

MYCOTOXICOLOGY SOCIETY OF NIGERIA



(MYCOTOXSON)

SECRETARIAT

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6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP COMMUNIQUÉ

22-24 JUNE, 2011 (Ibadan, Nigeria)

- The Sixth Annual Conference and Training Workshop of the Mycotoxin Awareness and Study Network (NMASN) were hosted by the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Idi-Ishin, Ibadan, Nigeria. The theme of the Conference was “MANAGEMENT OF MYCOTOXINS IN CROPS AND LIVESTOCK”. The Conference was officially opened by the Executive Director, NIHORT, Dr. Ademola A. Idowu. Also present were the Head of Quality Assurance, Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), Mrs. M. E. Eshiet and Mrs. Oshibanjo of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), both representing their Directors General.
- In attendance were participants drawn from the Universities, research institutes, government regulatory agencies, scientists from the Diaspora, local farmers, commodity traders, food and feed industries as well as solution providers.
- The President of NMASN, Dr. Olusegun Atanda welcomed all and informed the gathering that the society had concluded its registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and will now be fully known as the Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria (MYCOTOXSON).
- A roundtable mycotoxin discussion on “Mycotoxin Issues in Crops and Livestock” moderated by Prof Dele Fapohunda was held immediately after the opening ceremony with the following discussants: Dr Joseph Atehnkeng (IITA), Dr O Fakankun(Consultant, Nestle), Dr Olusegun Atanda (MYCOTOXSON), Mrs Bukola Irurhe (NAFDAC) and Mrs Margaret Eshiett(SON).
- The discussion centred on the occurrence, distribution, detection techniques and intervention strategies for mycotoxin menace. At the end of discussion, it was resolved that:
 - Strict observance of GAP, HACCP, GPP, and GMP in all affected sectors should be practiced.
 - Improvement of our drying system/practices
 - Creation of awareness by a national campaign involving the inter-ministerial cooperation as in the case of HIV-AIDS, which has attracted global attention.

- The possibility of setting aside a day by the United Nations to be known as **International Mycotoxin Day**. Morbidity arising from dietary mycotoxin consumption may be greater than from any other known disease causing agents.
- Post production management techniques such as the sorting which has been reported to reduce mycotoxin level in bulk grains by 40%,
- Use of mycotoxin binders in livestock feeds, adoption and application of bio-control agents including our indigenous non toxigenic *Aspergillus flavus*, AFLASAFE- a reported biopesticide by IITA-USDA should be encouraged. In spite of the seeming promise inherent in Aflasafe, it was agreed that appreciable reduction can only be achieved through a cocktail of programmes.
- The need to key into the proposed plan to achieve the setting of limits for all products in Nigeria as the FAO is interested in the outcome of the roundtable just as it is always willing to support steps that will lead to the setting of limits for Nigeria. Nigeria currently uses the CODEX standards for most of her commodities.
- The willingness of Nigeria to collaborate with all relevant international bodies in order to achieve wholesome food and feed for healthy man and livestock was stressed
- There is need to ameliorate the poverty situation of our farmers as they acknowledged consumption of mouldy grains and food due to low income and living standards.
- In order to salvage the food -safety crisis engulfing many countries including the government and industries should fund research to promote food safety as is done in the developed countries.
- It was noted that in 2005, 13 consignments of melons exported by Nigeria were rejected by EU countries because of unacceptable levels of aflatoxins in them. 10 of these consignments were from Nigeria!!!! with the resultant Rapid Alert among member countries.
- The crusade against mycotoxin contamination needs to be reinvigorated by stepping up awareness campaigns at the local farmers' and commodity traders' levels
- The assistance of the MycoRed- EU sponsored initiative to the Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria was acknowledged
- The NMASN team led by Mrs. B.F. Oluwabamiwo (Coordinator of Training) conducted training on the analysis of total aflatoxins in cereals using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) and the Chromogene team led by Dr. Adetayo Adebayo conducted training on ELISA method of using AFLACARD total for qualitative screening for the detection of total aflatoxins.

Olusegun Atanda (Ph.D.)



President,
Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria (MYCOTOXSON)