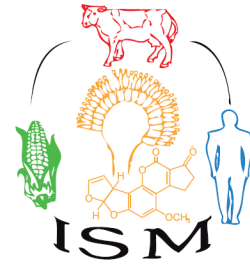


# 1<sup>st</sup> African Symposium on Mycotoxicology



Mombasa, Kenya  
First announcement  
September 2014



## Background

For decades, mycotoxigenic fungi have been detrimental to the production, safety and trade of crops. Despite local and international efforts to reduce mycotoxins in food and feed, Africa is still plagued by mycotoxigenic fungi which contaminate crops and cause acute and chronic diseases in humans and animals, such as cancer, immune suppression, birth defects and growth abnormalities. Many rural communities are unaware of the perpetual poisoning of their daily diets; whereas producers and traders neither have the ability nor the resources to prevent crops from becoming infected.

Africans consume large quantities of maize, wheat, sorghum and groundnuts, and often rely on these crops as a primary source of food and income. In 2004, severe poisoning of aflatoxin-contaminated maize resulted in the deaths of more than 100 Kenyans. Aflatoxins are known to be associated with primary liver cancer and growth reduction in children in other parts of Africa. While aflatoxin is considered the most toxic mycotoxin in Africa, other mycotoxins; such as fumonisins, trichothecenes, zearalenone and ochratoxins; can also be detrimental to humans and animals. To protect consumers and livestock against harmful mycotoxins, the USA and EU have implemented strict regulations for maximum allowable limits in food and feed. Such regulations are seldom implemented in African countries, and even less enforced, thereby affecting international trade and impeding economic development on the continent.



In an effort to address the threat of mycotoxins to food production systems, health care and trade on the African continent, an African Mycotoxin Network was established in 2011. The objective of this network was to connect scientists, academics and industries interested in research and collaboration. With a significant membership participating in web activities, we now plan to organize the first African Symposium on Mycotoxicology in September 2014. The objectives of this meeting will be to:

1. Assess the occurrence and impact of mycotoxins on African food and feed chains;
2. Discuss and facilitate the mitigation of mycotoxins on the continent;
3. Coordinate scientific research efforts on mycotoxins on the continent;
4. Strengthen continental and international collaboration and networking; and
5. Establish an African Society of Mycotoxicology (ASM) under the auspices of the International Society of Mycotoxicology (ISM).

### **Symposium organizers**

The 1<sup>st</sup> African Symposium on Mycotoxicology will be jointly organized by Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and the University of Nairobi (Kenya).

Prof. Altus Viljoen  
Department of Plant Pathology  
University of Stellenbosch  
Private Bag X1  
Matieland 7600  
South Africa  
Tel: +27-21-8084797  
Fax: +27-21-8084956  
Email: altus@sun.ac.za

Prof. Sheila Okoth  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of Nairobi  
P. O. Box 30197-00100  
Nairobi  
Kenya  
Tel: + 254-02-204442316  
Fax: +254-2-4449902  
Email: dorisokoth@yahoo.com

### **Scientific programme**

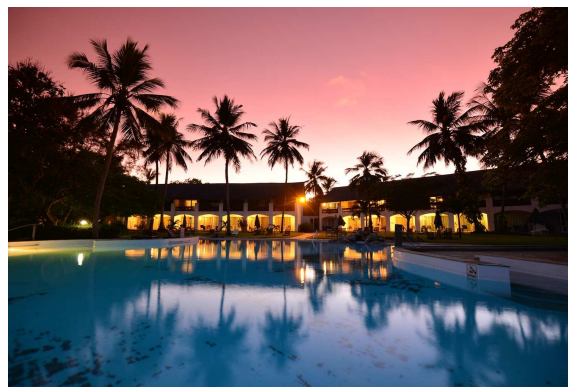
The theme of the symposium is “***Reducing mycotoxins in African food and feed***”. Under this main theme, the symposium will consist of topics such as:

- Detection and management of mycotoxins and mycotoxigenic fungi
- Value chain management
- Health implications
- Regulations and trade
- Transfer of knowledge

Each session will consist of keynote presentation(s), a selection of oral presentations, a poster session and a discussion forum. Names of keynote speakers and dates for submission of abstracts will be provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement. The programme will also include a field trip, workshops on special topics and day tours for delegates and their partners.

### **Conference venue**

The conference venue will be a beach resort on the spectacular stretch of Kenyan coast, Mombasa, with access to some of the most stunning marine sites on the East African coast. State-of-the-art conference and recreational facilities are available, as well as high-speed wireless internet. Delegates will be able to choose from a selection of first class accommodation options, while the entertainment and recreational facilities in the area will suit the most discerning guests. Excursions to experience the African wildlife are plentiful and can be easily arranged.



### **Conference language**

The medium of communication at the conference will be English.

### **Expression of Interest**

We are expecting participants from Africa and around the globe to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> African Symposium on Mycotoxicology. These will include representatives of research and academic institutions, private companies, industry and policy makers. There will also be participants from the donor community and agencies involved in Higher Education and the promotion of Science and Technology in Africa. The symposium will be administered by an organizing committee, a scientific committee and a secretariat. To make the 1<sup>st</sup> African Mycotoxin meeting a successful and affordable event, please complete the questionnaire below to provide us with a preliminary number of delegates, and send it to Mrs Lizeth Swart (email: [ls3@sun.ac.za](mailto:ls3@sun.ac.za)):

### Expression of interest

Name:				
Organization:				
Contact details: Tel: Fax: E-mail:				
I intent to attend the 1 <sup>st</sup> African Symposium on Mycotoxicology	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
I intent to present a poster/paper	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to present promotional material	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to make a sponsorship	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### For more information

Mrs Lizeth Swart

Department of Plant Pathology

University of Stellenbosch

Private Bag X1

Matieland 7600

South Africa

Tel: +27-21-8084799

Fax: +27-21-8084956

Email: ls3@sun.ac.za