**FAO-Texas A&M: 2017 Aflatoxin Proficiency Testing and Control**

Subscription Application for Round One and Two (Shipment dates: Jan and July, 2017)

We request subscription for our laboratory in the Aflatoxin Proficiency Testing (PT) and Control programme. As a subscribing laboratory, we ensure that the analysts who assay the proficiency samples in this laboratory are fully informed of the instructions given on the reporting form before the analysis is started. Whenever possible, the analysis who usually performs a given analysis will assay the proficiency sample.

Permission is hereby granted for publication and inclusion of these results in subsequent statistical treatments and reports by FAO-Texas A&M. We will endeavor to perform two analyses and report results through the web porthole (given below) within the prescribed time.

It is agreed that the laboratory will cover the cost of aflatoxin analysis. It is further agreed there is no subscription fee to participate in the programme.

We confirm that our laboratory analyze samples for total aflatoxin and/or aflatoxin B1.

**FAO-Texas A&M Responsibility**

The FAO-Texas A&M programme includes sending a two proficiency samples in 2017. In particular, a single 100+ g sample will be mailed by Texas A&M twice a year. Participants are expected to analyze a 50 g portion, twice for each sample and report both results. Eligible participants include grain milling and grain handling firms, feed manufacturing industry, government laboratories and educational institutions. The total number of participants is limited to 300 participants. Results will be reviewed for outliers before the assigned value, range, and standard deviation of the results are calculated. The Z score for each laboratory will be calculated and reported. Texas A&M and FAO will not divulge the identity of programme participants.

**Maize Samples**

In 2017, the maize samples containing naturally occurring aflatoxin used for the proficiency programme are analyzed for aflatoxin B1, B2, G1, and G2 by the Office of the Texas State Chemist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research. Samples are analyzed using high performance liquid chromatography and the relative standard deviation for the proficiency samples calculated prior to their incorporation into the proficiency programme. The Office of the Texas State Chemist is ISO 17025 accredited for aflatoxin analysis using this procedure.

The testing of the received PT item should follow the same format of routine analysis of laboratory samples. The PT samples are stable in the course of production, transportation, PT testing and reporting period. The PT item is ready to use in its delivered form and does not require any extra laboratory preparation. Typical laboratory environment conditions are sufficient to perform the expected measurements. The PT item is the same as normal maize samples and do not require special safety handling procedures.

Return of the PT sample is not required for this programme.

**Test Methods**

The participating laboratories can use any method of their own choices. The chosen methods need to be provided following the reporting instructions. Eligible methods include but are not limited to traditional instrument analysis (HPLC) and testing kit methods. The data analysis for results obtained by different methods will be divided into two categories, the analysis of data obtained by all methods, and analysis of data obtained by testing kit analyses only.

**Reporting Results**

The testing results are reported through the APTECA website at: <http://apteca.tamu.edu/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fProficiency_Testing%2fDefault.aspx>

Each laboratory participant representative shall use the credential issued by the PT provider (Office of the Texas State Chemist) and log into the “Laboratory Date Reporting” section of the APTECA website. The laboratory participant will be able to view only his/her results. Two independent analyses (weighing, extraction and analysis) shall be performed for the same PT item and two results are reported for total aflatoxin or aflatoxin B1 or both.

The final reporting shall not be later than the date specified in the PT scheme, which is announced on the programme website.

**PT Summary Report Usage Policy**

The laboratory participant can use the PT summary report for their legitimate purpose when crediting this PT program.

**Contact Information**

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