Financing the eradication campaign against rinderpest in Africa*

I. INTRODUCTION


The following countries, international and inter-African Organisations were represented at the Meeting:

Countries: Canada, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Italy and United States of America.


Dr Blajan emphasised the constant interest the O.I.E. has had in rinderpest control since the foundation of the O.I.E. and expressed the wish that a commitment be made by the representatives of national and international aid and cooperation agencies before the closure of the Meeting.

3. Dr B. Gotta (Ivory Coast) was elected Chairman (Dr Gotta is the Vice-President of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa).

Dr Y. Cheneau (I.E.M.V.T.) was appointed Rapporteur.


5. The Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was then adopted.

II. RINDERPEST AND CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) SITUATION IN AFRICA

6. Dr P. Atang, Director of the O.A.U./I.B.A.R. presented this item.

He recalled the evolution of rinderpest since its introduction into Africa at the beginning of the last century. He then described the phases of the JP 15 Campaign which commenced in 1962 and ended in 1976, under the aegis of the O.A.U. Dr Atang explained the causes for rinderpest recurrence after the JP 15 campaign which were due to remaining foci of infection in West and East Africa.

He indicated that since December 1981 when Chapter I of the Funding Report was remitted to participants, Upper Volta has reported one outbreak of rinderpest. The risk of further outbreaks in the area was emphasised.

7. The speaker then examined the CBPP situation and reiterated the implications of this disease which is the second severe threat to livestock production in Africa.

The success of CBPP eradication in the Central African Republic, in comparison with the failures of isolated efforts to control the disease in other countries, highlights the following points: vaccination must be followed up and operations should be coordinated between States.

III. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL BASES FOR ERADICATING RINDERPEST.
ADVANTAGES OF A JOINT CAMPAIGN

8. In presenting this subject, Dr A. Provost pointed out similarities between rinderpest and small pox. The elimination of small pox was the final stage of efforts which began with the control of the disease and ended with its eradication.

The speaker affirmed that for rinderpest, the « elimination » stage could now be envisaged.

He described several conditions which need to be met to eradicate all contagious diseases, emphasising that these conditions were the same for rinderpest, thereby affirming that the eradication of rinderpest is possible.

9. Dr Provost recalled scientific and technical knowledge on rinderpest and CBPP and their epizootiology.

The advantages of a combined rinderpest/CBPP campaign were emphasised.

He then indicated that two « infectious hot areas » of rinderpest still existed: one in the interior delta on the Niger River in Mali and the other mainly
including Ethiopia, Somalia and the area of the Sudan, east of the Nile. The most substantial resources should be concentrated on these two « hot areas ». The intervention zone described as « buffer zone » or « intermediate zone » would receive the same attention but for a shorter period of time.

10. Dr Provost emphasised the need to reach a vaccination rate of 100 % so that the eradication of rinderpest could be ensured.

11. Dr Provost affirmed that the eradication of CBPP was possible on the condition that all cattle were vaccinated for several years and that all diseased animals needed to be emergency slaughtered.

Discussion then focussed on the type of vaccine (liquid or freeze-dried, mono- or bi-valent) and on mixed or combined vaccinations (2 injections of monovalent vaccines).

Explanations were then given on wild animals which do not constitute a virus reservoir.

IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE RINDERPEST ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

12. Dr Y. Ozawa (F.A.O.) presented socio-economic reasons justifying the rinderpest eradication campaign.

He recalled the fact that the cost of JP 15, which incurred foreign aid amounting to approximately US $ 20 million, had been offset by the benefits gained from the Campaign.

The cost/benefit analysis of the Campaign in Nigeria (carried out by Felton and Ellis in 1978) calculated a 2.48:1 cost/benefit ratio and an internal rate of return of over 47 %.

The JP 15 campaign did not create over-grazing problems during drought periods but on the contrary improved herd structures.

13. Dr Ozawa briefed the Meeting on the positive results of the 1981 Emergency Campaign which showed that Veterinary Services in West African countries were capable of great efficiency with a minimum of outside aid.

It is obvious that without the latter, most Veterinary Services would have to suspend their control programmes against rinderpest, CBPP, foot-and-mouth disease and trypanosomiasis.

14. The Rinderpest Eradication Campaign in Africa would offer inter alia the following advantages :

(i) pave the way for joint eradication against CBPP ;
(ii) improve epidemiological surveillance systems in the countries concerned ;
(iii) enable countries which have succeeded in eradicating rinderpest to
concentrate their efforts on controlling other often neglected animal diseases;

(iv) facilitate intra-African animal trade as well as exports;

(v) offer stock-owners, who would no longer be permanently threatened by rinderpest, the possibility of improving herd structures and productivity;

(vi) increase resources available to stock-owners;

(vii) ensure the training of field personnel and enable them to provide effective veterinary services, thereby regaining stock-owners' confidence.

Dr Ozawa further emphasised what Dr Blajan had said earlier about the importance of eradicating rinderpest and CBPP thereby ensuring the protection of livestock in Persian Gulf countries.

Eradication of both epizootics from the African continent would be a great advantage for these countries which are largely dependent on African livestock for their meat supplies.

V. PRELIMINARY FUNDING REPORT

15. Dr Atang presented the preliminary funding report; after stating the involvement and willingness of African Governments, expressed during the Summit of African Heads of State in Nairobi in June 1981 and during the joint meeting held from 2-5 November 1981, he described the eradication project and present objectives and defined the limits of the zones of intensive action, buffer zones and intermediate zones. He gave details of the campaign's time-table and its various phases.

He then listed the resources necessary for the implementation of the project for personnel (coordination, national authorities and vaccination teams) and for equipment (vehicles, freezer and vaccination material).

16. The technical discussion which followed, focussed on the cold storing of freeze-dried vaccines which still remains necessary and it was recommended that all intervention zones use either mixed rinderpest/CBPP vaccinations or combined vaccinations.

The proposal for developing a West and East African different strategy which would first focus on action in some key countries and later be applied in other countries where the two diseases could then be eradicated, was not retained as livestock movements are difficult to control and an overall strategy would be more economical.

The willingness and involvement of Governments was emphasised after questions had been posed thereon by Dr K.F. Wells and Mr. J. Mulder (E.E.C.); the existence of legislation and agreements on the control of stock movements was reiterated. Details of allowances and travel by field workers, financed by the project were explained. It is hoped that this would motivate personnel. Salaries for national technicians would be met by the countries themselves.
17. The representatives of countries and international aid and cooperation agencies were then invited to give their points of view on the proposal.

The E.E.C. Representative indicated that the European Community Commission in principle agreed to participate in this programme. However he noted that a formal request for aid would have to be made to Brussels by the countries involved or by a body which had been duly authorised by the countries concerned.

The request should be channelled through the national officer responsible for projects financed by the E.D.F. and costs should be labelled under « regional funds ».

The E.E.C. Representative, in agreement with the project, mentioned that this project should be implemented by national authorities and coordinated technically and financially by an international coordination body.

18. The Representative from Italy pointed out that assistance from his country would either take the form of bi-lateral or multi-lateral aid. Funds could be used to finance equipment purchases or technical assistance. In giving his total support to the design of the project, he spoke on behalf of all possible donors in expressing the wish that a managing Committee be established in which all donors would participate, as envisaged during the Nairobi Meeting.

19. The African Development Bank Representative, after questioning the organisers of the Meeting on the type of funds requested (loans or grants) emphasised that the A.D.B. would accord some grants to certain programmes but these grants would be limited and would be subject to a complex procedure. The A.D.B. is bound by the origin of funds it manages (bi- or multi-lateral aid).

As this Meeting has helped to obtain a clearer idea of the project, it will be easier for the A.D.B. Directorate to establish what type of aid it could envisage offering.

20. The World Bank Representative affirmed the Bank’s interest in rinderpest eradication. However, due to legal constraints and technical considerations, it would be difficult for the Bank to finance an internationally funded campaign. The Bank would prefer being involved in national rinderpest eradication projects, financed bilaterally or multilaterally. Dr N.J. Nissen stressed the importance of obtaining the assurance from Governments in the African countries concerned that more national resources would be devoted to rinderpest eradication.

The Bank would like to see a restructurisation and re-organisation of Veterinary Services in the countries involved. In Dr Nissen’s view, the Administration should, in the future, focus on essentially governmental functions (policy definitions, certain vaccinations and quarantine) while the private sector should handle the main tasks of providing animal health services, particularly drugs.
Dr Nissen then reviewed past programmes financed by the Bank in Africa: out of some twenty projects, 80% involved animal health components, entailing aid amounting to US $100 million. Over the past twenty years allocations for livestock Services in the national budget have decreased from approximately 2% to less than 1%, of which 20% is now used to purchase material and 80% is allocated to personnel.

21. The Representative from the United States of America stated that the Government of the United States is reconsidering its foreign aid policy and any contribution it may make would necessarily be different from that given to JP 15. He emphasised the importance of epidemiological surveillance of rinderpest which should be included in the overall project.

Dr J. Moulthrop will draw up a report and proposals to be submitted to U.S. aid agencies which will establish whether this project will receive priority.

22. The Representative from Canada pointed out that he had only been requested to report on the present Meeting which would enable C.I.D.A. to decide on its position.

23. The Representative from France in affirming his country's agreement with the project, stressed that it would be unwise to only intervene in the « hot areas ».

Despite the fact that it is too early for any amounts or procedures to be determined with regard to French aid, Dr J. Levif pointed out that bilateral aid would be preferable but did not dismiss the possibility of contributing to international coordination.

24. The Representative from the Federal Republic of Germany stated that his country could not make any commitments for 1982 nor for 1983, even with regard to complementary activities within the framework of bilateral projects which are now being considered. He however agreed on the content of the project and hoped that his country would be able to participate.

25. The Representative of the F.A.O. stated that subject to the Director General's approval, the F.A.O. would continue to provide emergency assistance to the countries of the region through its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in order to maintain the present situation of the disease.

Technical advice as well as consultancy services on specific subjects related to the rinderpest eradication programme may also be provided.

The F.A.O. would also be able to support the eradication campaign through F.A.O.'s projects in the field or in laboratories.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. In his closing address, the Chairman expressed his optimism in the future of this project which will contribute to an increase in the availability of
animal protein and to an improvement in the health of the population. Fur­
thermore, he was confident that the African authorities concerned would do
their utmost to ensure the Campaign's success.

Finally, he thanked participants and expressed his gratitude to the O.I.E.,
F.A.O. and O.A.U. for organising this Meeting.

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APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
(See p. 844)

APPENDIX 2

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

C.I.D.A. : Canadian International Development Agency.
E.D.F. : European Development Fund.
E.E.C. : European Economic Community.
I.E.M.V.T. : Institut d'Elevage et de Médecine Vétérinaire des Pays Tropicaux (Institute for Tropical Livestock Production and Veterinary Medicine).
JP 15 : Joint Project against Rinderpest in Africa.