

Safe food safe Dairy project on Health risks associated with Mycotoxins contamination of maize and animal feeds

University coordinator

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This is a collaborative project between University of Nairobi and MTT AgriFood Research, Finland. The Project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. Other partners are EVIRA-Finnish Food Safety Authority, Egerton University and KARI in Kenya. The project is supporting 10 Masters students 2 of whom are from the Department. Through this project, it is expected that an ISO 17025 certified mycotoxin laboratory will be established which will have an international recognition for mycotoxin analysis. The project leader is Prof. Hannu Korhonen (MTT Agrifood Research) assisted locally by Prof. E.K. Kangethe, Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology..

Amount of grant and funding period

This is a 3.5 years (2010- 2013) project

Amount of grant: Euros 587,000.

Overall objective

Building Capacity to improve safety in the Feed –Dairy chain with special focus on health risks associated with biological Contaminants

The project has both developmental and specific objectives as follows:

Development objectives

To strengthen institutional capacity to improve the **safety** of feeds and dairy production chain for better animal and human health

To improve food **security** through better management practices of feeds and foodstuffs

Specific objectives

To establish a reference laboratory at the University of Nairobi with adequate infrastructure and expertise for testing specific biological contaminants in feeds and foodstuffs

To train laboratory support personnel in standard analysis and novel methods on screening mycotoxin contamination and antibiotic residues in feeds and foodstuffs

To establish baseline information on above contaminants and their human exposure on the bench mark sites

To expand awareness about potential health hazards related to above contaminants and their management

Expected results and activities

The project will comprise the following four integrated activities:.

1. Improvement of physical laboratory facilities at the University of Nairobi
2. A series of training courses arranged both in Kenya and Finland
3. A survey of the baseline situation to identify mycotoxin/ antibiotic contaminants in the feed-dairy chain on identified bench mark sites and to assess human exposure to these contaminants

4. Dissemination of survey findings among the relevant stakeholders in the feed- dairy chain and authorities involved.
5. The project has offered opportunities to 9 graduate students to carry out their projects leading to award of MSc degrees from Universities of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta and Helsinki.