

**REPORT ON THE UGANDA TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS AWARENESS  
DAY PLUS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUBREGIONAL TSETSE AND  
TRYPANOSOMIASIS TRAINING CENTRE**



***C O C T U***  
***P.O. BOX 16345***  
***WANDEGEYA-KAMPALA***  
***(UGANDA)***

## **1.0 Background**

The First Uganda Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Awareness Day was held in Dokolo District, the occasion was officially graced by the Hon. Minister of State in-charge Animal Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Bright K. Rwamirama, the Chair and Vice chair of the UTCC , Hon. Akaki Ayumu Jovino and Dr. Misaki K. Kinani, respectively. Alongside, were members of the Technical Committee, the entire district Political and Technical Leaderships of the districts of Alebtong, Amolatar, Dokolo, Kaberamaido, Lira and Soroti - all sharing borders with Dokolo in addition to people from Dokolo community including students and pupils.

The events represents the one day in the year when COCTU comes together with partners to update themselves on issues related to tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

The theme of the Day was, ***“Using Available Methods to Control Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis”***

Over 500 Participants from districts of Lira, Apac, Amolatar, Kaberamaido e.t.c took part in this Awareness Day campaign following an alert from Ministry of Health (MoH), Dokolo Health Centre IV) that many CASES of sleeping sickness had been diagnosed and treated with one death. The Coordinating Office for Control of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda (COCTU) felt it prudent to shift its' attention to this Teso/Lango in its' bid to have a catalytic effect in disease prone areas. It is the hope of COCTU that this will be an annual event held in various tsetse and trypanosomiasis threatened areas.

## **2.0 KEY EVENTS OF THE DAY**

### **2.1 Demonstrations at the Crush site: Livestock Mass Spraying**

The community arrived with their animals at the crush site for spraying using deltamethrin (vectocid). This was aimed at promoting the live bait technology in the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis. This was conducted directly under partnership arrangement with the 3V Vets and spray persons network the COCTU supported by IKARE.

All animals presented were sprayed with Vectocid; which acts as an insecticide against tsetse and acaricide against ticks. Over 300 animals were sprayed during the demonstration. The partners provided both the man power (over 5 vet officers and 25 para vets) and the chemical.

The Guest of Honour and the Chair UTCC directly participated in the demonstrations as well as the former giving on-spot valuable advice to the spraying teams.

After this demonstration, COCTU will continue making follow-ups to assess the sustainability and adoption rates among the farmers, and also, replicate the same approach in the neighboring affected districts.

The Hon. Minister of State arrived at the crush site early in the morning where hundreds of cattle were being sprayed by the spray persons who were trained by COCTU drawn from different districts of Dokolo, Alebtong, Amolatar, Serere and Kaberamaido.

The picture below shows the Hon. Minister arriving at the crush site where animals are being sprayed and the persons dressed in orange overalls are the trained spray persons.



The picture below shows the Hon. Minister demonstrating how to spray animal using the spray pumps



## **2.2 A SUB-REGIONAL TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS TRAINING AND AWARENESS CENTRE**

A sub-Regional Centre for Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Training and Awareness was opened at Dokolo District Head Quarters in collaboration with District Authorities.

As one major output for the COCTU in the F/Y 2014/15, management of COCTU informed its Technical Committee on the need for demonstration centres to be opened according to regions or sub-regions in order to effectively control and

monitor the disease in both human and cattle. The technical committee responded and agreed for the agency to proceed with the planned activities and Dokolo was sited immediately due to the current rise sleeping sickness as per records at the Health Centre IV in the district.

**The Awareness and Training Centres are mainly to be used for: -**

1. Raising the community's and leaderships' awareness about the new upsurge of cases of sleeping sickness in the district (sadly, with one death during the awareness week and about 60% of the cattle affected with Nagana).
2. Mobilizing all required resources to contain the situation from becoming worse
3. Further integration of partners', stakeholders' and community's' resources and efforts in the fight against T and T in the sub region
4. Establishment of new partnerships
5. As a permanent and locally -stationed training centre to increase awareness and mobilization, advocacy for resources needed for the T and T activities. All expected to have a multiplier effect in the region.

COCTU was very grateful to the district authorities, who, without hesitation, offered 3 office rooms to be used as the sub regional training centre. This is to be used as an information resource centre as well. Relevant materials were exhibited; especially those currently used in the region to control the vector (tsetse).

It is further to be used for continued training for schools around, local medical, veterinary staffs, and the communities. Awareness materials in the form of booklets, posters are kept at the centre. For the vets and medics, this is to be used for the training newly recruited staff, and refresher trainings for the already established staff. This will enable them keep at pace with various new

developments in T and T control. The centre was officially opened by the Hon. Minister and Guest of Honour. *(Refer to pictures below)*



The picture above shows the Hon. Minister, the Chairman Council, the Chairman Technical Committee, the Executive Director COCTU, the Chairman LCV and the Chief Administrative Officer plus other officials opening the training and awareness centre.

### **2.3 Technology and Awareness Material Display at the COCTU Sub-Regional Centre**

The Chairman Technical Committee and the Secretary Production Dokolo district holding the pyramidal traps while the Deputy Director COCTU demonstrating how the flies can enter the trap. The different posters pinned on the wall also explain the disease according to stages as shown in the picture below:



### 3.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT THE PAVILION

Members of the community including school children were part of the day's events



The Guest of Honour being welcomed by the Chairman LCV Dokolo, Chairman UTCC and other political leaders from different districts.



### 3.1 REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COCTU

The Executive Director COCTU in his remarks thanked the Guest of Honour Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry, Hon. Bright K. Rwamirama and everyone who turned up to witness this historical event in our lives as people who have struggled for the last 22 years in coordinating activities of Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis ( T & T). He said recent findings indicate that there is need for COCTU to come up with models to effectively coordinate activities of T&T and one such approach is the holding of the tsetse and trypanosomiasis awareness day.

The Director informed the gathering that as a Coordinating office, COCTU heavily assumes that there are on-going activities of T&T in Uganda and this need to be harmonized. COCTU recently decided to expand coordination to include '*catalytic actions*' as eye or mind openers in areas that need to have T&T activities. This is the basis for COCTU undertaking activities of spraying cattle and setting up tsetse traps like demonstrated today. He invited the Technical Committee members to stand beside him as he made his remarks since they are the decision makers in technical terms.



The Director said a quick analysis by COCTU indicate that the Central and Local Governments have experts in the area of tsetse and trypanosomiasis and Uganda is highly respected in terms of level of knowledge and technical capacity in the area of T&T and yet it is among the leading African countries in terms of annual cases of sleeping sickness. This is a clear indication that we are not putting the knowledge and other capacities to proper use.

COCTU has set up sub-regional awareness/training centre and its planning to open others in other regions where experts can train the other stakeholders and also get learning experiences from those stakeholders. This will bring COCTU more closer to where the T&T challenges exist

### **Methods and Technologies**

The director further informed gathering that there is a general feeling both locally and internationally that the Tool Box for the control of T&T is full, which he agreed with and said that they have been designed and there is an affordable choice by any willing stakeholder who needs to make a contribution. Examples and their cost can always be shared at the now established awareness centre. He said that, at the same time, Government is exploring use of more complex approaches like sequential aerial spray, sterile insect technique e.t.c. but there is need to get together to see what works where at what cost.

### **Projects targeting use of available technologies**

- 3V Vet network which is private sector driven being promoted by COCTU and IKARE
- SOS and the plans by SF/DFID/ COCTU
- Tiny Targets plans by Liverpool School of tropical Medicine/COCTU
- ISSEP by FIND/COCTU
- Many others unknown to COCTU and need to be brought to the attention of the UTCC and community while information is available

## **Conclusion**

The Director called upon all those undertaking T&T activities (small or large) to bring them to the attention of COCTU to enable proper planning and their promotion. The reason for setting up the awareness centre is to enable easy information access, reporting and data capture. As UTCC Secretariat (COCTU), what we need from stakeholders can only be achieved when we play the advocate role if you give us information and agree to freely work with us to make a team. This year we have focused on technologies and methods and after today, we all need to think of how to move forward, COCTU has announced its presence and we are here, work with us.

### **3.2 Launching of the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Awareness Day:**



The Hon. Minister, in his speech as it follows

- Hon. MPs present
- Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and members of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC)
- LCV Chairperson Dokolo and your colleagues present

- Other Political Leaders present (protocol observed)
- Development partners
- RDC Dokolo district and your colleagues from other districts
- Technical people from MAAIF and districts
- All Invited guests (protocol observed)
- Ladies and gentlemen

### **Preamble**

It is very gratifying on my side to preside over activities of this day that are aimed at increasing awareness of the problems caused by tsetse and trypanosomiasis. As many of you may be aware, I am among those opposed to classifying trypanosomiasis as a neglected disease since it is us and our actions that will determine that classification. The ultimate goal today is to sensitize and create awareness to all stakeholders in the Teso/Lango sub-region to enable them understand, access and use the available tools and methods to control tsetse and trypanosomiasis to improve the health of the affected communities by eliminating sleeping sickness from the human population and nagana from livestock.

### **Important Aspects of the History of Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis**

As some of you may be aware, trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness in human and nagana in animals) has been a problem in Uganda for more than 100 years.

- During the early 1900s, many people in Busoga were displaced due to sleeping sickness as at that time the only way to avoid the disease was to move away from affected areas.
- Around the 1950s, there were attempts to destroy the tsetse habitat by bush clearing and to remove the animal reservoir by killing the wild animals suspected to be harbouring the disease.
- Ladies and gentlemen, as a matter of fact, in some countries during the early parts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the human disease (especially the chronic type of sleeping sickness) was controlled by quarantine and mass treatment of

people with trypanocidal drugs in communities suspected to be infected by sleeping sickness.

Each of the above approaches was accompanied with great pain inflicted on the people at that time and user friendly approaches had to be explored.

Consequently,

### **New Approaches had to be developed**

The tools developed and used in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century like tsetse traps, drugs and chemicals have been user friendly and helped greatly in the control of sleeping sickness and nagana.

There have also been great advances in the area of disease diagnosis and surveillance.

However, it is likely that these available methods are inadequately being deployed in some high risk areas especially in the Teso/Lango sub-region where sleeping sickness and nagana are persistent despite the availability of the new control tools

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, Nagana and Sleeping sickness have been a big problem for the Teso/Lango sub-regions for the last 15 years.

The current effort has managed to significantly reduce the acute type (zoonotic type affecting south eastern and Teso/Lango sub-regions of Uganda) in many affected areas. However, the 2014 nagana and sleeping sickness records indicate that there is a major problem in some districts of Teso and Lango sub-regions. This situation should not be allowed to continue.

### **We Need to Increase Awareness and Promote tools used for control**

- Today, the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC) with support from Government of Uganda and other development partners has kick started a process of popularizing the available methods that can be used to address the tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem.
- These methods involve use of simple tools that can easily be used by each of us to help contribute to the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

- Ladies and gentlemen, recent research at COCTU has indicated that one of the major challenges to-date is that the methods/tools are largely unknown and sometimes not easily accessible to potential users and beneficiaries in the tsetse and trypanosomiasis affected communities.

For this reason, Government of Uganda through COCTU is kick starting a process of bringing increased awareness of the available tools.

### **Approaches to Improvement of Awareness**

Improvement of awareness will be undertaken in several ways that will involve:

- Setting up of the Teso/Lango sub-regional training/awareness centre
- Undertaking catalytic actions that are aimed at demonstrating use of available technologies in the affected communities like happened in one of the affected villages today morning
- Training and working closely with youth and available skilled manpower within the communities to enhance use and uptake of the methods. Some examples of such youth and skilled manpower are to be recognized today and will be awarded certificates of recognition
- Targeting increased awareness of the problem through schools

### **There is need for each Stakeholder to Play their part**

All these actions will need each of the stakeholders to play their part if tsetse and trypanosomiasis is to be eliminated from the Teso/Lango sub-region.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to note that today, there are stakeholders that are already being recognized for their participation through promotion of the available technologies as you have seen and received explanations at the technology exhibition tent.
- It is because of the continued participation and efforts by some of these people that the disease has not become worse than it ought to have been.
- Therefore, fellow citizens and visitors, join me in thanking all those who have chosen to use one of the technologies in controlling tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

### **Refocusing on Theme of the Day**

The theme for today was developed with the aim of promoting the use of the available technologies to control tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

On behalf of Government, I encourage all of you to work very closely with COCTU and come up with ways and approaches where each of us can contribute to the agenda of eliminating trypanosomiasis from livestock and the human population.

### **In Conclusion**

Today, I opened the first of the planned four COCTU sub-region tsetse and trypanosomiasis training/awareness centres and Dokolo district headquarters has the privilege of hosting the Teso/Lango sub-region centre. Let us make use of this centre.

**Importantly**, today, it is my pleasure to launch the **Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Awareness Day that will now be an ANNUAL EVENT held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

Your coming to this event has clearly demonstrated that Uganda has moved away from the cohort that treats trypanosomiasis as a neglected disease.

May the almighty God bless all of you.

For God and My Country

### **3.3 Comments and Speech By Chairman UTCC and other officials**

#### **Preamble**

I take this opportunity as Chairperson of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis control council to welcome all of to this first ever tsetse and trypanosomiasis awareness day that has been organised jointly between the UTCC and Dokolo local Government.

Holding of this event arose out of the several COCTU management reports to UTCC that indicated gaps in the understanding of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control approaches across different sectors of society. In addition, COCTU has over years registered minimal engagements and utilisation of the infrastructure available for tsetse and trypanosomiasis control. UTCC as an Institution with COCTU as its secretariat is one of the infrastructures that are available for use and highly admired by the international community. One of the major objectives of this day is to make all of know the existence of UTCC and understand its leadership, organisation structure, role in the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

#### **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC)**

In order to efficiently manage the program of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control in Uganda, in 1992, Government put in place the Uganda Trypanosomiasis control council through an Act of parliament. Among the very many things, UTCC:

- Advises Government of Uganda on all issues of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control. This advise is both to central and local Governments
- Advises on policies, laws and strategies needed in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control
- Draws strategic plans and participates in mobilising and receiving resources needed for the Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis program

- Receive and review proposed projects, identifies and guide Government on the most suitable Institutions to implement a given project
- Receives and participates in the collection, analysis and storage of data generated from the sleeping sickness control program
- Monitor and evaluate all T&T projects in Uganda and use the information to guide their implementation

### **UTCC as a platform for trypanosomiasis activities in Uganda**

- Hon. Minister, ladies and gentlemen, the above are some of the UTCC roles and during the last two years, council has focused on strengthening its secretariat called COCTU which is charged with running the day to day activities on behalf of the UTCC at their offices based in Wandegaya.
- As we may all note, UTCC as an Institution supposed to undertake its obligations has been having only one point of reference and for effective service delivery, UTCC agreed to allow COCTU to plan for setting up training/awareness centres in at least 4 sub-regions of Uganda affected by tsetse and trypanosomiasis.
- The first such centre has been set up at Dokolo district headquarters to service the Teso/Lango sub-regions. This centre will serve as the first official point of contact for all matters to be brought to the attention of the UTCC and will be used by COCTU as dissemination points for methods and tools that are important in the control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.
- Hon Minister, ladies and gentlemen, we hope the community takes advantage of the facilities that Government is putting in place to learn more about the different approaches to tsetse and trypanosomiasis control.

### **Projects targeting use of available technologies**

- During the past 12 months, COCTU embarked on holding discussions with different partners to take interest in working closely with affected communities in addressing the tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem.

- Currently there is a partnership with the Liverpool school of Tropical Medicine which is promoting the use of Tiny Targets especially in West Nile and have been invited to share their technology in the technology tent. They have contributed greatly to the suppression of tsetse and sleeping sickness in West Nile.
- COCTU partnership with FIND has helped on improving diagnosis of sleeping sickness and some of the FIND activities stretched up to Kaberamaido and Dokolo district.
- In Teso/Lango sub-region, cattle have been blamed for being responsible for the zoonotic sleeping sickness outbreaks. UTCC in partnership with the Stamp Out Sleeping Sickness group represented by Social Finance has sanctioned several intervention trials targeted at developing a comprehensive proposal to address the problem of the cattle reservoir.
- All these are being accompanied with strengthening the capacity of the different Departments at COCTU

### **Management of the UTCC Secretariat (COCTU) and the hope for Uganda**

Hon Minister, ladies and gentlemen, all I can say is that COCTU is being managed by able staff and we all need to work closely with them and support the different initiatives.

### **Refocusing on Theme of the Day and Conclusion**

Hon Minister, in addition to the theme of the day, it will be very important that the different stakeholders take time off to understand the COCTU setup and explore ways of how they can make use of this very important Institution in the area of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control.

For that reason, UTCC recommended holding an annual event code named **Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Awareness Day** and Dokolo was selected for kick starting this engagement with the different stakeholders.

It is the UTCC hope that you all share what you have seen, heard and learnt with colleagues who are not here today. We treasure all of you as out messengers. God bless all of you.

All speakers emphasized the relevance of the day and the centre, thanked COCTU for the good innovation.

#### **4.0 Award f Certificates to Partners**

During the ceremony, the Guest of Honour awarded certificates to the Partners, Community based-staff that had earlier been trained in Alebtong by COCTU as indicated below.



**LIST OF SPRAY PERSONS AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATES ACCORDING TO DISTRICTS**

<b>SERERE DISTRICT</b>	<b>APAC DISTRICT</b>	<b>DOKOLO DISTRICT</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alfred Echibu</li> <li>2. Samson Ogwang</li> <li>3. Richard Eloku</li> <li>4. Moses Aogon</li> <li>5. Arthur Opio</li> <li>6. Henry Omoding</li> <li>7. Alex Egayu</li> <li>8. Edward Emuku</li> <li>9. Samuel Akeru</li> <li>10. Samuel Egeng</li> <li>11. James Ageu</li> <li>12. William Enyaku</li> <li>13. William Ajemu</li> <li>14. Francis Eyaku</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Okullo James</li> <li>2. Okello Alex</li> <li>3. Ocum Joel</li> <li>4. Adupa Patrick</li> <li>5. Okwir Dominico</li> <li>6. Onapa Tony</li> <li>7. Otaka Benedict</li> <li>8. Adupa Sam</li> <li>9. Dono Patrick</li> <li>10. Ojuka Louis</li> <li>11. Kawinya George Eric</li> <li>12. Akera Fred</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ogwal Jasper</li> <li>2. Angulo William</li> <li>3. Obote Daniel</li> <li>4. Ocen Alfred</li> <li>5. Ogwang Peter</li> <li>6. Ayang Dennis</li> <li>7. Acari George</li> <li>8. Oceka Bonnie</li> <li>9. Ebong Carlos</li> <li>10. Ogwal David</li> </ol>
<b>KABERAMAIDO DISTRICT</b>	<b>AMOLATAR DISTRICT (RONALD WANGWE)</b>	<b>ALEBTONG DISTRICT</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eneru Martin</li> <li>2. Ewanu William</li> <li>3. Odiopo Sylvester</li> <li>4. Etengu Peter</li> <li>5. Otebo Esong</li> <li>6. Ogwang Julius</li> <li>7. Etedu Selestino</li> <li>8. Esanyu Wilson</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oroch Moses</li> <li>2. Abila Richard</li> <li>3. Abel Joel</li> <li>4. Opuk Joel</li> <li>5. Okello Musa</li> <li>6. Owiny Sam</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Omara Paul</li> <li>2. Ogwang Patrick</li> <li>3. Ogwal Leo</li> <li>4. Ekoluwut James</li> <li>5. Apili Anna</li> </ol>

## 5.0 Conclusion of Launching Awareness Day

Awareness and sensitization materials (posters and booklets) were distributed to schools, leaders and others that attended.

The launching was officially done by the Honourable Minister and then the occasion was gracefully ended by a luncheon held at Dokolo Hotel.

### Campaign Materials

The Alliance created a wide range of campaign materials for Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Awareness Week including posters, banners as below-



**LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY AWARENESS  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
TSETSE FLIES, NAGANA AND SLEEPING SICKNESS**

Date: 14TH OCTOBER 2014 Time: 8.00am – 2.00pm Venue: DOKOLO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

*Come One - Come All*



**COORDINATING OFFICE FOR CONTROL OF  
TRYPANOSOMIASIS IN UGANDA (COCTU)**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
AND FISHERIES (MAAIF)**

**TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS SUB-REGIONAL  
TRAINING AND AWARENESS CENTRE**

**The Journey to Dokolo for the Awareness Day Celebration Members Quid to register before boarding the Ferry to cross Lake Kyoga**



**Students reading the posters about sleeping sickness**



**The Birthday cake for the opening of a Sub-Regional Centre being cut by the Hon. Minister, Chairman Council, Director COCTU and the District Leaders**



## **6.0 The Achievement**

1. Public awareness and sensitization of the community and the entire Local Leadership on tsetse and Trypanosomiasis issues
2. Recognition of COCTU's contribution in controlling T & T in the sub-region
3. Acceptance and ownership of the District Administration , got centre and its importance to the community
4. Direct linkage of the sub-region to COCTU on T & T related issues
5. Catalytic effects to the community through skills and knowledge on T & T

6. Demonstration base for the establishment of another centre in the Busoga sub-region
7. A regional data base collection point on T & T activities in the region
8. Attraction to potential International donors to expansion and utilization of the facility. IKARE offered to continue supporting to spray persons activities for six months December, 2014 – May, 2015
9. Researchers free utilize facility as their storage point and base
10. District Production offices accepted to be in charge of centre as COCTU focal and can be reached on Tel: 256-752356075
11. Awareness activities to target schools due to enthusiasm displayed by pupils, students and teachers