

DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP AT EDEN SPRINGS HOTEL, KAPSABET.

24 OCTOBER 2012.

- County Commissioner
- District commissioners
- All Collaborators
- Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are about to close a workshop which I hope has fully lived up to the expectations of all of us.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi Prof. George Magoha, and on behalf of the University of Nairobi fraternity, I wish to thank the Government of Finland for funding this project and our collaborators; KARI, Egerton University, Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Public health and Sanitation, the Office of the President - Provincial Administration and our researchers for all the work they have put into this project.

I would also like to thank each one of you, individually for your active participation and significant contribution to this dissemination workshop that was geared towards the dissemination of research findings and engaging policy makers towards developing policies and strategies that will enhance food safety and food security in Kenya.

Ladies and gentlemen, this workshop has provided us with an unparalleled opportunity to disseminate the findings from the research project and exchange information and ideas in order to strategize together on how to mitigate the aflatoxin and fumonisin problem in Kenya. We have shared experiences and listened to many committed voices in this quest.

The project has established farmer practices that predispose maize to fungal attacks and household exposure to aflatoxins and fumonisins. The project has also established that such exposures put fetuses and babies at risk of stunted development and wasting also affecting cognitive development.

The project also estimates that our milk production is reduced by 33%, an estimated 25-30 billion shillings loss in possible income from dairy milk per year because of aflatoxins in feeds.

Through this workshop, we have had the opportunity to observe a clear desire in each one of us here to resolve the problem of aflatoxins and fumonisin and enable our farmers gain their full productivity, so impeded.

The workshop discussions have come up with specific recommendations and action plans to mitigate the problem of aflatoxins and fumonisins.

Ladies and gentlemen, the greater challenge lies in the government of Kenya fully rolling out these actions plans and recommendations into concrete benefits for the people.

It is in this regard that I wish to enjoin each one of us here as the key agents who will work with the government to translate these action plans into practice in order to benefit the people.

It will be therefore necessary for all of us, and it is my sincere hope that – as collaborators, government ministries, researchers, research institutions, and funding bodies, we shall work together and put into practice the wealth of information that we have just received and the recommendations and actions plans we have just committed to.

Once again, I wish to extend my deep gratitude to the government of Finland for the support granted to this project. Thank you all for your active participation and valuable contributions.

Thank you.