

# How to use Aflasafe® to effectively control aflatoxin



Aflatoxin contaminates maize, groundnuts and other crops including sorghum, rice, dried chillies and cassava.



Aflatoxin causes liver cancer, suppresses the immune system, and retards growth and development of children, among other health problems.

Continuous consumption of aflatoxin-contaminated foods and feed decreases productivity in people and animals, and can sometimes cause death.

## Which of these is aflatoxin-contaminated?

Impossible to tell because...



...one cannot see, smell or taste aflatoxin, even **when the level of contamination is lethal: it takes a laboratory test to determine aflatoxin levels in food.** In Kenya, aflatoxin-safe foods should have no more than 10 parts per billion of aflatoxin.

Aflasafe® is a 100% natural product that fights aflatoxin. The green colour band along the bottom certifies that non-hazardous Aflasafe has the highest World Health Organization standard for safety.

When applied properly and combined with good agricultural practices, Aflasafe effectively controls aflatoxin during crop development, harvesting and storage. The one specially tailored for Kenya is named Aflasafe KE01™.



# Dos and don'ts before, during and after using Aflasafe

- 1 **Plant seed of improved varieties** recommended for your area. If in doubt, contact extension agents for advice.



- 2 **Follow good agronomic practices** (eg, proper land preparation, correct spacing) and observe recommended planting times for your area.



- 3 **Before applying Aflasafe**, ensure that all agronomic practices (weeding, applying of top-dressing fertiliser, etc) have been done. See our manual for more details. This is in order to avoid burying Aflasafe in the soil. Aflasafe **MUST** stay above ground.



- 4 Ensure that the crop is at the **right stage** for applying Aflasafe. For maize, this is 2–3 weeks before tassels appear, also known as 'flowering'. Flowering stage is indicated on the packs of certified seed.



**5 Broadcast Aflasafe evenly** at a rate of **4 kilos per acre or 10 kilos per hectare**

Toss the product as uniformly as possible; once spores grow on Aflasafe, they will be carried to the crop by wind or insects even if certain areas receive more Aflasafe than others. For application using a tractor, calibrate the equipment to disperse at a dose of 10 kilos per hectare or 4 kilos per acre. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after applying Aflasafe.



ITTA – main photo: U Mutuku; inset: E Nyabiba

**6 The spores in the Aflasafe require moisture to grow.** Therefore, apply Aflasafe immediately after rains or when rains are expected or when the soil is wet, or if possible irrigate field after application. Ensure that Aflasafe stays on the soil surface. For Aflasafe to work, it **MUST** be above ground. Therefore, **DO NOT CARRY OUT ANY OPERATION THAT WILL BURY AFLASAFE IN THE SOIL** after application. Such operations should all be done in Step 3.



When there is adequate moisture in the soil, the Aflasafe fungi multiply rapidly and in large numbers (within 2–3 days), and form spores.

These spores are spread throughout the crop by wind and insects, thereby displacing aflatoxin-producing fungi and protecting your crop from poisonous aflatoxin.

Aflasafe is environmentally friendly and does not have negative effects on non-target crops. Aflasafe can therefore be safely used in inter-cropping.



# Precautions



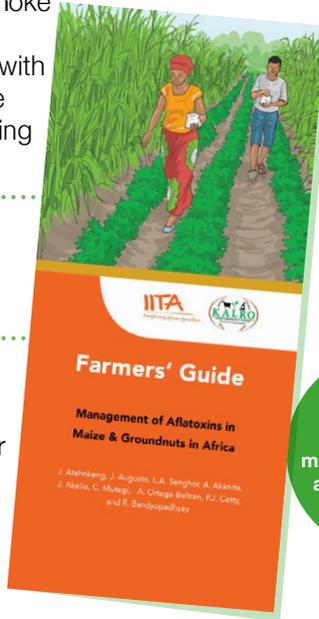
1. **DO NOT** apply together with fertilisers, insecticides, or fungicides.



2. **DO NOT** eat, drink or smoke while handling Aflasafe. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after use and before eating, smoking or drinking.

3. Observe all other **safety measures** in the user instructions.

4. For Aflasafe to work effectively and continue to protect your crop after harvest, **good harvest and postharvest management are both a must.**



Refer to our manual for instructions on mandatory harvest and postharvest management.