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BREEDING AND MULTIPLICATION CENTRES FOR
TRYPANOTOLERANT LIVESTOCK IN WEST AFRICA



INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

All cattle are susceptible to trypanosomiasis which causes debilitation and often death. It is one of the main constraints to livestock development and land resource utilisation in most of the West African countries. Research and study findings on tsetse and trypanosomiasis have demonstrated that a few indigenous cattle breeds are "tolerant" to trypanosomiasis. However, the major impediment to the increased use of these trypanotolerant livestock development in tsetse infested areas is their limited number. At present, less than five per cent of the one hundred and sixty million Africa cattle population is made up of trypanotolerant cattle breeds while more than forty per cent of the African continent is infested by tsetse fly. One of the strategies to employ in the struggle against tsetse transmitted trypanosomiasis is the breeding and multiplication of trypanotolerant cattle.

At two separate meetings of the OAU, the regional meeting on animal health and production, held in Algeria in 1976 and the OAU Expert Committee Meeting on Animal Genetic Resources, held in Kenya in 1981, it was recommended that:

1. some indigenous breeds because of their adaptation and productivity be multiplied and distributed live to areas of similar ecozones either for purposes of upgrading or form the foundation stock of the national herd,
2. the OAU encourage Member State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve indigenous breeds of cattle which even though the animal might currently seem uneconomic, they might have potential for use in future breeding programmes and also prevent the problem of retractable rear breeds in future,
3. there is a need to identify one or two important dominant breeds and strains common to Member States for evaluation, improvement and multiplication in each sub-region,
4. the OAU should encourage regional cooperation in breeding of the identified breeds and strains.

The last cattle population census produced by the OAU in 1980 indicated there was 10% reduction in cattle number for the West African countries. Furthermore, it was discovered that productivity per animal has made little or no progress. Consequently, it is important that problems of livestock production in this sub-region be carefully defined and solutions found particularly in the traditional sector which accounts for 80 - 90% of cattle production. This will contribute to the socio-economic development of the rural areas and the sub-region at large. One of the ways to overcome this limitation and increase production is to multiply the trypanotolerant breeds for use in the moist savannah infested with tsetse fly whose control is proving to be difficult and expensive.

There is presently a continuing demand in West Africa for trypanotolerant cattle which make up 33% of the cattle population in the sub-region. This type of cattle includes mainly the N'Dama (3.4 million) i.e. 45% of trypanotolerant cattle. Others include the Lagune, the Muturu, the Baoule, and the Somba (1.8 million) which represent 23% of trypanotolerant cattle. In addition, there are breeds that have a greater resemblance to the Zebu, but which also possess an ability to resist trypanosomiasis: these are Djakore, Bambara, Borgu and Keteku (2.4 million) which constitute 32% of trypanotolerant cattle. Some of these breeds, however, are in a state of extinction as a result of drastic reduction in numbers. The Republic of Benin has already embarked on conservation measures with funds supplied by the African Development Bank. All of these breeds constitute an outstanding genetic resource that could be better harnessed for West African Livestock Development.

OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

1. To develop guidelines for the establishment and operation of breeding and multiplication centres for trypanotolerant cattle.
2. To assist in the evaluation of trypanotolerant breeds and breeding systems under prevailing conditions of husbandry and disease incidence.
3. To encourage exchange of information and technology between breeding and multiplication centres for trypanotolerant breeds.
4. To offer training and work experience at the centres to technicians from other countries by demonstrating feeding, breeding and management techniques related specifically to trypanotolerant livestock and to measuring performance for breed improvement.

The work plan will consist essentially of the following:-

1. Establishment of breeding and multiplication centres in West African countries with emphasis on farmer - breeder co-operation to control trypanosomiasis;
2. In countries where there are existing multiplication centres review the current method of operation in relation to objectives and recommend such changes as may be necessary;
3. Provide information service to governments on breed development and production systems.

In order to carry out these functions it will be necessary to employ a livestock expert with supporting staff. This expert and his staff will work in a suitable institution in the trypanosomiasis region and will report regularly to the OAU/IBAR and West African governments on progress achieved. It is suggested that N'Dama being the predominant trypanotolerant breed, the institution selected should be in the country with mainly N'Dama cattle. Consequently Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and preferably Sierra Leone are all suggested.



SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT UNIT	TOTAL		1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year		5th Year	
	M/M	\$	M/M	\$	M/M	\$	M/M	\$	M/M	\$	M/M	\$
10. <u>Project Personnel</u>												
10.01 Livestock Expert (1)	60	397,845	12	72,000	12	75,600	12	79,380	12	83,349	12	87,516
10.2 Animal Husbandry Expert (1)	24	126,600	12	61,800	12	64,800		-		-		-
10.3 Typist/Clerk (1)	60	138,142	12	25,000	12	26,250	12	27,563	12	28,941	12	30,388
10.04 Messenger (1)	60	27,640	12	5,000	12	5,250	12	5,513	12	5,788	12	6,089
19. Component Total	204	690,227	48	163,800	48	171,900	36	112,456	36	118,078	36	123,993
20. <u>Duty Travel</u>		50,000		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000
30. <u>Contractual Services</u>		30,000		15,000		15,000						
Assistance to institutions and farmer/breeder associations		75,000		15,000		15,000		15,000		15,000		15,000
Component Total		105,000		30,000		30,000		15,000		15,000		15,000
40. General Operating Expenses		25,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000		5,000
60. Equipment and Supplies		40,000		25,000		10,000		5,000				
80. Training (In Service)		50,000		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000		10,000
TOTAL		960,227		243,800		236,900		157,456		158,078		163,993
90. Contingencies (15%)		144,034		36,570		35,535		23,618		23,712		24,599
GRAND TOTAL		1,104,261		280,370		272,435		181,074		181,790		188,592

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Breeding and Multiplication Centres for Trypanotolerant Livestock in West Africa

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