

# International cooperation: MYTOX-SOUTH partnership to improve food security & food safety

Prof. Sarah De Saeger, Dr. Marthe De Boevre & Prof. Carl Lachat

# MYCOTOXINS: MAJOR FOOD SAFETY ISSUE

**THE CITIZEN** 29 JULY 2016

## Tanzania: Food Poisoning Linked to 14 Deaths in Two Regions

Tagged: Food and Agriculture • East Africa • Health • Tanzania

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By Syriacus Buguzi

Dar es Salaam — Results of laboratory tests conducted on blood and urine samples of people who died or fell ill after eating food believed to have been contaminated in Dodoma and Manyara regions have revealed shocking levels of aflatoxins, The Citizen can report.

*Photo: Daily News*

Aflatoxins are toxic, carcinogenic by-products of fungi that colonise maize and groundnuts, among other crops (file photo).

**RELATED TOPICS**

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- Ghana: Ghana-Hungary Partnership to Boost Agricultural Production
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- Malawi: Crop Diversification Key to Improving Malawi's Economy - Mwanamveka

**East Africa »**

- East Africa: Trump Policy Harms Health Services

**BBC NEWS** WORLD EDITION

Last Updated: Sunday, 13 June, 2004, 12:33 GMT 13:33 UK

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## Killer maize sparks Kenya alarm

Several Kenyan politicians have urged the government to declare a national disaster following the death of more than 80 people from contaminated maize.



Twenty-eight bags of poisoned maize were impounded at a girls' school in eastern Kenya on Saturday.

## Kenya's ugali scare: How safe is your maize flour?

By Basillioh Mufahi  
BBC News, Nairobi

© 15 November 2019

Share



Several well-known brands of maize flour have been taken off supermarket shelves in Kenya, after a warning about unsafe levels of a poisonous substance known as aflatoxin.



- Unreported
- Unknown



## Grow it safe

Agriculture and food producers need to adopt good practices

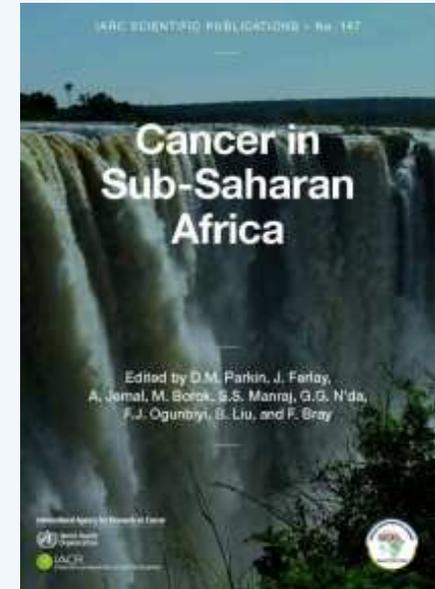
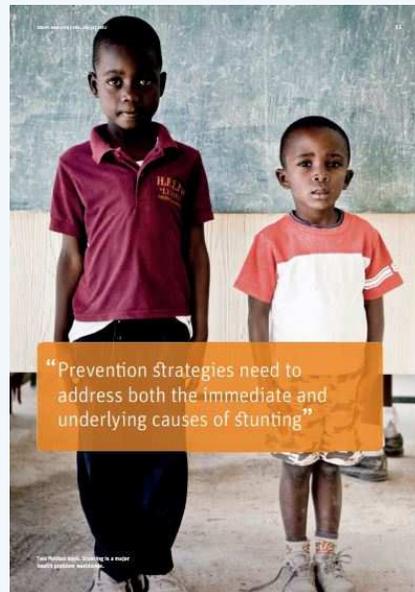
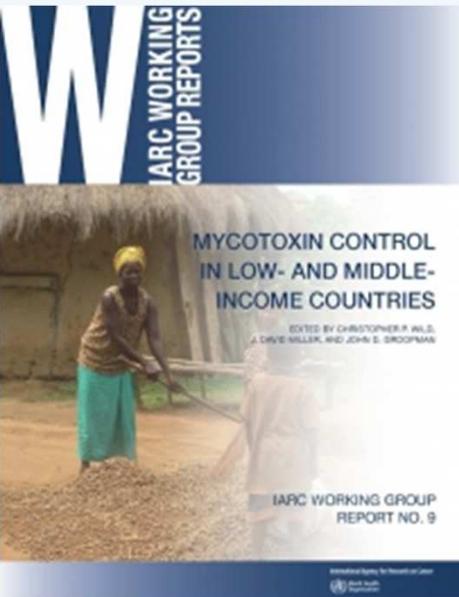


## Team up for safety

Food safety is a shared responsibility

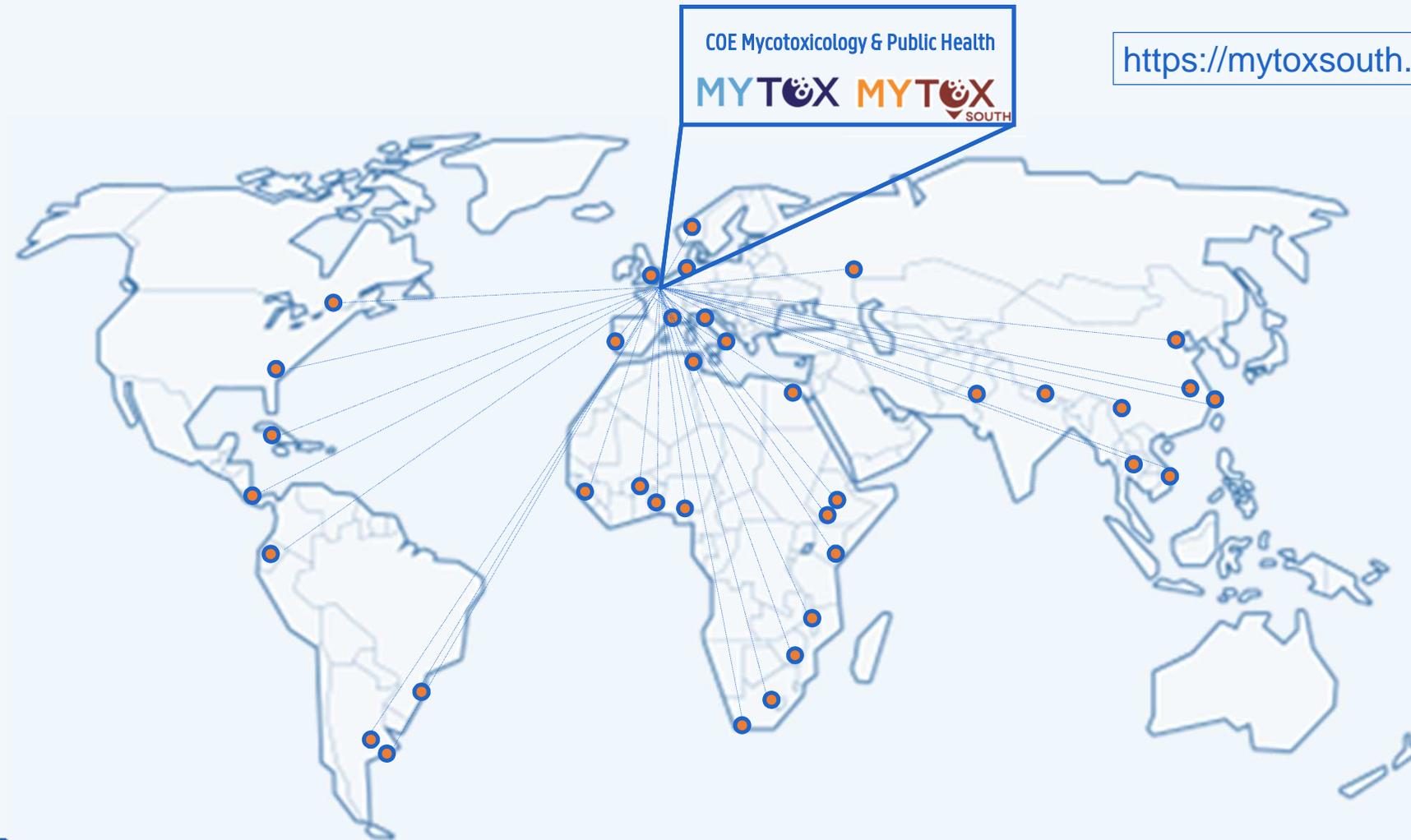


# MYCOTOXINS AND HEALTH



IARC concluded that [Aflatoxins & Fumonisin](#) not only are a cause of [acute poisoning and cancer](#) but also are a [likely contributor to the high levels of stunting](#) in children in affected populations. 26% of the world's children younger than 5 years having stunted stature.

# GLOBAL PROBLEM NEEDS INTERNATIONAL APPROACH



<https://mytoxsouth.org/>

# MYTOX-SOUTH Coordination at GHENT UNIVERSITY

## - CoE in Mycotoxicology and Public Health



**Prof. Dr. Sarah De Saeger & Dr. Marthe De Boevre (Coordinators)**

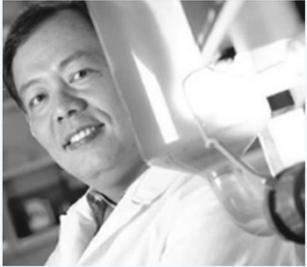
**Prof. Dr. Carl Lachat (Nutrition and Health expert)**



Supported by the Ghent University Global Minds Fund



# MYTOX-SOUTH PARTNERS



**BioIntellipro Inc.**

**Dr. Martin Lo**



**WFPC**

**Dr. Charlie Wilson**



**ISPA-CNR, Italy**

**Dr. Antonio Moretti**



**CAS, Shanghai**

**Prof. Aibo Wu**



**Complutense Uni, Madrid**

**Dr. María C. Moreno-Bondi**

## **GHENT UNIVERSITY**

**G. Haesaert & K. Audenaert**

**B. De Meulenaer, C. Lachat, L. Jacxsens & P. Kolsteren**

**S. Croubels & G. Antonissen**

**M. Eeckhout**

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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

### **JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE**

**Directorate Sustainable Resources (Ispra)**

**Food Security Unit**

**Letter of collaboration signed May 2020**



# MYTOX-SOUTH PARTNERS



**Prof. Sheila Okoth & Dr. Johanna Lindahl - Dr. Delia Grace ILRI (Kenya)**

**Prof. Obadina Adewale, Prof. Atanda Olusegun, Prof. Hussaini Makun & Prof. Yemisi Jeff-Agboola (Nigeria)**

**Prof. Loveness Nyanga (Zimbabwe)**

**Dr. Limbikani Matumba (Malawi)**

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**Dr. Lindy Rose & Prof. Patrick Njobeh & Prof. Mulunda Mwanza (South Africa)**

**Dr. Happy Magoha & Prof. Martin Kimanya (Tanzania)**

**Dr. Richard Echodu (Uganda)**

**Prof. dr. Andrea Patriarca & Prof. Sofia Chulze (Argentina)**

**(PAEPARD) Platform for an Africa-Europe Partnership for Agricultural Research for Development (François Stepman)**



## MYTOX-SOUTH: AIM

1. Educating & training young students & scientists from low- & middle-income countries - Building capacity through co-creation
2. Awareness creation – Networking/partnerships
3. Conducting research and developing innovative technologies in terms of suitable mitigation strategies



# MYTOX-SOUTH: AIM

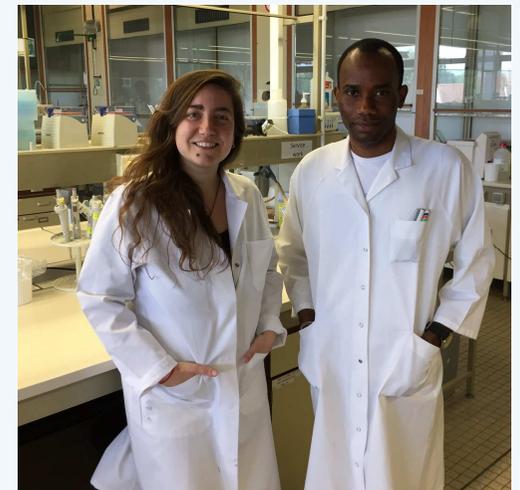
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## MYTOX-SOUTH selects young researchers for **traineeship periods** (1 to 6 months).



- Agustina Pavicich (Buenos Aires University, Argentina) - 2018
- Sefater Gbashi (Johannesburg University (UJ), South-Africa) - 2018
- John Awiel (South Sudan) - 2018
- Ayodele Adebayo Soretirei (Nigeria) - 2019
- Ouahamin Olivier Sombie (Burkina Faso) – 2019
- Rumbidzai Changwa (UJ, South-Africa) - 2019
- Olabisi Adeola Lanlokun (Nigeria) -2021
- Kgomotso Galian Setsetse (Northwest University, South-Africa) - 2021



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# Dissemination to policy makers

FIT-UGent mission, November 2019

**FLANDERS INVESTMENT & TRADE**

**Flanders**  
State of the Art

**GAP**  
Ghent Africa Platform

## Flemish trade mission to Nigeria

Lagos, Abuja

## Trade Mission Nigeria

SEMINAR AFRICA PLATFORM OF GHENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION  
ACADEMIA-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION: BEST PRACTICES

**TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019 – EKO HOTEL, LAGOS**

14h00: **Opening and introduction**  
by Annelies Verdoolaege (Coordinator Africa Platform AUGent)

14h10: **Presentations by:**

- Sarah De Saeger & Marthe De Boevre (Mytox-South, Ghent University)
- Marc Heijde (VIB-IPBO, Ghent University)
- Hussaini Anthony Makun (Federal University of Technology, Minna)
- Reinout Impens (SIAT Group)
- Frederick Schreurs (JITA's Business Incubation)

15h30: **Coffee break and poster presentations** of UGent and IFS alumni

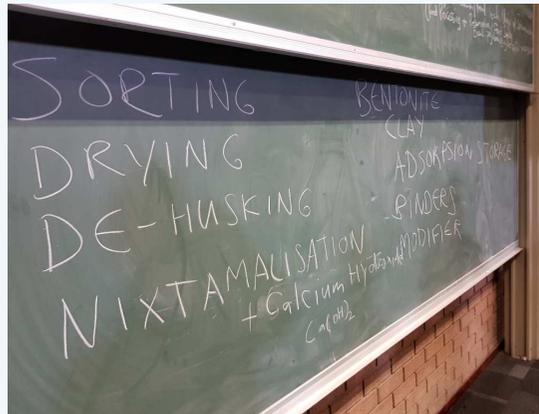
16h30: **Presentations by:**

- Jelten Haaze (Belgian Alliance for Sustainable Palmoil)
- Robert Coleman (Dangote Foods)
- Emmanuel Ijewere (Nigerian Agribusiness Group)
- Representatives of the Nigerian diaspora in Belgium (Ette Ibibio, Tonia Nkiru Emejuru & Azubulke Erinugha)

17h30: **OGA**



# Awareness creation for farmers



Farmers' Lab, Soweto,  
Johannesburg,  
February 2020

# MYTOX-SOUTH conferences

ASM-  
MYTOX-  
SOUTH  
April 2021

Home Conference Abstracts Registration Destination Sponsorship & Exhibition Organising Committee Contact

## 3rd ASM joint MYTOX-SOUTH CONFERENCE

11 - 14 April 2021, Stellenbosch

### NEWS ALERT - POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

In light of the ongoing global pandemic caused by the Corona virus (Covid-19) and subsequent travel restrictions and lockdowns, the conference organisers have decided to **postpone** the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASM joint MYTOX-SOUTH 2020 conference to **11 - 14 April 2021**.

#### Keynote Speakers

- Dr Amare Ayalew
- Dr Antonio Logrieco
- Prof Hussaini Makun
- Dr. Obidimma Ezezikpa
- Prof Rudi Kraska

# MYTOX-SOUTH: AIM

1. Educating & training young students & scientists from low- & middle-income countries - Building capacity through co-creation
2. Awareness creation - Networking/partnerships
3. **Conducting research and developing innovative technologies in terms of suitable mitigation strategies**



# MYTOX-SOUTH collaborative projects

January 2019

The **World Bank grant (ACE Impact) for Mycotoxin Research in Africa**



The Food and Toxicology Research Group (FTRG) of the **Federal University of Technology Minna (FUT) (Nigeria)** together with MYTOX-SOUTH were awarded to establish the **“African Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Mycotoxin and Food Safety”**, \$6M

The creation of ACEMFS will create learning opportunities and research results to address Africa’s shortage of expertise and applicable solutions to ensure a safe, controlled and sufficient food supply that will support economic growth and public health.

**Coordination: Prof. Hussaini Makun (FUT)**



# MYTOX-SOUTH : TAKE HOME

- To make progress in mycotoxin and food safety management, we need:
  - interdisciplinary research & development
  - co-creation
  - an international approach
  - outreach and debate with different policy makers, farmers, scientists



**Team up for safety**

Food safety is a shared responsibility



Prof. Sarah De Saeger

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MYCOTOXICOLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH

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[www.ugent.be](http://www.ugent.be) – [www.mytox.be](http://www.mytox.be) – <https://mytoxsouth.org>

Funded by Ghent University & VLIR-UOS

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