

# Big food in Africa Endangering people's health

Food safety scandals are plaguing Africa. From contaminated meat to GMOs and toxic milk for babies, the dangers to people's health from industrial food production are real. Here we highlight seven cases that reveal how big food corporations generate new risks, increase the potential for cross-border contamination, and leave consumers vulnerable to the fraudulent actions that affect food safety.

## 1 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) contamination

Kenya, 2001 - 2014

Import and distribution of GMO-contaminated Aromat by Unilever Kenya from Unilever South Africa since 2001. A civil society campaign in 2014 had it pulled off the shelves.



## 2 Listeriosis – death by "polony"

South Africa, 2018

Enterprise Foods, a subsidiary of Tiger Brands, pulled its processed meat products from supermarkets after its Polokwane factories used contaminated meat that caused the worst outbreak of listeriosis in the world. The meat killed 218 people.



## 3 Banned pesticide found in Woolworths' "organic food"

South Africa, 2018

In 2018, residues of fluopyram – a highly-persistent fungicide – were found in Woolworths' organic baby spinach imported from Europe.

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## 4 Salmonella Agona in baby formula

Nigeria, 2018

Milk powder suspected of carrying Salmonella Agona from a French Lactalis plant entered Nigeria in early 2018. As in the other 29 African countries where the infected products had been distributed, the recall in Nigeria could not be properly enforced.



## 5 Bouillon cubes linked to diabetes and other ailments

Senegal, 2019

Villagers in Casamance, Senegal are boycotting Nestlé's Maggi cubes and other industrial bouillon brands claiming that these are behind a rise in Type II diabetes and other health problems in their communities.



## 6 Olam's rice not fit for consumption

Côte d'Ivoire, 2019

A boat carrying 18,000 tonnes of broken rice from Myanmar was prohibited from unloading in several African ports over concerns that the rice was unfit for consumption. Authorities in Côte d'Ivoire issued Olam a one year suspension on shipments of rice.



## 7 Expired Lato milk

Uganda, 2020

Pearl Dairy Farms Limited, a company owned by the MiDCOM Group and funded by the World Bank, was denounced for selling expired Lato Milk. It is reported that the company repackaged expired milk with new expiration dates and sent it back out on the market.



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ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA