

Wednesday , 14 October 18:00– 19:30

Iraq Room

### Multi-sector partnerships drive food safety solutions that increase food availability, improve nutrition and health, and enhance economic status #39

#### ORGANIZERS

Mars, Incorporated

Republic of Liberia

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa

Republic of Ghana

**Abstract:** Food safety is the bedrock essential pillar of food security and nutrition. Without food safety, consumers do not have food! Unfortunately unsafe foods are significant and pervasive global challenges that attack the human faces of nutrition and development in the daily lives of billions of people. Unsafe foods impact nutrition, better health and improved economic status. Risks abound throughout the food supply chain from production, harvesting, transportation, processing, storage, and manufacturing and at the consumer level. Several key UN facts support these statements: (1) 25% of key food crops are contaminated by mycotoxins, especially from aflatoxins; (2) 4.5 billion people are exposed to contaminated food annually causing high incidences of premature deaths of women, including the highest rates of liver cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa and excessively high rates of childhood stunting; (3) 2,000 people die each day in Africa from food safety related problems; (4) diarrhea related to food and water borne infections kills over 2 million adults and children annually more than TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria; and finally, (5) this is not only a developing world problem... 1/6 of the population of the USA had food related health problems in 2011, causing 50 million illnesses, about 3,000 deaths and costing \$80 billion. The good news is that there are solutions to help solve and manage these safety challenges. However, no single entity can ensure safe food at all times for all people. Industry, which has a storehouse of tools, capabilities and expertise, can be most effective when it participates in multi-sector, multi-disciplinary partnerships with UN agencies, national governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. Since ICN2 there has been greater recognition and encouragement for expanded private sector roles that are transparent and pre-competitive. This side-event will describe progress in implementing the spirit of the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action through partnerships. This side-event will engage representatives participating in uncommon public-private-partnerships and collaborations designed to develop solution pathways among the linkages of food security, nutrition and safety. Panel members will describe the value of working at scale to help increase access to safer and more nutritious foods; to ensure reliable access to agricultural products through a more reliable, sustainable supply chain; and lessons learned and best practices for partnership building.

**KEYWORDS:** Food security and nutrition , Uncommon partnerships and collaborations , Relationships between food contamination, premature women’s deaths and childhood stunting , Aflatoxins , Business storehouse of tools, capabilities and expertise to address food security and nutrition

**Languages:** EN, FR, SP, AR

Refreshments

**Summary:** This side-event drew an audience of 68 people, to talk about food safety, the impacts of food contamination, as well as discussing different solutions for the problem. Unsafe foods are global challenges that attack the human faces of nutrition and development in the daily lives of billions of people. Aflatoxin is a silent killer, with 80-100% of children exposed to a chronic dose of aflatoxin. Unsafe foods impact nutrition, health and economic status. Aflatoxins are a huge problem, where consumption of the toxin leads to poison, cancer, and death. Currently, there is lots of progress being made in countries to help alleviate the impact of aflatoxin, and these solutions can be scaled to help more countries.

Jennifer Nyberg discussed the impacts of aflatoxins, and noted that partnerships are an essential attribute to ensure food safety. An increase in awareness, investing in research, and intensifying education of Food Safety is so important.

The impact of aflatoxins on food security is continuously underestimated. Paulina S. Addy remarked that it is the responsibility of the governments and professionals to safeguard food. When materials are rejected from our supply chain, there are high chances that it gets

recycled back in. The lack of awareness and information about aflatoxins in rural communities is high and could have fatal consequences, for example, a smallholder farmer in a rural community feeding her children dirty crops leftover from her harvest. Without food safety education, farmers and are unaware that the food they are providing their families with are riddled with aflatoxins.

The panellists came together to discuss how food safety is fundamental to food security. There is a need for data to mobilize people to take action and invest in food safety. Advocacy to food safety requires partnership, with data being used as a public health asset. We need holistic approaches and solutions for food security and food safety.