

AFLATOXINS

WHAT ARE AFLATOXINS?

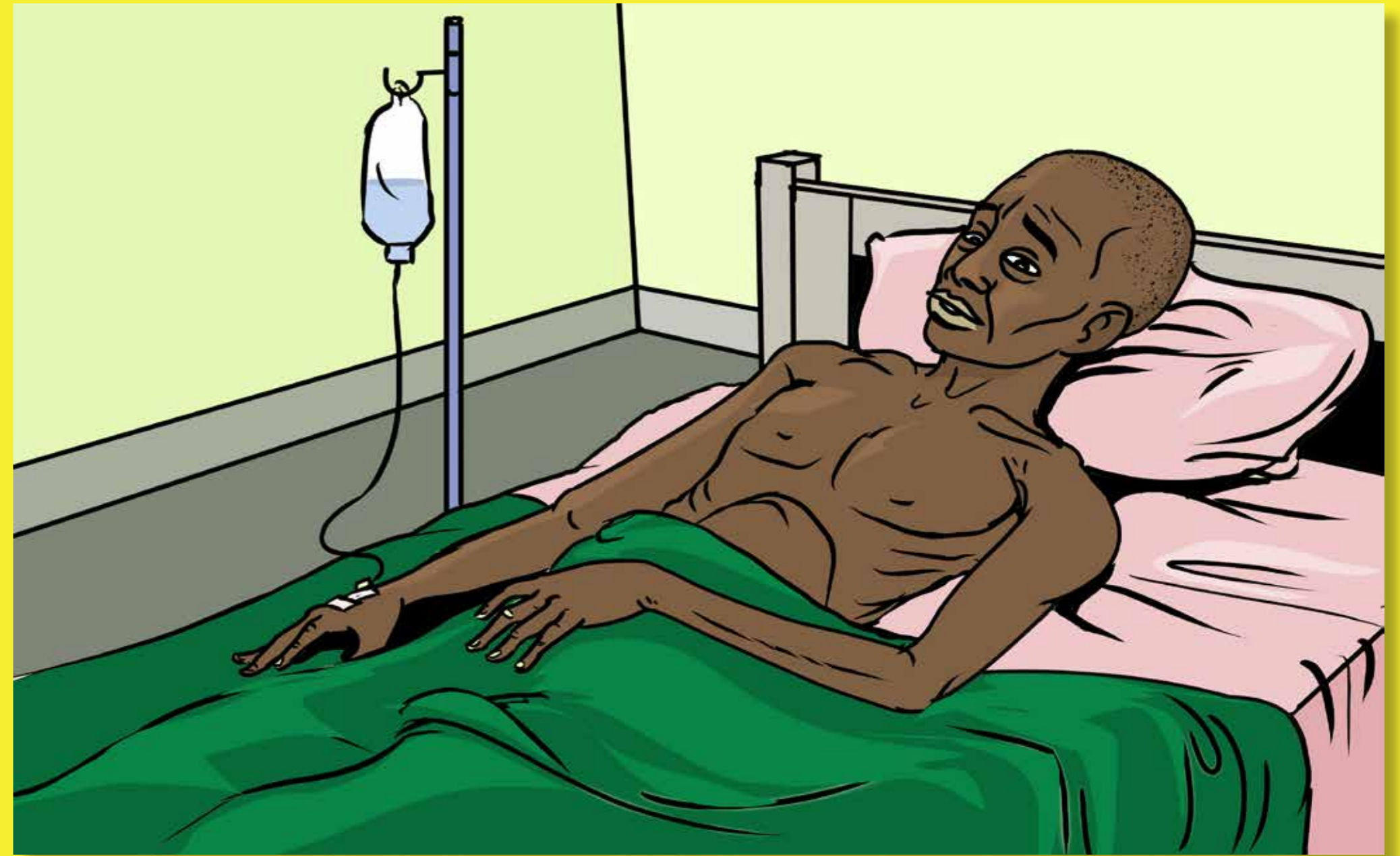
Poison produced by moulds when they attack produce which is not well-dried.



Once in food or feed, this poison is difficult to remove even by cooking or roasting.

WHY CARE ABOUT AFLATOXINS NOW!!

This poison affects agriculture, health and trade.



How? At high levels, aflatoxins cause death of humans and animals. It is one of the major causes of liver cancer.



In children, leads to stunting and kwashiorkor thus reduced growth. Generally, aflatoxin weakens the body immune system leading to other illnesses.



It can kill all animals when taken in higher quantities and also reduces productivity such as egg production and growth.



It affects trade, social and economic status. We lose money as we cannot sell contaminated produce in the national, regional and international markets.

Which produce are most contaminated?



Mainly produce dried at farm and their products;

- Cereals: maize, sorghum, rice, millet
- Legumes: groundnuts, soyabean
- Oil crops: sunflower and simsim or sesame
- Dry spices like chilli, ginger, turmeric
- Dried roots & tubers: cassava, sweet potato (amukeke)
- Most dried produce including fish (mainly silver fish/mukene)

Processed products;

- Animal feeds, peanut butter, flours (groundnut, maize, soya, mukene, millet, cassava, sorghum) and pressed simsim or sunflower cake etc.
- Dairy and poultry products: milk and products, and eggs when animals feed on contaminated feeds

Why are aflatoxins common in our produce?

Most people are not aware of the poison and do not apply good agricultural, handling, storage, transportation and processing practices.

