



UP-RISE is an international project providing groundbreaking knowledge to understand mycotoxin contamination and to deliver solutions in Africa, strengthening African Food Safety Systems.



Launched in January 2024, and awarded an European Horizon grant, it focuses on five target African Union (AU) Member States: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. These countries are responding to the challenge of reducing food contaminants, mycotoxins in particular, in order to strive for a greater food safety and fewer food-borne diseases.

UP-RISE will be providing new knowledge for understanding mycotoxin contamination in the informal sector, predicting mycotoxin contamination, improving risk assessment tools to strengthen regulatory frameworks, and developing innovative tools for reducing mycotoxin contamination in fermented food value chains, thereby aiming for safe food systems for all.

Five traditional fermented food products from target countries are being studied. They are made from crops, such as maize, sorghum and millet, which are at high risk of mycotoxin contamination. These crops are major staples in many African countries. UP-RISE research wants to showcase and provide scientific evidence about the possible links between mycotoxin reduction after the process of fermentation.

[UP-RISE flyer](#)

[Press Release](#)

## Our Objectives

UP-RISE integrates five building blocks for knowledge generation and implementation. They will jointly contribute to a better food safety across the different stages of the 5 value chains of traditional fermented food products in the five target countries, improving regulatory, societal, scientific, economic and technological level, with a strong focus on co-creation.



Roadmaps for quality culture and informal sector integration;



Strengthening regulatory frameworks by empowering both formal and informal sectors;



Early Warning Systems to prevent mycotoxin contamination and adapt to climate change;



Innovative microbiome-based solutions to reduce mycotoxins; and



Co-creation, training, and mentoring: Training Hubs and Accelerator Platform.

The newly-established **Accelerator Platform** is composed of African multi-actor stakeholders involved in co-creation and validation processes such as Food Safety Authorities, consumer organisations, farmer organisations, mentoring organisations, trade organisations, other projects and rapid test-kit providers.



[Get in touch with project coordinators to join UP-RISE Accelerator Platform](#)

## Meet the Consortium Partners

The consortium is built up of 14 international partners bringing together an interdisciplinary approach and a well-framed gender dimension to maximise the impact.

[What is UP-RISE? Our consortium partners explain this project](#)



[Get to know the partners](#)

[External Advisory Board](#)

[Our scientific board](#)

[Ethics Advisor](#)

## In the spotlight

### World Food Safety Day webinar

Prepare for the Unexpected • Bridging Gaps in the Informal Sector

27 June 2024, 14:00 CET

The African Union Commission (AUDA-NEPAD and PACA) is organising a webinar to celebrate the World Food Safety Day, with the support of UP-RISE and FS4Africa projects.

[Register here](#)

[More info will follow shortly here](#)

+ Follow UP-RISE social media campaign to celebrate the **#WorldFoodSafetyDay!**



## On the ground

**Côte d'Ivoire, May 2024.** A French delegation from CIRAD visited Université Nangui-Abrogoua (UNA) in Abidjan. The purpose of this mission was to assist UNA colleagues in identifying key actors in the value chain of Coco Baca and to gain a better understanding of the organisation and practices related to food safety within this value chain. [Read more](#)

**South Africa, April 2024.** Ugent Master students assisting the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to take the first UP-RISE samples of sorghum. Two Ugent Master students, Ine Van Wesemael and Silke Marynissen, together with UPRISE PhD student Lungani Nyathi, took the first UP-RISE samples together with the UJ staff. [Read more](#)

## Recommended Readings

[Kenyan government imposes stricter measures as aflatoxin compliance plummets among millers](#)

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[Hazardous mold contaminates many food staples: What you should know about mycotoxins](#)

## Agenda

- **12-13 June 2024**  
UP-RISE General Assembly. Internal meeting for UP-RISE partners.
- **2-3 July 2024**  
Exploring Intersections: Decolonization, Diasporas and the African Food System
- **4-5 July 2024**  
6th International Conference of Mycotoxicology and Food Security (ICM 2024)
- **11-15 August 2024**  
12th International Mycological Congress (IMC12)



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