About COCTU

Coordinating office for the control of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda (COCTU) is agency under MAAIF that was established by an act of parliament 1992. Currently the agency has activities in about 50 districts in the Eastern, South-Eastern, Northern, Buganda, West Nile and some parts of Karamoja.

Vision:

- To be a lead agency in coordinating the control and elimination of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda.

Mandate:

- To provide efficient and cost effective integrated measures aimed at eradicating the tsetse fly vector in Uganda and eliminating Trypanosomiasis from the hosts.

Achievements:

a) Enabling policy environment for control of tsetse and Trypanosomiasis

Policy on the eradication of tsetse flies and elimination of Trypanosomiasis was developed with Consultations from different stakeholders in local and central Government. This was done with the guidance of Policy Analysts from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). This policy is at its final stages awaiting approval by the cabinet.

b) Diagnosis and early disease detection

212 Rapid diagnostic centers were established in West Nile region. These were established to allow easy access/easy diagnosis. 15,000 people have been tested using RDT, 14,000 people tested using CAAT test. 2 cases were confirmed positive from Yumbe and Koboko districts and were successfully treated. The disease has reduced and this has called for the reduction of diagnostic centers from 212 to 149.

Blood samples were taken from 770 heads of cattle from Lolelia sub county Kaabong district and subjected to microscopy analysis. 20 samples were positive. The prevalence rate was 0.2-2.59%. Several samples have been collected from other regions and will be subjected to molecular analysis.

c) Reduce the tsetse vector and man-tsetse-animal contact

Live bait technology is an approach that COCTU promotes to control tsetse flies and Trypanosomiasis in both humans and livestock. It involves application of deltamethrin/pyrethroid based acaricides/insecticide on the cattle and, the treatment of the same animal with trypanocidal drugs. The method has the advantage of being cheap as targeted to control many vector borne diseases at the same time. 384,015 cattle were sprayed in Teso-Lango Sub-region, 146,046 in Busoga/Bukedi Sub-region, and 76,218 in Karamoja Sub-region. These act as live bits to kill both tsetse flies and ticks.

The use of this technology has led to reduction in tsetse fly density in these areas which is realized by a reduction in sleeping sickness cases in the country and prevalence of animal Trypanosomiasis is 0.0-5.8% which shows we are on track towards elimination.

This approach has provided employment for over 500 youth who carry out the activity of spraying cattle. They spray farmer’s animals at an agreed fee which fetches for these youth a monthly income of about 230,000/. This approach is community run and managed which makes it sustainable.

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Microscopy examinations for the trypanosome parasites

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d) Increased sensitization and community awareness

Two community awareness centers have been set up in Dokolo (for the Teso-Lango Sub-region) and in Luuka (for Busoga/Bukedi Sub-region). These were set up for the community in these regions to get access to information on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control. 27,603 farmers visited the center in Dokolo district and 9,209 farmers visited the one in Luuka district. Most of the community members come to inquire about Tsetse control acaricides and Sleeping sickness treatment centers and their references. Through these centers farmers have gotten to know and realized that by the use of the recommended acaricides they control both tsetse and ticks with minimal costs using live bait technology. Their animals now look healthy; the number of tsetse flies and Trypanosomiasis has greatly reduced in their regions.

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