest is on Qualitative measurement i .e how good, bad, indifferent

WHERE WE ARE NOW

- ◉ Aflatoxins exist in Nigeria due the favourable climatic and economic challenges
- ◉ Most Nigerians do not know about the health hazards of aflatoxins therefore they are exposed to its contamination regularly.
- ◉ With the coming on board of Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria, level of awareness has increased but not yet acceptable .

WHERE WE ARE NOW

- Government shows little interest , until recently.

NEPC budgets \$500,000 to fight aflatoxin

THE Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has released \$500,000 to eradicate aflatoxin in agricultural produce, with WTO contributing 55 per cent while NEPC contributed the balance of money for the project.

The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) Mr David Adulugba, who was represented by the Director, Product for Development, Mrs. Omowumi Osibo, disclosed this during a pre-press briefing for the oncoming seminar for aflatoxin control in agricultural produce in Abuja, stating that NEPC is hosting relevant stakeholders to an interactive forum on Aflatoxin Management in Agricultural Produce in Nigeria, Afasafe on August 26. He said: "The World Trade Organisation is also working on aflatoxin, sesame seed, etc. The programme is being funded by WTO and NEPC. This is all done to promote non-oil sector, which cuts across agricultural produce like semi-manufac-

From Franca Ochigbo, Abuja

tured, manufactured, solid minerals, arts and craft.

The forum is organised to x-ray the effective control of aflatoxin contamination in agricultural produce which would lead to better quality produce for exports that attracts premium prices and less rejection at the international market place.

It will also support commercialisation of aflasafe for the use by farmers in control of aflatoxin infection. Aflatoxin is a poison produced by aspergillus flavus fungus and majorly found in soil and decaying matters in farm fields.

The fungus has the propensity to seriously affect agric produce including, especially maize, groundnuts and sesame crops produced in Nigeria. As human health implication, the fungus causes liver cancer, affects immune system and is responsible for retarded growth and development in children.

Economically, agricultural produce affected by aflatoxin are forced into markets of low value products. Aflatoxin is present in 40 per cent of the grain we eat, including chicken gizzard. It is a silent killer.

"Aflatoxin affects agricultural produce, it reduces the quality of product available for export to the international market, it also reduces the drive that is given to such produce at the international market, in most cases when such things happen such products fall into low value market or outright destruction and rejection. So, anything that will increase the quantity of agricultural produce that are prone to aflatoxin or affect agricultural produce is automatically of great interest to NEPC."

Adulugba said: "It was during the project that NEPC got to know about aflasafe, that it is a well-controlled product for aflatoxin. So, we reached out to IITA and were briefed the actual sale that has been rolled out by IITA and others needs to be commercialised so that it can be made available to farmers, and it looks like we have been having problems with getting this things commercialised, that is why NEPC is facilitating it to get all interest group to know about this aflasafe and see how it can be commercialised."



• National Agency newly acquired

Gov

THE Director the Infra Concession Commission, Mansur Ahmed, Nigeria to imitate countries on how projects if it hop the Vision 20: 20. Ahmed, who advice when he team from the Project Ms Conference (ProMaCon), exp (ProMaCon), exp ICRC appreci indispensability management infrastructure de of any nation, Nigeria.

According to boss, "the use of project ma concepts such as project delivery empowered and a project managers structured management to business case dev and proper project planning for put

DATA STREAM

COMMODITY PRICES

Oil	- \$75.3/barrel
Cocoa	- \$2,953/metric ton
Coffee	- c155/pound
Cotton	- c82.6/pound
Gold	- \$1,234/roy ounce
Copper	- \$3.0/pound

MARKET CAPITALISATIONS

NSE	- N6.7 trillion
JSE	- Z5.12 trillion
NYSE	- \$10.84 trillion
LSE	- £61.67 trillion

RATES

Inflation	- 11.8%
Treasury Bills	- 2.1%
Normal lending	- 23%
Prime lending	- 19%
Savings rate	- 3%
Time Deposit	- 6%
Foreign Reserve	- \$39 bn

FOREX

CFA	- 0.25
Euro	- 182
£	- 218
\$	- 148.8
¥	- 1.61
SDR	- 218.4
RIYAL	- 39.43

WHERE WE ARE NOW

- ◉ There has been an incoherent response to mycotoxin control
- ◉ Technical agencies and policy-makers seem not to be communicating
- ◉ There is no conscious information flow on public health impacts, market effects, social and political implications, particularly from the government.



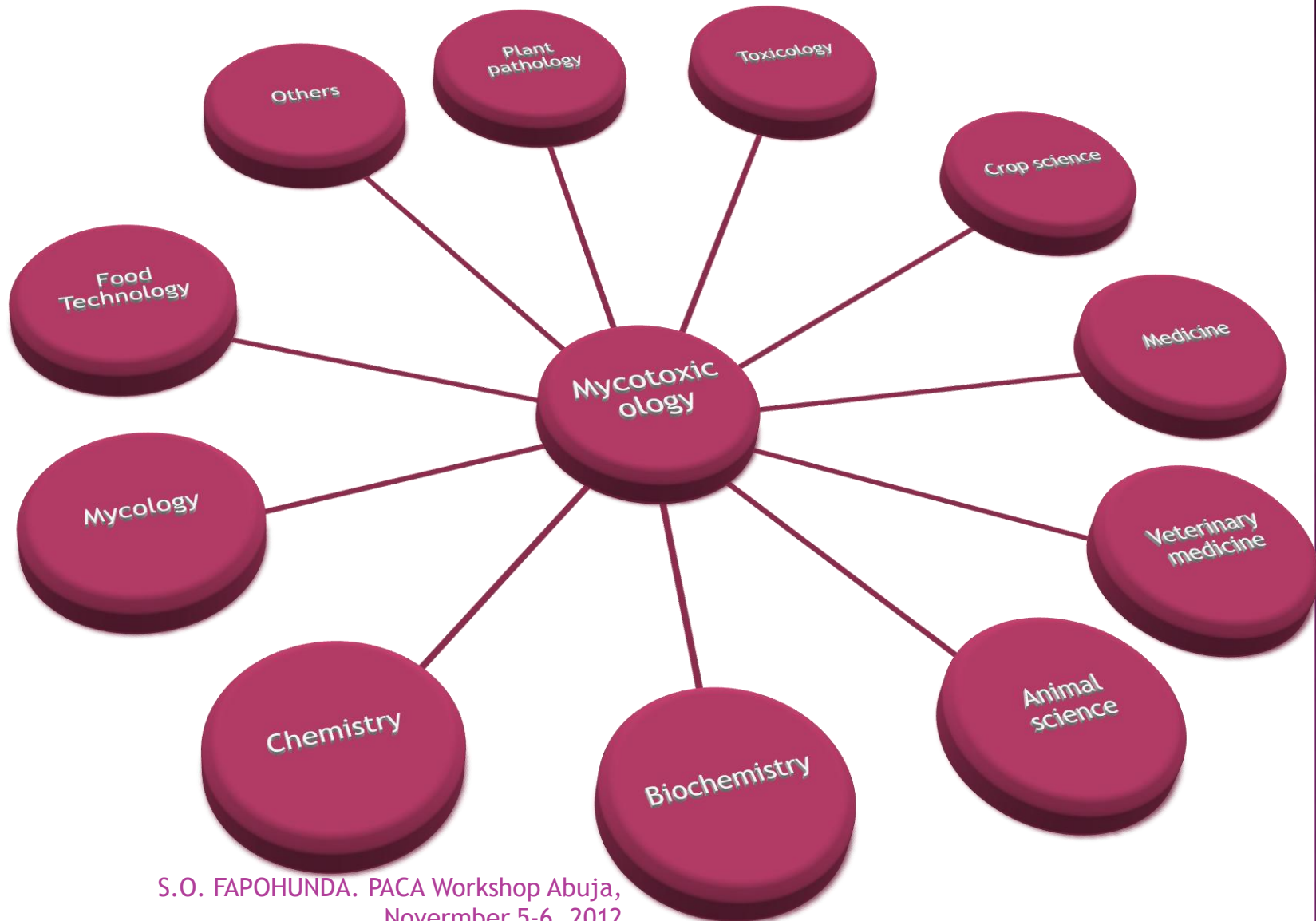
WHERE WE ARE NOW

- ◉ Regulations on food for local consumption ARE AT A LOW INTENSITY. Regulations can be effective only where food production is monitored and assisted to meet wholesome standards.
- ◉ *Nigeria to spend N802bn on food importation to augment the shortfall in the local supply.—
FAO(SundayPunch12June2011)*

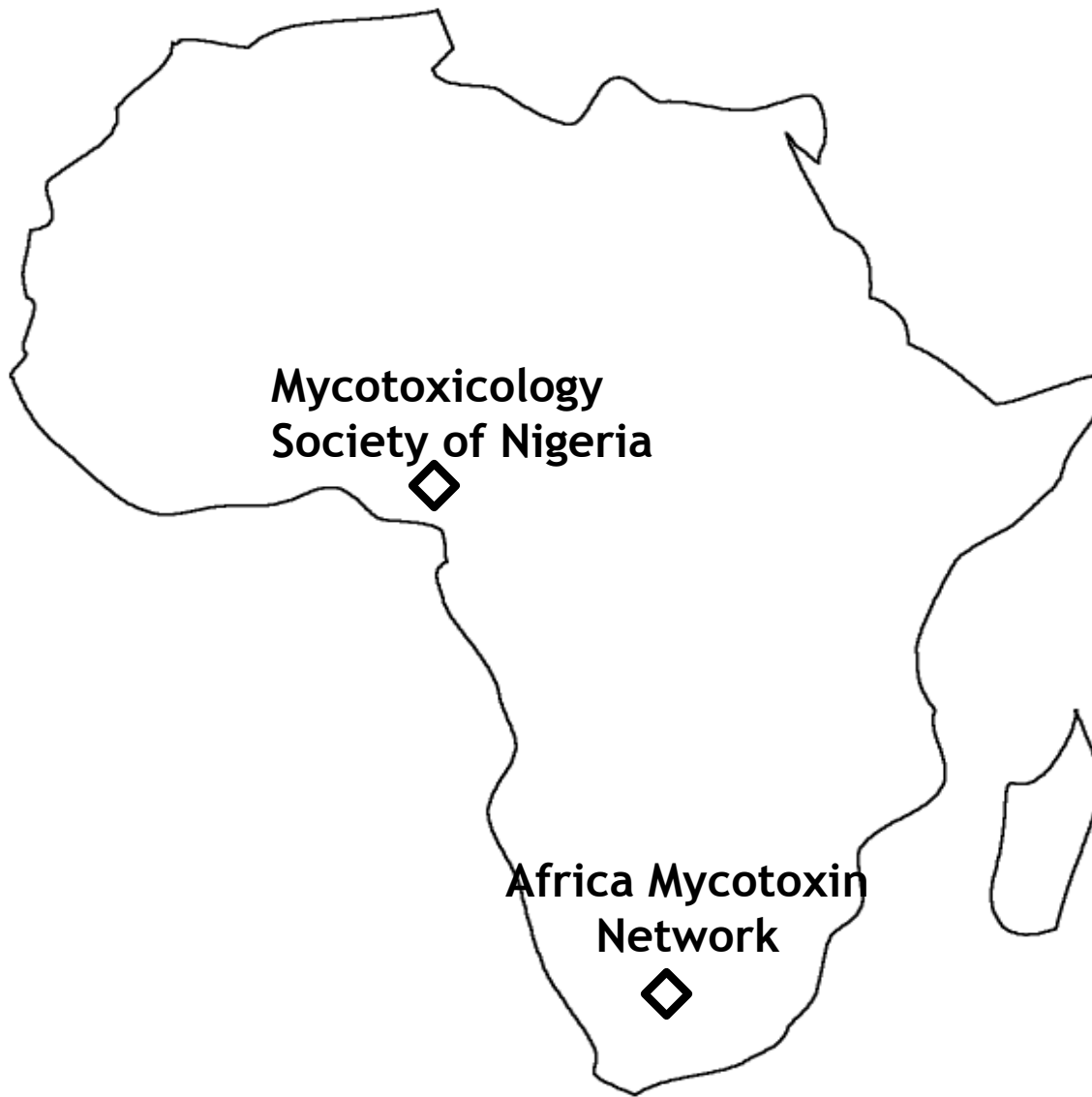


NATIONAL MYCOTOXIN POLICY

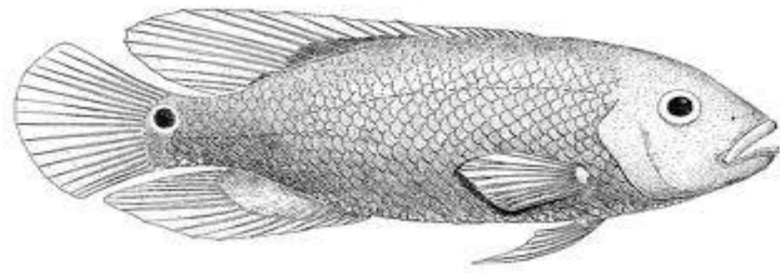
(FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION)



S.O. FAPOHUNDA. PACA Workshop Abuja,
November 5-6, 2012



○ Capacity building



○ Establishment of an Institute of Mycotoxicology/Centre for Mycotoxin Research

- ❖ Only qualified members of such institute would be employed to supervise mycotoxin testing, quantitation and management
- ❖ Laboratories for analyses e.g molecular studies on identification

- ❖ Good mycotoxicology is contingent on good taxonomy

- ❖ New developments are being observed e.g *Aspergillus niger* is now commonly producing Fumonisin (*Fusarium* ?) (Logrieco *et al* , 2009; Pitt 2011; Mogensen *et al* 2011).
- ⦿ Emerging producers of new toxins
- ⦿ Database of fungi of health concern in Nigeria (Fapohunda *et al* 2012)
- ⦿ Global reliability of results of analyses because equipment , procedure and personnel are validated.
- ⦿ Private sector participation can be meaning and productive if government regulations are in place and compliance ensured.



FEEDBACK AND FOLLOW-UP

Aim

- ◉ To monitor and measure performance response of intervention strategies
Are they user-friendly ?
- ◉ Continuous assessment report on Mycotoxson, Mycored, Africa Mycotoxin Network, Government extension services
- ◉ To gather useful data, for planning eg medical doctors/veterinary doctors and incidence of liver cancer in man and livestock, (Oyelami *et.al.*,1996).



- Correlation between occupation and aflatoxin induced abnormalities in man and livestock, say for the past 20 years? (Olsen *et al* 1988)in Denmark
- **Ingredients of feedback and follow- up are**
 - ❖ Willing end-users(farmers, commodity traders, exporters, feedmillers)
 - ❖ Willing trainers (Mycotoxson, Research institutes ,international bodies)
 - ❖ Time
 - ❖ Fund ???



SUMMARY

- **PFF = 'Policy, Feedback and Follow-up'** will go a long way in detection and management of aflatoxin (and others) in Nigeria