



**UP-RISE: EU-AU Partnership
for Resilient, Inclusive and
Safe food systems for Everyone**



DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Meet the next generation of food safety leaders shaping Africa's future!

The UP-RISE PhD Community aims to promote collaboration among students while strengthening academic capacity in food safety. 11 PhD students, jointly supervised by EU and AU experts, are being trained as food safety ambassadors for Africa. Their work focuses on food safety risk assessment and management, with efforts aimed at reducing mycotoxin levels and developing tools such as guides, toolkits, early warning systems, and microbiome-based innovations.

In recent months, sorghum, millet, and maize crops have been sampled in the five target countries at harvest and post-harvest stages (during storage). Protocols were developed for this process. The next phase will focus on mycotoxin and fungal analysis.

Meet the PhD students leading the crop sampling phase of the UP-RISE project.



Mirabelle Feliho
Université Abomey-Calavi, Benin



Charles Yeo
University of Nangui Abrogoua, Côte d'Ivoire



Truphosa Viola
Amakhobe, University of Nairobi, Kenya



Kevin Omwomo
Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria



Lungani Nyathi
South Africa



A glimpse into crop sampling in Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa

Open call for fermented Food Processors

Deadline: 6 December 2024 at 23:59 CET



COCO BACA
Côte d'Ivoire
Maize



AKPAN
Benin
Maize, Sorghum



KUNUN ZAKI
Nigeria
Millet



UMQOMBOTHI
South Africa
Sorghum



MAZIWA MALA
Kenya
Maize, Millet (Dairy Cattle Feed)

The UP-RISE project focuses on creating **innovative tools to reduce mycotoxin contamination in fermented food systems**, ensuring safer food for everyone. It also aims to expand knowledge about mycotoxin contamination in informal sectors, improve prediction methods, and develop better risk assessment tools to enhance regulatory standards. The open call seeks to select 10 processors or processor groups involved in traditional fermented food production, selecting 2 from each of the five target countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The goal is to promote collaboration, share knowledge, evaluate current practices, and enhance food safety. This partnership will run for three years, from January 2025 to December 2027. The 10 selected businesses will be announced on the UP-RISE website in January 2025.

[Eligibility criteria & Terms of the call in FR and EN](#)

On the ground

UP-RISE has been presented by consortium partners at several international food safety forums around the globe, including recent events in Benin, China, Costa Rica, Italy, the Netherlands, and France.



In the spotlight

World Food Day • 16 October 2024

On World Food Day, UP-RISE launched a campaign featuring its PhD students through articles and videos, showcasing their contributions to food safety. This year's theme, "Right to foods for a better life and a better future," highlights the need for healthy, sustainable, and nutritious food for all. The academic community plays a key role by providing data, technology, and innovations to enhance food safety and transform agri-food systems.

[Follow UP-RISE channels and the website to meet them!](#)

World Food Safety Day • 7 June 2024

The African Union Commission (AUDA-NEPAD and PACA) organised the webinar “*Bridging gaps in Africa’s informal sector webinar*” to celebrate the World Food Safety Day, with the support of UP-RISE and FS4Africa projects.

Food safety issues pose a significant threat to human health, trade, and development. According to the World Health organization, each year, over 600 million people get sick from food-borne disease and around 420.000 die of the same.

In Africa, the majority of the population (roughly 70%) source their food from the domestic informal food markets. It is thus important to better understand the limitations and opportunities of the informal sector, beyond what seems obvious, for markedly raising food safety levels in the region.

 [Key takeaways and call to action](#)

 [Watch the full webinar](#)

 [Pictures](#)

 Follow UP-RISE social media campaign



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Recommended Readings

[Leading ladies with a mission: combat toxic fungi in food](#)

[COCERAL Mycotoxins Survey Synthesis Report 2023](#)

[Rapid LA-REIMS-based metabolic fingerprinting of serum discriminates aflatoxin-exposed from non-exposed pregnant women: a prospective cohort from the Butajira Nutrition, Mental Health, and Pregnancy \(BUNMAP\) Study in rural Ethiopia](#)



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Agenda

- 12-14 February 2025
UP-RISE General Assembly
- 7-9 April 2025
World Mycotoxin Forum - 15th conference
- 25-28 May 2025
46th Mycotoxin Workshop
- 15-20 June 2025
Mycotoxins and Phycotoxins Gordon Research Conference

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