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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

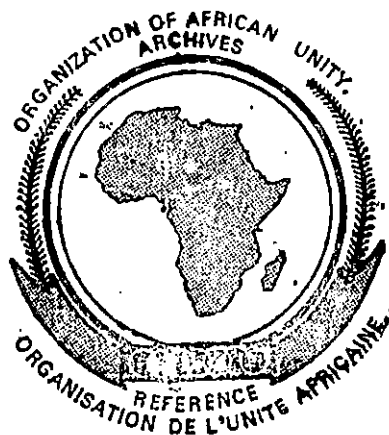
Twelfth Ordinary Session

Addis Ababa - February 1969

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON
INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION AND OAU'S ACTIVITIES IN
THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
CULTURE AND HEALTH

GENERAL REPORT

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION



REPORT OF THE
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION
October 1968 to March 1969

The Administrative Secretary-General is happy to report that the Inter-African Scientific and Technical co-operation of the CAU has continued as in previous years having regard to the available manpower and the financial resources of our organization. In Annex I to Document 232 of the report of the Administrative Secretary General to the Algiers Meeting, a detailed account of the various co-operative projects on which Member States were taking joint action were listed. Some of these are the Fisheries Survey, Food Crop Research, Disease eradication projects like the Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia and Trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness. Work on these projects have continued. Since most of the projects will continue for some years to come, it is fair to record in this report the progress made within the past five months only. However, the discussion of the moderate progress made will show not only the successes in our endeavour but also the difficulties that confronted the Secretariat in the execution of the programme.

1. Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest

The first two Phases of this project has been completed in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroun, Niger, Dahomey, Togo, Ghana, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Mali. The only problem in these states at present is that of Conservatory measures. At the Inter-State Meeting at which senior Governmental Officers and Ministers of these states were present in 1965, it was agreed as follows:-

"Each Country undertakes:

- (i) To vaccinate with a recognized Rinderpest vaccine the annual calf-crop at least once per year in two successive years. These animals will be marked with the clover-leaf ear-punch so that any animal over two years old will have two such ear-marks.
- (ii) To vaccinate and ear-punch all animals detected without clover-leaf ear-punches.

- (iii) To keep neighbouring countries informed of the state of affairs in respect of Rinderpest through the liaison officers, and by means of annual scheduled meetings convened by STRC. In particular, each country will notify all concerned by the most rapid means possible of any outbreaks of Rinderpest, stating the number of animals involved and geographical grid location of the outbreak.
- (iv) In the case of an outbreak of Rinderpest, to implement the accepted Control measures as quickly as possible and under professional veterinary supervision. It is essential to verify by a recognized laboratory the etiology of the infection. Recognized control measures would include strict quarantine of all infected herds and in-contacts, a slaughter of all infected animals within a radius of 10 miles and payment of compensation for animals slaughtered.
- (v) To have veterinary authorities maintain strict surveillance over the movements of migratory and trade cattle which shall be furnished with valid vaccination certificates.
- (vi) To provide adequate legislation to permit the undertaking of the requirements of paragraphs 1 to 5 above.
- (vii) These measures will be subject to annual review."

This matter is now assuming tremendous importance because the whole of Western and Central Africa has almost been covered by the campaign. To prevent colossal waste of funds and a relapse of fresh outbreaks with its attendant high mortality in livestock, the Council of Ministers is invited at this meeting to pass a resolution urging all OAU Members to adhere strictly to the minimum conservatory measures outlined above as soon as the mass inoculation campaign is over in each state. The Secretariat will like to add that it has put a highly competent veterinarian (Dr. Sall) on this assignment. He will visit all Member States concerned to ensure that these measures are undertaken.

Phase III of the campaign now in progress in Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea, the rest of Tchad, Ivory Coast and Mali will be completed towards the end of 1969. It will then be important that conservatory measures be taken to maintain the standard of vaccination against the disease in these states on the same lines as in Phases I and II states.

The formal launching of the Campaign in Eastern Africa was held in Nairobi in the middle of November, 1968. Some 50 participants from Livestock and Veterinary departments of the Governments of Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as representatives of laboratories like EAVRO in East Africa, Farcha in Tchad and Zeit in Ethiopia were present at the meeting. There were also experts from the FAO, UNDP, EEC, SCA, USAID, MEDF, ODM, I.S.I.V.T. and the East African Community.

This business meeting afforded the experts the opportunity to undertake detailed and careful planning of the campaign in the entire zone of operation with the aid of maps and statistical data supplied by the scientists from Member States, the laboratories and the various international agencies. Plans for the field activity in each state were synchronized with one another and procedures for co-operating at the inter-State boundaries were agreed upon bearing in mind the different circumstances of each country. Through the medium of the OAU International Co-ordinator, joint use of facilities like publicity materials and vaccination equipment were agreed upon. The meeting also laid the foundation for concerted action between the laboratories (producing vaccines) and the field officers (using the vaccines) of various countries so also to ensure an uninterrupted supply of vaccine throughout the period of the campaign. Some of the important recommendations of the meeting are as follows:

"(i) Extension of JP 15

It RECO MMENDS that the present southern boundaries of the JP 15 Campaign in Eastern Africa be reviewed; the OAU Secretariat should seek to combat both Rinderpest and CBPP in Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi on the Eastern sea board of Africa if necessary; that activities in Western and Central Africa should also be extended to the Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville), and Congo (Kinshasa) if necessary.

(ii) Animal Production

The Meeting RECOMMENDS that the OAU Secretariat should sponsor production and marketing of African Livestock in World Market. International Organizations like the OIE should be encouraged to inform the world of the efforts of OAU States to make their livestock disease free and therefore marketable.

(iii) Appreciation to Donor

The Meeting was appreciative of the financial grants and Technical assistance made so far by the USAID, AEC, ODM, F.A.C., UNDP and other donor agencies and appeals to them to step up the volume of financial and technical assistance to Member States so as to improve the value of the livestock industry in Africa both as a means of earning foreign currency and as a source of cheap protein.

(iv) Free Movement of Staff

Following the agreement by participating states to encourage close contact and discussion prior to the vaccination exercise in the field campaign, the meeting APPEALS to the authorities in each state to promote free movement across inter-state borders for veterinary officers, inoculators and others connected with the field work on the campaign. The International Co-ordinator and his Deputy should also be accorded easy movement in the interest of effective supervision and co-ordination of the field campaign."

2. Trypanosomiasis or Tsetsefly Research (Sleeping Sickness)

The Council of Research workers in Trypanosomiasis known as the International Scientific Council on Trypanosomiasis Research (ISCTR) met in Bangui, Central African Republic, in mid November, 1968. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of research work on and the success in field control of Trypanosomiasis or Tsetsefly (sleeping sickness) in Africa since 1966. About 47 experts from research Centres in Africa and from international organizations participated in the work of the conference and well over 50 technical papers were discussed dealing with research work on animal and human trypanosomiasis.

Because of the importance of this field of research to Africa, the OAU seeks active co-operation with WHO and FAO in the encouragement of the eradication of this scourge from Africa. The problem affects both animal and human health and require considerable financial resources in execution. If council approves the funds requested by the Secretariat, it is expected that the Executive Committee of the ISCTM would meet this year to map out the areas of further research in Trypanosomiasis and explore United Nations support for research and training and for field eradication projects both at the national and at the regional levels. Some of the recommendations of the Bangui Meeting are as follows:

"(i) Meeting of the Executive Committee

The Conference deplored the fact that the executive committee of the council against trypanosomiasis did not meet regularly once a year as had been planned in the regulations of the committee.

It RECOMMENDATIONS that the Committee should meet once a year to advise on

- (a) priorities in research and control programmes,
- (b) support for research on trypanosomiasis,
- (c) allocation of funds for research and control measures, and
- (d) initiation of new lines of research.

(ii) Appeal to OAU states

The Council unanimously recognized the need to carry on the work of watchfulness and of action against trypanosomiasis in all the member countries, and it requests all Member States of OAU concerned to put at the disposal of researchers medical doctors, the financial means and additional trained personnel to ensure the success of field action to eradicate the disease."

3. Contagious Bovine Fluoro-Pneumonia Research and Field Control:

First moves at eradication of this disease at the regional level was taken in 1965 when veterinarians of the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania submitted a proposal to the OAU Secretariat for a joint campaign against CBPP in their common border. This was followed up by the Secretariat and it has been possible to get some external financial assistance to launch this scheme late in 1968 simultaneously with the rinderpest eradication project. So far,

Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will be covered by this simultaneous vaccination project. The Secretariat has asked its technicians to examine the possibility of expanding the coverage to include Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo (Kinshasa) and Congo (Brazzaville).

Discussions at the Technical meeting on Rinderpest Campaign in Nairobi last November revealed that time is now opportune for OAU to sponsor a field eradication project of the CBPP in Western and Central Africa too on the same lines as the rinderpest campaign. Up to now the OCAM, OERS and Entente groups of States have indicated the need for a massive campaign against this other scourge of livestock. In order to ensure a thorough and effective coverage of all states, the Secretariat proposes that all OAU States should agree that Livestock disease control and eradication are areas of common concern to all OAU States and that the OAU Secretariat should handle the problem on the same lines as the Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest which has proved to be an accomplished success so far. The OAU Secretariat personnel handling this aspect of our activity have acquired considerable experience in project evaluation and costing as a result of their experience on several other surveys and it would be to the credit of our organization if the planning, evaluation and actual field activity were handled at our inter-African Secretariat.

The Council of Ministers is therefore invited to approve that the Secretariat should study ways and means of undertaking joint and co-operative campaign against CBPP in all affected OAU States on the same lines as the Rinderpest Campaign; that other African economic groups should co-operate with the OAU Secretariat on this project to avoid wasteful duplication of effort; and that the FAO, the UNDP and other agencies should co-operate with the OAU Secretariat on this project as they are doing in the case of the rinderpest campaign.

4. Panel of Scientific Experts

Last year, the Council of Ministers was informed that the Secretariat was inviting nominations from Member States of Scientists with appropriate qualifications to constitute the panel of scientific advisers in some areas of research and development. These are Panels of Geology and Mineralogy, Oceanography and Fisheries, Mechanization of Agriculture and the African Medicinal Plants Research. The Secretariat hopes to convene meetings of

these panels during this year to consider inter-African policy issues in some priority development aspects like:-

- (a) Training of indigenous African research workers at post-graduate level as well as middle grade or technical level;
- (b) Feasibility of establishing Research and Training Institutes or improvement of existing facilities in these disciplines;
- (c) The problem of systematic exploitation and conservation of ocean and river resources including the need for international Conventions (Oceanography and Fisheries);
- (d) Planning new studies and pre-investment joint co-operative survey in areas of common or regional interests; and
- (e) Determination of research priorities.

5. Other Activities

All other activities of the Organization in the field of Technical and Scientific co-operation have continued. The Cereal Crop Research which deals with improvement of maize, sorghum and legumes production have continued and it is hoped to convene a meeting of research workers co-operating in this project sometime in October, 1969, to review the achievements and explore further research opportunities on grain crops.

All the Technical Bureaux namely the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Health (IBAH) in Nairobi, the Interafrican Phytosanitary Commission (IAPSC) in Yaounde, and the Interafrican Bureau of Soil (BIS) in Bangui have continued with their activities as in previous years. It is now hoped that with additional funds and personnel they would be able to undertake research work. The BIS in Bangui, is however still very short of hands despite repeated appeals for soil scientists to man the Bureau.

A meeting of technician of Member Governments dealing with Plant Quarantine matters is scheduled to meet in Lagos from 8th to 11th April, 1969. The meeting will review the present position of pest control in Africa and the machinery for plant quarantine to prevent importation of diseased vegetative materials or seed into the continent. In view of the fact that Agriculture (and allied industry) is very important to the economy

of all OAU States, ~~it is imperative that~~ African States take concerted action to protect their economic interest; otherwise, ~~agricultural products~~ which are the bulwark of the economies of our states might be ruined through neglectful importation of fruits, vegetative materials or seeds of any type.

6. Scientific Council of Africa (CSA)

It is expected that the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) will meet sometime in May, 1969, to assess the progress of inter-African co-operation in Scientific, Technical and Educational fields and to make policy suggestions to the OAU on research and development work in Africa.

ADDIS ABABA - JANUARY 1969



1969-02

The Administrative Secretary's Report on Inter African cooperation and OAU'S Activities in the fields of education, science, technology, culture and health

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