



# **Systems Approaches to Food Safety and Plant Health**

STDF/WBG Webinar

14 July 2021

John Keyser, Shane Sela

# Background

- **Aflatoxins are regionally important to East African Community (EAC) countries.**
  - Widespread and important food safety concern.
  - Recognized and growing regional trade barrier.
  - Directly relevant to millions of small farmers and urban consumers.
- **Implementation of EAC harmonized standards has been difficult.**
  - Reliance on expensive tests distant from where aflatoxin problems begin.
  - Current controls both inefficient and ineffective.
  - Rejected food still ends up in the food chain.
  - Little incentive for farmers and upstream traders to improve.

# Advances in technology have potential to greatly simplify aflatoxin analysis

- **Lateral flow test strips are precise and with innovations in information and communications technology (ICT) can now be used reliably in the field.**
- **UV light boxes can be an even easier way to monitor for aflatoxins and, together with other tools, may help make better-informed buying decisions.**

*Deployed systematically, could these technologies be used with other management practices to simplify regional trade and send improved market signals?*

# Key elements of a systems approach

- **Mutually recognized regulatory approach based on systematic use of field tests and good management practices.**
  - UV light boxes that help send immediate market signals to farmers.
  - Test strips and mobile readers during assembly and storage.
  - Self-certification of grain lots by accredited traders using approved field kits and other methods.
  - Full acceptance of self-issued tags or labels for domestic and regional commodity trade.
- **Regulators responsible for training and accreditation of supply chain participants, proficiency tests, and spot-checking to ensure compliance.**



# Unresolved questions (among others)

- **Would a performance-based systems approach...**
  - Send improved price signals to smallholder farmers and village offtakers?
  - Help improve rural incomes and market participation by women?
  - Improve competitiveness and confidence of buyers?
  - Provide cost savings compared to current systems?
  - Drive formal market participation by SMEs?
- **What new capacities are required for a systems approach to work?**
- **How to evaluate the level of protection compared to current arrangements?**

*Public and private stakeholders in Uganda and Kenya now working on a STDF Project Preparation Grant (PPG) application aimed at trialing the concept.*

# Thank you

**For more information:**

[www.worldbank.org/tradefacilitation](http://www.worldbank.org/tradefacilitation)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**EAC Aflatoxins:** [Paper](#); [Blog](#)

- John Keyser ([jkeyser@worldbank.org](mailto:jkeyser@worldbank.org))
- Shane Sela ([ssela@worldbank.org](mailto:ssela@worldbank.org))