

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Ethiopia

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AUC Chairperson Issues First Food Safety Report

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Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson recently issued a report underscoring food safety's critical importance to achieving the Malabo Declaration goals of ending hunger, reducing poverty, and increasing intra-Africa agriculture trade. Given this important linkage, the AUC is considering adding a food safety indicator to the Malabo scorecard with results to be included in second Biennial Report in 2020.

Food Safety Key to Delivering on Malabo Goals:

In May, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, issued his [first food safety progress report](#), stating that Africa will not be able to “effectively attain” the Malabo Declaration goals to end hunger, reduce poverty, triple intra-Africa agriculture trade, and enhance resilience without addressing food safety.

The Chairperson called on Member States to “extend strong political support and adequate financial resources” to address food safety issues. To build this political support and increase Member State awareness of the importance of food safety, the AUC plans to jointly host a continental food safety conference with the WHO and FAO in 2019. At the same time, given the important linkage between food safety and the Malabo Declaration goals, the AUC is considering adding a food safety indicator to the Malabo scorecard with results to be included in the second Biennial Report in 2020.

The report exclusively profiles the food safety work of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) to reduce the harmful effects of the aflatoxin to human, plant, and animal health. Aflatoxin is cited one of Africa’s most pervasive food safety problems, accounting for 40 percent of cancer cases on the continent and contributing to \$670m in lost trade.

PACA is working with pilot country governments, Regional Economic Communities, and development partners, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mars, and Nestle, to carry out its mission in target countries. PACA is a subsidiary technical institution under the AUC’s Department of Rural Economy & Agriculture (DREA).

This report follows the [Chairperson’s annual report \(2017\)](#) in which DREA’s food security, nutrition, and food safety activities and priorities were also highlighted.