

Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis



The PAAT secretariat combines the forces of FAO, WHO, IAEA, and OAU/IBAR to promote integrated trypanosomiasis control through coordinated international action. The ultimate goal is to improve food security and sustainable agricultural and rural development.

Nearly 100 years of control efforts have failed to curb the distribution of tsetse fly infestations or the resulting incidence of trypanosomiasis in Africa.

Across one-third of the continent, agricultural and rural development remains seriously impeded by the animal and human forms of this debilitating and often fatal disease. The consequences for human welfare are compounded by the fact that the hardest hit are invariably the most poverty-stricken countries.

The new PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (PAAT) is an international alliance that treats the tsetse/trypanosomiasis problem as an integral part of development and poverty alleviation, assuring positive and lasting results in tryps-affected areas.

It is based on:

- Concerted international planning and action
- Prioritized and problem-driven research
- Focused investments and interventions
- Integrated vector and disease control
- Participation of local communities



The disease

A threat to food security

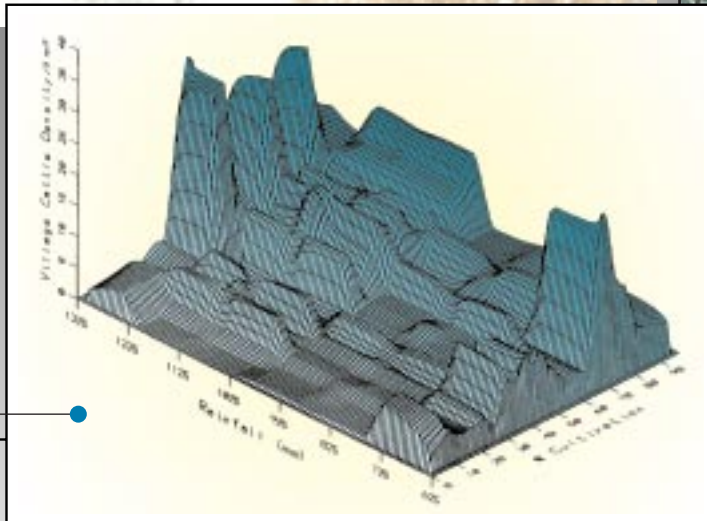
Food production may be reduced by as much as 50% as a result of animal trypanosomiasis alone.

The disease severely constrains farming activities in sub-Saharan Africa, causing:

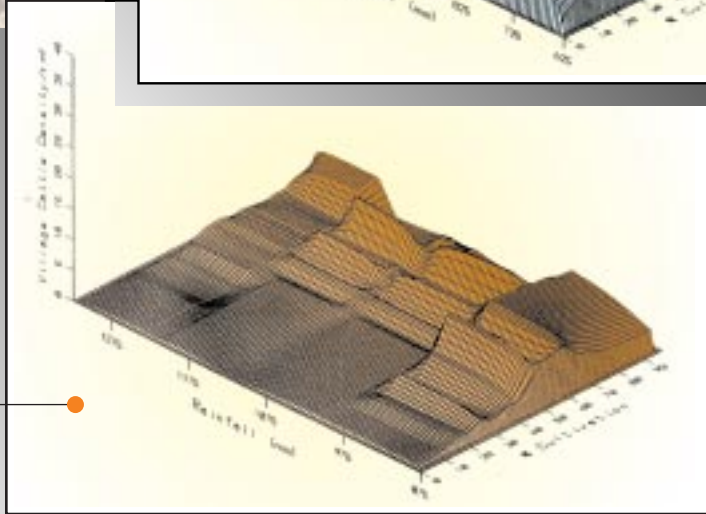
- 3 million livestock deaths each year
- a 20% loss in calving
- a 25% reduction in milk yields
- a 50% reduction in herd numbers

Trypanosomiasis reduces crop production dramatically:

The flourishing agricultural activity of tsetse-free areas ...



... is in stark contrast with the inactivity and absence of cultivation in tsetse-infested zones



A drain on human resources

With 300 000 cases officially reported, human trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness, has now returned to the epidemic levels of the 1930s in many historic foci across Africa. Surveillance covers only a minute percentage of the 55 million people at risk, however, so it is more feasible to calculate a total of 500 000 cases.



The programme

PAAT is spurred by donors who want to see their funds put to the best use. As a multilateral initiative, the programme is supported by research institutes and tsetse-affected countries that are aware of the benefits to be gained from the clear direction it gives in vector and disease control.

Advice

The programme's unique knowledge base gives it a comparative advantage in offering impartial opinions and identifying the most suitable specialists in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control.

Authoritative guidelines are being formulated to cover:

- Socio-economic factors of trypanosomiasis control
- Impact of trypanosomiasis on African agriculture
- Community participation
- Drug management
- Privatization of vector and disease control
- Integration of control techniques
- Technical assessment of techniques



Action

Point-by-point action plans for animal and human trypanosomiasis have been developed with the aim of uniting and providing direction for all scientists, planners, donors and technicians concerned.

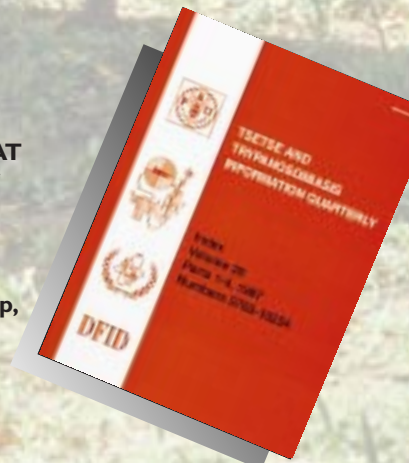
Communication

Communications links and information exchange and analysis are major PAAT activities.

An information system combining data on the tsetse fly, farming systems and economics, the environment and animal and human health is under development. When completed, it will comprise a resources inventory, a technical knowledge base and a GIS capability.



Information on the progress of PAAT is published regularly in a quarterly newsletter and the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Information Quarterly, both available in English and French. Contact: Sales and Marketing Group, FAO, Rome, Italy; e-mail: publications.sales@fao.org



PAAT organization

COMMITTEE

Participants

Representatives of donor and international research organizations, affected countries, senior technical advisors and secretariat staff

Role

Decision-making and programme direction, based on information provided by technical advisory modules through the secretariat

SECRETARIAT

Participants

Focal points in FAO, WHO, IAEA and OAU

Role

Coordinating implementation of programme decisions and feedback between the Committee, advisory groups and stakeholders
Collection, analysis and dissemination of information

ADVISORY MODULES

Research and development

Participants

Scientists from CGIAR, regional institutes, NARS, NGOs and universities' and donors' representatives

Policy, planning and implementation

Participants

Governments, technical agencies, NGOs and farmers

Role

Responsible for providing information on specific fields of expertise and developing research, technical and institutional proposals for consideration by the PAAT Committee

PAAT funding

Core funding is drawn from the four secretariat organizations' regular programme allocations to trypanosomiasis activities. Where inadequate, funding is augmented by donors.

Text, design and desktop publishing:

Publishing Management Group, FAO Information Division



Contact:

PAAT Committee Chairman
Prof. Peter Holmes
E-mail: p Holmes@mis.gla.ac.uk



Contact: Brian Hursey

Tel.: (39 6) 570 55167

Fax: (39 6) 570 55749

E-mail: Brian.Hursey@fao.org



Contact: Pierre Cattand

Tel.: (41 22) 791 2111

Fax: (41 22) 791 4777

E-mail: Cattand@WHO.CH



Contact: Ron Dwinger

Tel.: (431) 2060 26055

Fax: (431) 20607

E-mail: R.Dwinger@IAEA.org



Contact: Solomon Haile Mariam

Tel.: (254 2) 338 544

Fax: (254 2) 334 550

E-mail:

Parcepid@users.africaonline.co.ke