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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) workshop**

#### **INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA**

- What:** PACA strategy development stakeholders' consultation workshop
- When:** 10-12 April 2013
- Where:** Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (Serena hotel)
- Who:** Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, the African Union Commission; hosted by the government of Tanzania.
- Objectives:** Within the general framework of the African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and its continent-wide and regional efforts on sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) issues, PACA will provide consistent coordination and coherent leadership to the continental efforts on aflatoxin control.
- In particular, the workshop has the following objectives:
- To bring continent-wide technical knowledge and expertise on aflatoxin;
  - Understand PACA's work to date and provide input on PACA strategy and future direction;
  - Prioritize specific intervention activities, based on agreed upon criteria;
  - Develop key result areas for action.
- Expected outcomes:**
- Creation of sense of and connection to broader PACA community;
  - Understanding of PACA vision, mission, objectives and thematic areas for action;

- Identification of challenges, opportunities, criteria and potential priority intervention areas;
- Development of key results areas and specific action recommendations for each area.

**Participants:** AU Commission; farmers' organizations, civil society organizations, experts from agriculture, trade, health and the private sector, among others.

**Background:** In response to the threat of aflatoxin to consumers and economies in Africa, stakeholders from African governments, the private sector, funding organizations, farmers' organizations, and other civil society organizations identified, in 2010, the need for an Africa-wide approach to the prevention and control of aflatoxin.

Consequently, during the seventh Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme's (CAADP) Partnership Platform in March 2011, participants urged the Africa Union Commission (AUC) to oversee the establishment of a Continental SPS Working Group to mainstream Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) matters within the CAADP framework and the establishment of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA).

PACA was formally launched on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. The Steering Committee is composed of the African Union Commission; African Agriculture Technology Foundation; African Medical and Research Foundation; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; Consumer International; East African Farmer's Federation; U.S. Agency for International Development; Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa; International Institute for Tropical Agriculture; Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium; and Economic Community of West African States.

***Journalists are invited to cover the opening event on Wednesday 10 April 2013, at 10:00am, at Serena Hotel, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania .***

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