We request subscription for our laboratory in the Aflatoxin Proficiency Testing (PT) and Control programme: those who participated in round 1 do not need to complete this application. As a subscribing laboratory, we ensure that the analysts who assay the proficiency samples in this laboratory are fully informed of the instructions given on the reporting form before the analysis is started. Whenever possible, the analysis who usually performs a given analysis will assay the proficiency sample.

Permission is hereby granted for publication and inclusion of these results in subsequent statistical treatments and reports by FAO-Texas A&M. We will endeavor to perform two analyses and report results through the web porthole (given below) within the prescribed time.

It is agreed that the laboratory will cover the cost of aflatoxin analysis. It is further agreed there is no subscription fee to participate in the programme.

We confirm that our laboratory analyze samples for total aflatoxin and/or aflatoxin B1.

FAO-Texas A&M Responsibility
The FAO-Texas A&M programme includes sending a two proficiency samples in 2016. In particular, a single 100+ g sample will be mailed by Texas A&M twice a year. Participants are expected to analyze a 50 g portion, twice for each sample and report both results. Eligible participants include grain milling and grain handling firms, feed manufacturing industry, government laboratories and educational institutions. The total number of participants is limited to 160 participants. Results will be reviewed for outliers before the assigned value, range, and standard deviation of the results are calculated. The Z score for each laboratory will be calculated and reported. Texas A&M and FAO will not divulge the identity of programme participants.

Maize Samples
In 2016, the maize samples containing naturally occurring aflatoxin used for the proficiency programme are analyzed for aflatoxin B1, B2, G1, and G2 by the Office of the Texas State Chemist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research. Samples are analyzed using high performance liquid chromatography and the relative standard deviation for the proficiency samples calculated prior to their incorporation into the proficiency programme. The Office of the Texas State Chemist is ISO 17025 accredited for aflatoxin analysis using this procedure.

The testing of the received PT item should follow the same format of routine analysis of laboratory samples. The PT samples are stable in the course of production, transportation, PT testing and reporting period. The PT item is ready to use in its delivered form and does not require any extra laboratory preparation. Typical laboratory environment conditions are sufficient to perform the expected measurements. The PT item is the same as normal maize samples and do not require special safety handling procedures. Return of the PT sample is not required for this programme.
**Test Methods**
The participating laboratories can use any method of their own choices. The chosen methods need to be provided following the reporting instructions. Eligible methods include but are not limited to traditional instrument analysis (HPLC) and testing kit methods. The data analysis for results obtained by different methods will be divided into two categories, the analysis of data obtained by all methods, and analysis of data obtained by testing kit analyses only.

**Reporting Results**
The testing results are reported through the website at: https://apteca.tamu.edu/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fProficiency_Testing%2fDefault.aspx

Each laboratory participant representative shall use the credential issued by the PT provider and log in the website. The laboratory participant will be able to view only his/her results. Two independent analyses (weighing, extraction and analysis) shall be performed for the same PT item and two results are reported for total aflatoxin or aflatoxin B1 or both. The final reporting shall not be later than the date specified in the PT scheme, which is announced on the programme website.

**PT Summary Report Usage Policy**
The laboratory participant can use the PT summary report for their legitimate purpose when crediting this PT program.

**Contact Information**
Tim Herrman PhD
Professor, State Chemist and Director
Office of the Texas State Chemist
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
tjh@otsc.tamu.edu

**FAO-Texas A&M Aflatoxin Proficiency Testing and Control: Registration Notification for Second Phase is now Open**
FAO and Texas A&M are collaborating to deliver the second phase of a global aflatoxin proficiency testing programme. During the first phase, a total of 84 labs from Africa, Asia, Americas and Europe participated in testing ground maize samples for aflatoxin.

Proficiency samples for the second phase will be mailed in early July. Institutions/firms that participated in the first phase need not reapply. We will contact them in the coming days. While there is no registration fee, participating laboratories are responsible for their analysis cost. Applications must be completed and submitted to Harinder.makkar@fao.org by July 1, 2016. Please see Page 3 of the attached file for submission of the application. Additional information about the Proficiency Testing Programme is also in the attached file.

The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) is the proficiency provider and they utilize their ISO 17025 accredited laboratory to prepare the proficiency samples. They will mail the proficiency samples on or before July 12. Participants must enter their results on or before October 1, 2016. The Phase Two report will be issued by Oct. 5, 2016.

The Aflatoxin proficiency testing is a key component in managing aflatoxin risk in the global feed sector. Proficiency testing is one of the BIG THREE in a laboratory quality system, along with traceability and uncertainty. Participation in proficiency testing programmes helps a laboratory assure the quality of test results.
The participating laboratories can use any method of their own choices. Please provide the following information (do not fill with hand, type-in the information sought and send as a word file and not as pdf) to Harinder.Makkar@fao.org (Deadline: July 1, 2016)

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Laboratory Contact Person: __________________________________________________________

Laboratory Name: _________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________________________________________________________

State/Province: ___________________________________________________________________

Zip or Postal Code: __________________________________________________________________

Country: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ___________________________ FAX Number: _______________________________

Contact email address: _______________________________________________________________  

Aflatoxin Testing Entity Designation (check all that apply)

___ Grain Miller ___ Grain Handlers/Storage ___ Government ___ Research ___ Feed industry

Type of Aflatoxin Testing Platform

If HPLC method: list instrument model and methodology

Manufacturer Name and Model: _________________________________________________________

If Test kit: list

Manufacturer Name: _________________________________________________________________

Test Kit Type: _____________________________________________________________________

Reader/Model: _____________________________________________________________________