

Aflatoxins: serious threat to food safety and food security

But is it related to livestock?

Johanna Lindahl^A, Jagger Harvey^B and Delia Grace^C

^A: International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). ^B: Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BeCA)-ILRI Hub



Maize drying and cow milking in Uganda



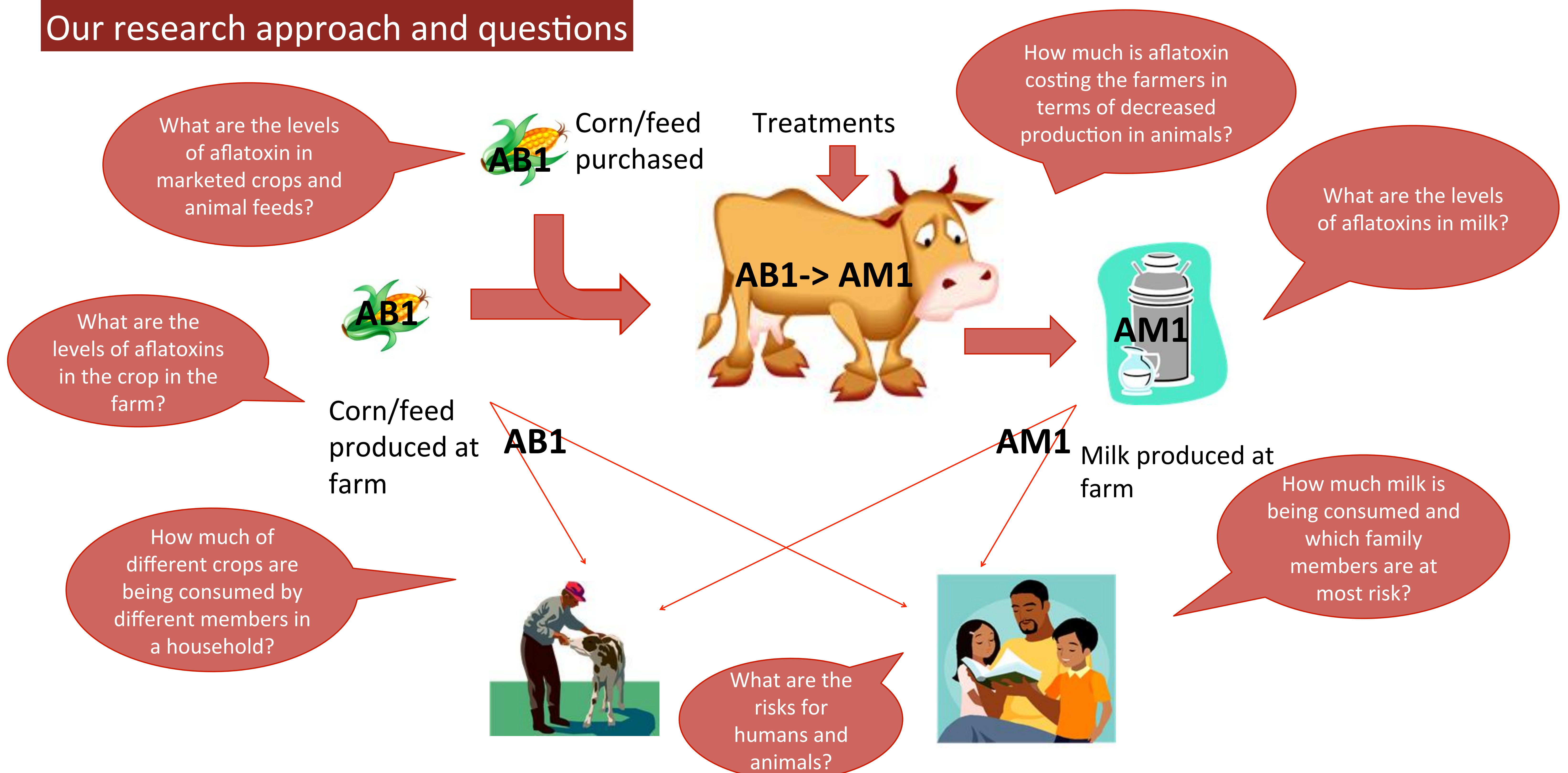
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Introduction

Aflatoxins are hepatotoxic, carcinogenic and immunosuppressing metabolites produced by moulds, mainly *Aspergillus flavus*, growing on maize or other crops. Humans and animals can get acute disease with fatalities as well as chronic disease.

- Aflatoxins are invisible, tasteless and odourless, and can be present in a wide variety of crops
- When animals eat the toxin they can get sick, and they are less productive, thus producing less food and income for farmers
- Aflatoxins are metabolized by the animals, and a small part of the metabolites is present in animal source foods

Our research approach and questions



Research into use

Mapping the current knowledge, dissemination knowledge

- Literature reviews and mapping
- Studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Policy briefs for knowledge dissemination and policy recommendations

Addressing the knowledge gaps

- Risk assessment for human health
- Economic assessment of the impact
- Consumer perceptions and willingness to pay
- Improved detection methods
- Improved risk mapping and forecasts

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Johanna Lindahl

J.Lindahl@cgiar.org • P.O. Box 30709-00100 Nairobi Kenya • +254 20 422 3000

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