

CAPACITY BUILDING TO MITIGATE MYCOTOXINS IMPACT ON CHILDREN HEALTH IN EAST AFRICA (CapAfrica)

Background

Epidemiological studies on children with mycotoxin contaminated food in their diet revealed various interactions between dietary intake of mycotoxins and malnutrition, immuno-suppression, impaired growth, and several diseases. Among the health impairment that are suspected to be associated with contamination in food, a major concern is the nodding syndrome, a disabling and often fatal condition: it is devastating communities in South Sudan, northern Uganda and southern Tanzania. We are setting up a project proposal aimed at the improvement of living conditions through the reduction in exposure to mycotoxins by development of interdisciplinary network which might contribute to mitigate health impact and alleviate the nodding syndrome burden.

Main Activities

- Implementation of the lab tools
- Blood sample collection and analysis
- Food sample collection and analysis
- Mycotoxins risk assessment
- Dissemination and sensitization



Specific Objective

Interdisciplinary networking to enhance research project aiming at mycotoxins intake reduction, particularly in areas where children are at high risk.

Potential Partners

- University of Udine, Dept. Agricultural and Environmental Science and Dept. Medical Microbiology, Italy
- University of Brescia, Dept. Molecular and Translational Medicine, Italy
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture IITA, Tanzania and Uganda
- Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania
- Makerere University, Uganda
- University of Juba, South Sudan
- Others

Contacts at the Science Forum 2013

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