



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



DECEMBER 2025

## NEWSLETTER

### 10 Success stories in food safety across Africa: Meet the Agri-Entrepreneurs!

UP-RISE has selected ten business cases involving agri-entrepreneurs active in both the informal and formal markets of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. These cases form part of the development and implementation of co-created solutions across the five traditional fermented food value chains.



UMQOMBOTHI | South Africa  
Thembisile Ndlovu



UMQOMBOTHI | South Africa  
Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela



AKPAN | Benin  
Miguel Adechinin and Abdul-Haqq Yarou-Tanga



AKPAN | Benin  
Yannelle Minoungou



COCO BACA | Côte d'Ivoire  
Latto Nina N'Gbesso



COCO BACA | Côte d'Ivoire  
Diane Seri



MAZIWA LALA | Kenya  
Kajulu Dairy Cooperative



MAZIWA LALA | Kenya  
Yala Dairy Cooperative



KUNUN ZAKI | Nigeria  
Mary Magaji



KUNUN ZAKI | Nigeria  
Sarah Majin



### Co-creation workshops with value chain operators across five countries

UP-RISE held a successful round of workshops on Akpan in Benin 🇧🇪 Coco Baca in Côte d'Ivoire 🇳🇪 Maziwa Lala in Kenya 🇰🇪 Kunun Zaki in Nigeria 🇳🇮 and Umqombothi in South Africa 🇿🇦 bringing together local knowledge and innovation with producers, collectors, and processors to strengthen these important traditional value chains.

### In the Spotlight

#### Practice Abstracts

UP-RISE has released the first seven practice abstracts. These concise and accessible documents showcase practical experiences and key insights from our ongoing work to develop innovative tools for reducing mycotoxin contamination in fermented value chains across South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin.

- [Value chain analysis of Umqombothi in South Africa](#)
- [Value chain analysis of Maziwa mala in Kenya](#)
- [Value chain analysis of Kunun zaki in Nigeria](#)
- [Value chain analysis of Coco baca in Côte d'Ivoire](#)
- [Value chain analysis of Akpan in Benin](#)
- [Toolkit for mycotoxin risk assessment](#)
- [Mycotoxin contamination of cereals and fermented foods across African regions in the last 10 years \(2014-2024\).](#)

#### Scientific publication

The first UP-RISE scientific publication has been published in Elsevier Food Bioscience, one of the world's leading scientific journals. This collaborative work was led by UP-RISE PhD researcher Lungani Nyathi, together with colleagues from the University of Johannesburg, Ghent University and CNR in Italy.

[Read the full article](#)

### On the ground

*UP-RISE has been presented by consortium partners at several international food safety forums around the globe.*

December 2025, Italy. Third edition of the [EU Food Safety Forum](#).

November 2025, China. [7th International Conference of Mycotoxicology and Food Security](#).

October 2025, Rwanda. Side event [Safe Foods for Resilient Futures](#) at the 21st Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform and the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security.

October 2025, Argentina, Belgium and online. IX Latin American Mycotoxicology Congress; 9th edition of the "Health Sciences Crossing Borders" event; and Women in the Development of Agriculture (VOWDA) 10th Anniversary Conference: "Enhancing Sustainable Food Security: Women in STEM, Smart Agriculture, and Technological Innovation". More details [here](#).

October 2025, Belgium. [Innovation Fair 2025](#) in Brussels, organised by the African Union, the European Union, and the Union for the Mediterranean.

October 2025, Italy. Strengthening partnerships for innovation in food systems: [Presentation to researchers from the SUSTLIVES project](#) (SUSTaining and improving

local crop patrimony in Burkina Faso and Niger for better LIVest and EcoSystems).

June 2025, Online. [World Food Safety Day 2025 Symposium for Next Generation Food Safety Practitioners](#) , organised by four EU-funded projects: FS4Africa (Food Safety for Africa), UP-RISE (EU–AU Partnership for Resilient, Inclusive and Safe Food Systems for Everyone), HD4A (Healthy Diets 4Africa), and FCI4Africa (Fair Food and Trade Systems for Africa). Check out [Science in Action: the UP-RISE PhD Community, meet the next generation of food safety leaders](#) .

May 2025, South Africa. Continental Validation Workshop on Country Situational Analyses: [Towards a Regulatory Model for Food Safety and Mycotoxin Control](#) .

## Recommended readings

- **Effect of Aflasafe TZ01® on Aflatoxin Reduction and Emerging Challenges with Fusarium Mycotoxins in Maize from Rural Tanzania**  
MDPI Toxins
- **How effective are laws and regulations to improving food safety and quality?**  
Knowledge and Research for Nutrition (K&R4Nut)
- **How climate change impacts plant health - and why it matters for One Health**  
FAO
- **Case study report: Use and impact of the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals in Brazil**  
FAO and WHO




## Agenda

23-27 February 2026  
**UP-RISE General Assembly in Nigeria**

21-23 April 2026  
**4th African Symposium of Mycotoxicology**

16 October 2026  
**World Food Day**

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