Like books, do not judge your food by its cover. Which of these is aflatoxin-contaminated? The mouldy ones? The ‘clean’ ones? It could be either, or neither. Find out why! With aflatoxin, its stealth is its strength, which is what makes it so deadly.
What is aflatoxin?

- Aflatoxin is a poison produced by the fungus *Aspergillus flavus*.
- This fungus resides in soil and infects crops in the field.
- Aflatoxin contaminates up to 65% of maize and groundnut crops.
- More than 95% of children under five in some countries have aflatoxin in their body signifying high exposure.
- Aflatoxin affects many other crops such as melon seeds and rice.

How does aflatoxin harm us?

- Causes liver cancer and sometimes death; weakens the immune system and stunts child growth.
- Contaminated feed kills chickens and decreases productivity and profitability of livestock.
- Products with higher than permissible aflatoxin levels are either forced into low-value markets or destroyed.
What is Aflasafe?

- IITA and partners have developed an all-natural product, Aflasafe which drastically reduces aflatoxin in crops.
- Aflasafe contains native non-toxic strains of *Aspergillus flavus* that out-compete toxin-producing ones when applied in the field.
- When Aflasafe is correctly applied and all facilitative conditions are met, farmers in several countries consistently achieve 80% to 100% reduction in aflatoxin contamination in their maize and groundnut fields.
- One application of Aflasafe every cropping season provides protection from aflatoxin in a cumulative manner, along with attendant health benefits.

What are the benefits of Aflasafe?

- Significantly lower aflatoxin contamination in food and feed.
- Healthier farm families and more income.
- Productive animals and increased profitability from poultry.
- More trade opportunities, with produce meeting market requirements.
What is the status of aflatoxin biocontrol R4D?

- A manufacturing plant capable of producing 5 tons of Aflasafe per hour is operational at IITA headquarters in Nigeria. Another is operational in Kenya (10 tons per day), and a third on the way in Senegal with the same capacity.
- Local versions of Aflasafe products registered for use in nine countries.
- Product development is at various stages in the R4D continuum in eight other countries.
- Farmers in Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and The Gambia continue to treat tens of thousands of hectares of maize and groundnut fields.
- AgResults Project providing incentive private sector to scale up Aflasafe use by thousands of maize farmers in Nigeria.
- Aflasafe Technology Transfer and Commercialisation initiative (ATTC) underway, targeting 11 countries.
- All our aflatoxin R4D work is in support of the African Union’s Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA).

Aflasafe in Africa – Where we are

- Mali
- Gambia
- Senegal
- Burkina Faso
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Cameroon
- Mali
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Burundi
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

What are the future plans for aflatoxin prevention?

- Scaling up and commercialisation through private (eg, agribusiness), public (eg, government institutions) and public–private partnerships.
- License a mix of manufacturing, marketing and distribution roles to private/public sectors.
- Set up modular Aflasafe manufacturing plants to encourage in-country and regional production and adoption (eg, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Burkina Faso).
- Provide stewardship and technical backstopping to the licensee.
- Develop new Aflasafe products for countries not currently covered by aflatoxin biocontrol research-for-development programme.

For more information on aflatoxin and Aflasafe
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To order Aflasafe, visit aflasafe.com and scroll down to ‘Buy Aflasafe now!’ Or contact: Business Incubation Platform, IITA Headquarters, PMB 5320, Oyo Road Ibadan 200001, Oyo State, Nigeria Email: IITABIP@cgiar.org

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