REPORT OF THE ROUND TABLE MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON ERADICATION OF TSETSE AND ELIMINATION OF TRYPANOSOMIASIS IN UGANDA



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HOTEL AFRICANA, UGANDA

SECRETARIAT

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INTRODUCTION

1.1. Convening of the Round Table

convened by Coordinating Office for Control meeting was Uganda Trypanosomiasis in (COCTU), Secretariat. the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC). The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC) had noted that several interventions in the area of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis were being implemented in Uganda with several groups working in the same area which led to duplication of effort while other areas end up unattended to. Also COCTU need to understand the approach of the major players in Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis and to enlighten the meeting on its mandate of coordination of all tsetse and trypanosomiaisis activities in Uganda.

The meeting was attended by delegates from different partners from Ceva Santé Animale, Veterinarians Without Boarders, College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources, Makerere University, *IK Investment Partners/IK Aid and Relief Enterprise*, *Liverpool* School of Tropical Medicine, and Ugandan participants.

1.2. Mandate of UTCC

The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council which is a body corporate is mandated among others to: -

- Ensure effective and efficient implementation of all Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis programs
- Formulate policies and determine priorities for Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis
- Advise Government and make recommendations for Financial , Human and other resource requirements
- In consultation with Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) (Act Cap, 209) consider and approve research projects related to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis and assign them to any institution within or outside the Council.
- Advise the Minister on management and coordination of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis programs and establish units and technical services in relation to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis activities

1.3. Mandate of COCTU

For proper coordination of all Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis activities, UTCC operates through its Secretariat (COCTU) which is mandated to:-

- Supervise the implementation of activities.
- Prescribe standard specifications and codes of practice.
- Submit proposals for policy formulation.
- Collate and disseminate reports and information.
- Coordinate and develop Human Resource for Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis programs.

- Initiate and organize seminars, conferences and workshops to promote Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis activities.
- Promote research and studies on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (T & T).
- Establish and coordinate national, regional and international relations among T&T actors in Uganda.
- Solicit and receive grants, donations, aid, gifts, fees subscriptions for above purposes.

1.4. The objectives of the Round Table meeting-

The objectives of the meeting were: -

- ♦ Introduction of various partners dealing with control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis.
- ♦ Sharing areas of focus and activities engaged in by the various stakeholders present.
- ♦ Highlight of mandates of UTCC/COCTUs.
- ♦ Share key highlights and issues of concern raised at the Khartoum round table.
- ♦ Present a summary of the T & T policy draft.
- ♦ Discuss and map a way forward with regard to partners engagement with COCTU and start development of Strategic Plan.
- Getting a way forward for strengthening of COCTU/UTCC Coordination...

1.5. Welcome Remarks by Chairman UTCC

The Chairman, Uganda Trypanosomiaisis Control Council welcomed all the participants for having taken time off their busy schedules to come and dedicate this day focusing on issues of trypanosomiaisis elimination and tsetse eradication in Uganda. He informed the meeting that sleeping sickness is one of the diseases affecting vulnerable communities Worldwide including those people in Uganda. This round table presents an opportunity for the players working on the various aspects of trypanosomiaisis, for example, improving diagnostics, drug discovery, and epidemiology operational issues to share recent developments and improvements over the past few years. He also informed the meeting that the UTCC urges them to take the roles of COCTU seriously in order to enable it monitor all interventions and to set up committees to monitor tsetse and trypanosomiasis in the country as is mandated and guided by the UTCC Act (Ch 211), 1992. thanked all the partners who turned up in big numbers for the meeting good deliberation and hoped the recommendations from the meeting will be taken seriously by all partners as we struggle to eradicate sleeping sickness and eliminate nagana from Africa.

The Chairman Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council welcomed the Minister, Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry, Hon. Bright Rwamirama,

in a special way and briefly introduces the Hon. Minister through the discussion.

1.6. Official Opening of the Meeting

The Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry, Hon. Bright Rwamirama appreciated the presence of groups that are contributing to the fight against Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis. The Minister thanked Government officials and organizers of the round table for the work well done. The round table was assured that Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Government of Uganda gives total Governments support towards the initiative. The Minister thanked the partners for coming to support Uganda and asked other participants not to take their support for granted. This was also to thank their respective Governments for the support to Uganda.

Lastly, he welcomed all the participants and thanked them for sparing time to come and interface with each other and give an input on how best the activities of tsetse and trypanosomiaisis interventions can be coordinated. He thereafter declared the meeting open.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS ON STATUS OF TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIAISIS IN UGANDA

2.1. EXPECTATIONS FROM THE ROUND TABLE MEETING

Presented by UTCC Secretariat (COCTU), by Prof. Charles Waiswa and Dr. Rose Azuba

Following the presentations several Participants took the opportunity to offer their own thoughts emphasizing the need to support COCTU and its mandate as guided by the UTCC Act and made input on the following: -

(i) Policy Agenda and Guidelines

- Policy agenda and how they are shaped by the available data (and how a lack thereof impacts on policy.
- ♦ Mandate of the Trypanosomiasis surveillance platform and how it can be developed/strengthened.
- ♦ Shared and discussed some of the most cost effective and environmentally friendly methods and drugs for eradication of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.
- Got an insight into policy initiatives aimed at T & T control in Uganda.

(ii) Partnerships

- ◆ Types of support from the partners in the effort to kick out tsetse and trypanosomiasis.
- ♦ Need for a global project for Trypanosomiasis which will include every major actors of Uganda
- Requirement for synchronization of action for a stronger action.
- ♦ Secure clarification on inclusion of other players under the label of SOS, meeting other stakeholders.
- Understanding of all the tsetse and trypanosomiasis control activities that are going in order to leverage and complement one.
- ♦ Know partners involved in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control and their role.
- ♦ Understand way stakeholders can support the coordination of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.
- ♦ To know more about the way to combine different institutions altogether in order to fight the trypanosomiasis in eastern Africa.

(iii) Coordination Issues of COCTU

COCTU should to take charge of HAT, AAT and develop an Integrated One Health Community Public Health programme: -

- Keep sleeping sickness forms control activities complementing each other apart.
- Build partnerships for sleeping sickness control and network with efforts to control other zoonoses.
- Need to manage drug/chemicals used for T & T activities.
- Need to introduce MARK for insecticides used in T & T.
- Align tsetse and trypanosomiasis activities into strategies for Uganda that can help overcome the T & T.
- Better coordination of multiple actors in tsetse control/trypanosomiasis control and to learn from experiences of all actors.
- The friends from outside Uganda to work together with UTCC & COCTU to enable each other achieve set goals in eradication of tsetse and elimination of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda.

(iv) Operational Issues of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis

Uganda needs to urgently put in place: -

- ♦ Strategic plan for T & T interventions in Uganda for next five (5) years.
- ♦ Final National Policy Draft on T & T.
- ♦ Idea on these can be forwarded to the strategic planning to COCTU.
- ♦ The policy awaits cabinet approval and will be shared.

(v) UTCC/COCTU Expectations from Round Table

- Generate ideas for operational strategies for T & T control in Uganda.
- Build awareness of all initiatives on T & T in Uganda.
- ♦ Start Road Map for tsetse eradication and trypanosomiasis elimination as public health and economic constraint.
- ♦ Get information on projects or programmes being planned on T & T in Uganda..

(viii) Sharing and learning from each other

Meeting other stakeholders is always and will continue to be important as it will help: -

- To know the current research activities on tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Uganda and their contribution to solve the T & T problem.
- Understand the epidemiology and diagnostics of the disease to gain from the expertise of various carders including update on the upcoming tsetse and trypanosomiasis control options.
- To learn more about the efforts of zoonotic disease control in genral and share experiences beyond T & T.
- Generate means of mitigating the costs in Trypanosomiasis, understanding of the current surveillance methods being implemented in Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis activities in Uganda.

Finally, it is the desire of the UTCC Secretariat to see increased support to T & T activities (Technical/Financial), proper map to tsetse eradication, including agreeing to work under one Coordination and increased transparency.

The round table is expected to have concrete resolutions to guide COCTU in its coordination role.

2.2. PRESENTATIONS FROM SOME PROJECTS

2.2.1. SOS IN UGANDA

Prof. Sue Welbum, Prof John David Kabasa & Prof Charles Waiswa

- ♦ Improving human health and animal production through scientific innovation and public engagement
- ♦ Build Evidence Base Underreporting Value
- ♦ Find One Health Solutions
- ♦ Calculate Cost Effectiveness
- ♦ Promote Advocacy

◆ One Health Approach for NZDs = WHO BENEFITS AND WHO PAYS AND WHY?

2.2.2. COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ELIMINATE GAMBIENSE HAT FROM UGANDA (ISSEP PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Presentation by Dr. Charles Wamboga

The presenter gave a brief background and highlighted the progress of HAT elimination and emphasized that Elimination of *T.b.g* HAT is feasible however; it requires national ownership, effective communication and transparency, strong partnerships and deliberate efforts taken to incorporate HAT activities in routine health care delivery for sustainability.

2.2.3. FIELD EVALUATION OF THE USE OF INSECTICIDE TREATED TINY TARGETS IN THE CONTROL OF TSETSE FLIES IN THE T. B. GAMBIENSE REGION (MOYO) DISTRICT

Presentation by Mr. Ambrose Gidudu

The presenter informed the meeting that there are two Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) forms in Uganda, namely; .

- ◆ *T. brucei gambiense* (chronic form) in North West Uganda: without treatment = death in 1-6 years.
- ◆ *T. b. rhodesiense* (acute form) in south east Uganda: without treatment = death in 1-8 months.

The presenter informed the meeting that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries represented by COCTU and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

The meeting was informed that: -

- ◆ Tiny targets are efficient in significantly reducing populations of *G. f. fuscipes*, and maintaining them at very low/zero levels.
- ♦ 8-20x more cost-efficient than conventional traps and targets.
- ♦ Likely to reduce material costs by 90% and logistical costs by 50% in large-scale control operations.
- ♦ Most promising advance in HAT vector control in >3 decades.

2.2.4. 3V VET INITIATIVE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SOS

Presentation by Anne Rannalete

The presenter informed the meeting of the 3 VVet Initiative – addressing the challenges and the evolvement of SOS and challenges encountered. She presented the benefits achieved as follows: -

- ◆ Emergency intervention + follow-up treatments of 250,000 cattle in 5 districts
- ♦ Empowering + Engaging Communities Laying the Foundations for Sustainability
- ♦ Mass-treatments in Serere +Soroti AND 3 Vs + Spray Person Networks established in parallell.

In conclusion the presented assured the meeting that the challenges remain and require Public Private Partnership

2.2.5. PATTEC INITIATIVES

Presentation by Mr. Fred Luyimbazi and Dr. Herbert Mutumba

The presenter highlighted the benefits of tsetse fly control/eradication in Uganda sighting example of socio-economic (beef & milk) benefits of tsetse suppression in Buikwe district.

2.2.6. Summary of Round Table Meeting on T & T activities in Uganda in Khartoum, Sudan, 11.9. 2013

Presentation by Hassane H. Mahamat, AU-PATTEC Coordinator

The presenter highlighted the objectives of the meeting as: -

- ♦ PATTEC CO invited partners and expressed concerns on uncoordinated manner in which T&T activities is being handled in Uganda.
- Support Government of Uganda decision makers to ensure that an integrated approach being used:
- ♦ Merial/sonofi S.O.S Find and Makerere University are working in one of the district close to where the S.O.S was operating
- ♦ Liverpool school of tropical medicine
- ♦ PATTEC Uganda and others

The presented also informed the Meeting on what was agreed in Khartoum Round table meeting that: -

- Activities should be synchronized to show result
- Programme moved out to other districts;
- ♦ Government to spearhead the development of proposal for next phase of S.O.S and must ensure that key players are involved in its development (basic information e.g. livestock number of the target districts to be submitted to AU/PATTEC for decision Support);
- The role of COCTU should be visible.

MEETING OBSERVATIONS

3.1 COCTU's role

- 1. COCTU to take its center role in coordination, harmonize and streamline all work being undertaken by all stakeholders effectively.
- 2. Partners to ensure that they send regular information to COCTU

3.2 Strategic Plan and Policy Planning

- Expedite the strategic Plan so that it is not overtaken before it is operationalised,
- Ensure that the all relevant partners are part of the Strategic planning process.
- You may benchmark the PATEC Strategic Plan and have some harmonized planning.
- Include farmers and community as key stakeholders.
- Bring on board medical practitioners.

3.3 Information dissemination and platform for sharing

- Hold more regular round tables for partners within and without. Share transparently what everybody is doing.
- Regularly air the successes to show case the achievements both locally and internationally to also allow learning by others.
- Harmonize approaches with the communities and disseminate information and programs widely to avoid duplication

3.4 Governance, Management and Operationalisation

- That COCTU management team be expanded beyond the Director and Deputy Director.
- Establish official Implementing units which will have a MoU with COCTU and each units presents a focal person as part of the COCTU team.
- Visit options for official membership with established outcomes
- Establish a working consortium which can receive accountability and has among other things ability to publish and add value

3.5 Financing

 The government should find funds to support the work of COCTU as a matter of principle especially in monitoring

4.0 Resolutions

- ♦ COCTU as Coordinator should immediately start producing regular newsletters mentioning all stakeholders and their activities in Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis.
- ♦ All partners dealing with Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis must respect the mandate of COCTU.
- Policies to be supported by science.
- The strategic plan to Millennium Development Goals.

LIST OF RECOGNISED INSTITUTIONS FOR THE AWARD

- 1. IKARE Limited and its Principal Donor IK Investment Partners Limited
- 2. The Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh
- 3. College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources & Bio-security, Makerere University
- 4. Ceva Santé Animale
- 5. MTK Uganda Limited

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