

Private Sector Side Event

Multi-Sector Partnerships Drive Food Safety Solutions that Increase Food Availability, Improve Health and Enhance Economic Status

HOSTED BY:

Mars, Incorporated
Republic of Liberia
Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
Republic of Ghana

DATE, LOCATION :

October 14, 2015 – UN FAO, Rome, Italy

SPEAKERS :

H.E. Majid Dehghan Shoar, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairperson of G77&China
Paulina S. Addy, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of Ghana
H.E. Mohammed Sheriff, Ambassador, Government of Liberia
Amare Ayalew, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, PACA
Renata Clarke, Nutrition Officer Food Quality and Standards Service, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO
H.E. Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Ambassador, Republic of Sudan and Chairperson of the Near East Group
Dave Crean, Head of Technical Food Safety Development, Mars, Incorporated
H.E. Rachid Marif, Ambassador, Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria and Chairperson of the Africa Group
Jennifer Nyberg, Senior Adviser, Office of the DED/COO, UN World Food Programme

MODERATOR:

H.E Mohammed Sheriff, Ambassador, Government of Liberia

MEETING SUMMARY (250 WORDS)

This side-event drew a crowd of 68, to talk about food safety, the impacts of food contamination, as well as discussing different solutions for the problem. Unsafe foods are global challenges that attack the human faces of nutrition and development in the daily lives of billions of people. Aflatoxin is a silent killer, with 80-100% of children exposed to a chronic dose of aflatoxin in Africa. Unsafe foods impact nutrition, health and economic status. The panelists came together to discuss how food safety is fundamental to food security.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS, INCLUDING NEW PROJECTS OR PARTNERSHIPS

Amare Ayalew, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, PACA

- Aflatoxins are a huge problem, where consumption of the toxin leads to poison, cancer, and death.
- Currently, there is a lot of progress being made in countries to help alleviate the impact of aflatoxin, and these solutions can be scaled up to help more countries.

Jennifer Nyberg, Senior Adviser, Office of the DED/COO, UN World Food Programme

- Partnerships are an essential attribute to ensure food safety.
- When creating partnerships, it is important to think about what the needs are, and which private or public sector companies can help.
- We need funds to make it real on the ground.
- Increasing awareness, investing in research, and intensifying education of food safety is so important.

Paulina S. Addy, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of Ghana

- The biocontrol aspect is worth pushing.
- Investing in research, and intensifying public education is essential to food safety and security.

Dave Crean, Head of Technical Food Safety Development, Mars, Incorporated

- We continuously underestimate the impact of aflatoxins on food security.
- When materials are rejected from our supply chain, there are high chances that it gets recycled back in.
- A story was shared of a smallholder farmer in a rural community feeding her children the dirty crops leftover from her harvest. Without food safety education, she had no idea that the food she was providing her children were riddled with aflatoxins.

Renata Clarke, Nutrition Officer Food Quality and Standards Service, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO

- Food safety is fundamental to food security.
- Failure to deal with food safety will have a negative effect.
- We need data to mobilize people to take action.
- We need investment in food safety.
- A loss of market creates a loss of opportunity, and this needs to be addressed in the future.
- The world needs to understand data as a public health asset to identify where the risks are.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- There is a clear need for data and investment.
- Increasing awareness, investing in research and intensifying education of food safety is important.
- Investment in innovation needs to serve the public good.
- We need holistic approaches and solution for food safety and security.
- Advocacy and food safety requires partnership.