Aflatoxin Risk Management: Malawi Case Study - Introduction

Forum for Agricultural Risk Management in Development

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Andrew Emmott
Twin & Twin Trading

Aflatoxin Risk Management
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Webinar Overview

- Context (Andrew Emmott) - Twin;
- Malawi Program for Aflatoxin Control (Isaac Gokah - MAPAC;
- Measuring aflatoxin and managing expectations (Julian Smith - FERA);
- Value chain partnerships and market incentives (Andrew Emmott – Twin); and,
- Discussion.

How do aflatoxins impact smallholders in Malawi?

Malawi context

- Rainfed agriculture with single season;
  - Crops stressed by drought and floods;
  - Frequency of droughts increasing 2001, 04/5, 08;
  - Families store staple foods for long periods;
- 1.6 million people needed food assistance during lean period (2012);
- 46% of children under 5 are stunted;
- Groundnuts are a valuable source of protein, unsaturated fat and energy but are contaminated by aflatoxin.

Aflatoxin Risk Management Context:

A global public health & trade issue

- Chronic aflatoxin exposure
  - 4.5 billion people at risk (CDC);
- Many crops affected - maize, rice, peanuts
- A class 1 carcinogen:
  - Contributes to 28% of all new liver cancers;
- Suppresses the immune system:
  - HIV & aflatoxin exposure increases TB;
- Stunted children:
  - Maternal transmission;
  - have 30-40% more aflatoxin in blood vs children with normal body weight;
- Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa:
  - Malawi Program for Aflatoxin Control (MAPAC)