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FAO UGANDA Information Bulletin

Volume 4 Issue 9

FOOD PRICES FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

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*30th National World Food Day
celebrations in Uganda in Arua District
at the Abi Zonal Agricultural Research
and Development Institute (ZARDI)*



World Food Day
Special Issue
16 October

Dear Reader,

The current economic hardships being experienced around the world are pushing more people into poverty while others are going hungry or reducing their daily food rations. You will find, in this issue, information about this year's World Food Day theme – "Food Crisis – from crisis to stability", that was chosen to shade some light on this trend and what can be done to mitigate the impact of volatility of food prices on the most vulnerable.

As this year draws to an end, so will be the term of office of the FAO Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, who will be replaced by Jose Graziano da Silva in January 2012. In this issue, we highlight Dr. Diouf's farewell message and his one-day official visit to Uganda on 22nd August 2011.

You will also find information about an initiative to increase productivity of small-scale livestock and fish systems in Uganda as well as the implication of food losses and waste in the world.

Also inside this issue is an interview with the former FAO Representative in Uganda, Percy Misika, who is now in China on a new appointment. Mr. Misika talks about his life and the food security situation in Uganda.

In 2011, FAO member countries officially recognized global freedom from a deadly cattle disease – Rinderpest. You will find information about the efforts by FAO in close coordination with the World Organization for Animal Health and other partners to eradicate Rinderpest in this issue.

Your comments and contributions are always welcome at

Happy reading!



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Price volatility and food crises

FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA



Dr. Jacques Diouf
FAO Director General

Must history always repeat itself? We are indeed on the verge of what could turn out to be another major food crisis. The FAO Food Price Index at the end of 2010 returned to its highest level. Drought in Russia and the export restrictions adopted by the government, together with lower crop harvests than expected, first in the United States and Europe, then in Australia and Argentina, have triggered a process of soaring agricultural commodity prices in international markets.

Admittedly, the present situation is different from that of 2007-2008, although recent climatic events may significantly reduce agricultural production next season. The hike in prices concerns sugar and oilseeds in particular, more than grains which account for 46% of calorie intake globally. Cereal stocks amounted to 428 million tonnes in 2007/08 but stand currently at 525 million tonnes. However, they are being seriously drawn down in order to meet demand. On another front, oil prices are at around \$90 a barrel, instead of \$140.

No doubt higher prices and volatility will continue in the next years if we fail to tackle the structural causes of imbalances in the international agricultural system. We continue to react to circumstances and

thus to engage in crisis management. The underlying problems were identified in 1996 and 2002 at the FAO World Food Summits. On both occasions, the attention of the highest authorities of the world was drawn to the failure to deliver on commitments. If current trends persist, the goals set by the world leaders of reducing by half the number of hungry people on the planet by 2015 would only be achieved in 2150.

There has been no decisive change in policy since 1996, despite the warnings by the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO and those issued through the media. Yet, today there are still close to one billion people who are hungry. We must therefore forcefully remind everyone the conditions needed for an adequate supply of food for a population that is constantly growing and that, in the next forty years, will require a 70% increase in agricultural production worldwide and a 100% increase in the developing countries.

First is the issue of investment: the share of agriculture in official development assistance (ODA) dropped from 19% in 1980 to 3% in 2006, and now stands at around 5% -- it should amount to \$44 billion per year and return to its initial level that helped to avert famine in Asia and Latin America in the 1970s. The budgetary expenditure of low-income food-deficit countries on agriculture represents about 5%, when this should be at least 10%. Finally, domestic and foreign private investments of around \$140 billion per year should amount to \$200 billion. These figures are to be compared to global military expenditure of \$1,500 billion per year.

Then there is the issue of international trade in agricultural commodities, which is neither free nor fair. The OECD countries protect their agriculture with a total support estimate of \$365 billion per year, and the subsidies and tariff protection in favour of biofuels divert some 120 million tonnes of cereals from human consumption to the transport sector.

Further, unilateral sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade are hampering exports, particularly from the developing countries.

Finally, there is the subject of speculation that is exacerbated by the measures of liberalisation of agricultural futures markets in a context of economic and financial crisis. These new conditions have served to convert hedging instruments into speculative financial products replacing other less profitable forms of investment.

The solution to the problem of hunger and food insecurity in the world therefore requires an effective coordination of decisions on investment, international agricultural trade and financial markets. In an uncertain climatic context marked by floods and droughts, we need to be in a position to finance small water control works, local storage facilities and rural roads, as well as fishing ports, slaughterhouses, etc. Only then will it be possible to secure food production and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of small farmers, thus lowering consumer prices and increasing the income of rural populations who make up 70% of the world's poor.

We must also reach a consensus on the very lengthy negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and put an end to the market distortions and restrictive trade practices that are aggravating the imbalances between supply and demand. Finally, there is a pressing need for new measures of transparency and regulation to deal with speculation on agricultural commodity futures markets.

Implementation of such policies at the global level requires the respect of the commitments made by the developed countries, notably at the G8 Summits of Gleneagles and L'Aquila, as well as at the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. Developing countries, for their part, must increase their national budget allocations to agriculture. And private foreign direct investment needs to be made in conditions that will ensure in particular, thanks to an international code of conduct, an equitable sharing of benefits among the different stakeholders.

Crisis management is essential and a good thing, but prevention is better. Without long-term structural decisions and the necessary political will and financial resources for their implementation, food insecurity will persist with a succession of crises affecting most seriously the poorest populations. This will generate political instability in countries and threaten world peace and security. The speeches and promises made at major international meetings, if not acted upon responsibly, would only fuel a growing sense of frustration and revolt.

The time has come to adopt and implement policies that will enable all farmers of the world, in developing and developed countries alike, to earn a decent income through mechanisms that do not create market distortions. These men, women and youths must be allowed to exercise their profession under conditions of dignity so we can feed a planet that will grow from 6.9 billion inhabitants at present to 9.1 billion in 2050.

World Food Day TeleFood 2011 Information Note

“Food prices – from crisis to stability”

Between 2005 and 2008, the world's staple food prices soared to their highest levels in 30 years. During the last 18 months of that period, maize price increased by 74 percent while that of rice almost tripled, climbing a whole 166 percent.

Food riots broke out in more than 20 countries. Editorialists decreed the end of cheap food. Economists believed that the kind of price roller-coasters experienced since 2006 are likely to recur in the coming years. In other words food price volatility – the technical term for the phenomenon – has probably come to stay.

“Food prices – from crisis to stability” has been chosen as this year's World Food Day theme to shed some light on this trend and what can be done to mitigate its impact on the most vulnerable. Price swings, upswings in particular, represent a major threat to food security in developing countries. Hardest-hit are the poor. According to the World Bank, in 2010-2011 rising food costs pushed nearly 70 million people into extreme poverty.

At the level of net food importing countries, price spikes can hurt poor countries by making it much more expensive for them to import food for their people. At the level of individuals, people living on less than US\$1.25 a day may need to skip a meal when food prices rise. Farmers are hurt too because they badly need to know the price their crops are going to fetch at harvest time, months away. If high prices are likely they plant more. If low prices are forecast they plant less and cut costs.

Rapid price swings make that calculation much more difficult. Farmers can easily end up producing too much or too little. In stable markets they can make a living. Volatile ones can ruin them while also generally discouraging much-needed investment in agriculture.

Recognizing the major threat that food price swings

pose to the world's poorest countries and people, the international community, led by the G20, moved in 2011 to find ways of managing volatility on international food commodity markets.

In order to decide how, and how far, we can manage volatile food prices we need to be clear about why, in the space of a few years, a world food market offering stability and low prices became a turbulent marketplace battered by sudden price spikes and troughs.

The seeds of today's volatility were sown last century when decision-makers failed to grasp that the production boom then enjoyed by many countries might not last forever and that continuing investment was needed in research, technology, equipment and infrastructure.

In the 30 years from 1980 to date the share of official development assistance which OECD countries earmarked for agriculture dropped 43 percent. Continued under-funding of agriculture by rich and poor countries alike is probably the main single cause of the problems we face today.

Contributing to today's tight markets is rapid economic growth in emerging economies, which means more people are eating more meat and dairy produce with the need for feedgrains increasing rapidly as a result. Population growth, with almost 80 million new mouths to feed every year, is another important element. Population pressure is compounded by the erratic and often extreme meteorological phenomena produced by global warming and climate change.

A further contributing factor may be the recent entry of institutional investors with very large sums of money into food commodity futures markets. Lastly, distortive agricultural and protectionist trade policies bear a significant part of the blame.

Responding to food price volatility therefore involves two different kinds of measures. The first group addresses volatility itself, aiming to reduce

price swings through specific interventions while the other seeks to mitigate the negative effects of price swings on countries and individuals. Greater policy coordination in international food trade can reduce volatility by helping maintain an assured flow of goods. FAO supports the multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organization and the elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies in rich countries.

On speculation, FAO's research suggests that while this might not trigger price movements, it could exaggerate their size and duration. More and better information is needed to allow greater transparency in trade on futures markets. This would help ensure that governments and traders make informed decisions and avoid panic or irrational reactions.

As to mitigating the effects of volatility, national or regional safety nets, possibly featuring emergency food reserves, can help assure food supplies to needy and vulnerable population groups during crises. Poor consumers can also be assisted with cash or food vouchers and producers helped with inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. Market-based mechanisms can help low-income developing countries to meet higher food import bills. At country level, governments can protect themselves from food price increases through a variety of financial arrangements such as call options, which would give them the right to buy

food at a set price even months ahead, regardless of how the market has moved in the meantime. At international level, compensatory facilities can help low-income developing countries meet escalating food import bills. Concessional financing facilities such as those provided by the IMF helped countries contend with the balance of payments problems that soaring food prices provoked in 2007-2008.

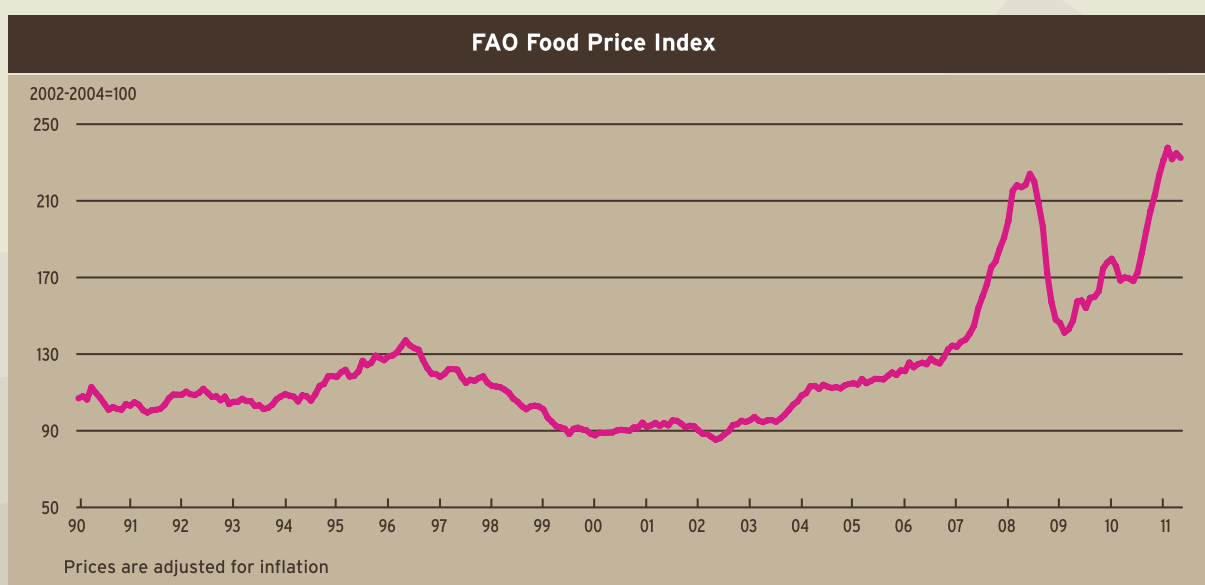
Ultimately though, stability in the food market depends on increased investment in agriculture, particularly in developing countries, where 98 percent of the hungry live and where food production needs to double by 2050 to feed growing populations.

Investment in infrastructure, marketing systems, extension and communication services, education, as well as in research and development, can increase food supply and improve the functioning of local agricultural markets, resulting in less volatile prices. In this way, markets can work for the poor people who bear the burden of food price volatility. The level of net investments required is around US\$83 billion a year which would help millions of people around the world escape poverty and help restore long-term stability to agricultural markets.

On World Food Day 2011, let us look seriously at what causes swings in food prices, and do what needs to be done to reduce their impact on the weakest members of global society.

FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX 1990–2011

NEW ERA OF FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY ENDS LONG PERIOD OF STABILITY.



(Source: FAO)

FAO Director General bids farewell to Uganda

Applauds President Museveni for efforts to improve food security

During his one day official visit to Uganda on 22nd August 2011, the FAO Director General – Dr. Jacques Diouf presented a Golden World Food Day medal to President Museveni in recognition of his efforts to improve the food security situation in Uganda.

He also presented Silver Medals to the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries – Tress Bucyanayandi and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sam Kutesa.

The Director General said, the current problems notwithstanding, Uganda was generally a food secure country but called for increased investment in the agriculture sector.

He also applauded Uganda for increasing the budgetary allocation to Agriculture that currently stands at four percent of the national budget but added that it should be increased to at least 10 percent as agreed in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agreement that Uganda signed in 2010.

Dr. Diouf's term as Director General expires in December 2011 and will be replaced by José Graziano da Silva of Brazil who was elected by the General Assembly of FAO this year.

A Senegalese by birth, Dr. Diouf was elected on 8 November 1993 and began his first six-year term in January 1994. After completing a second term, Dr Diouf was re-elected to a third six-year term, which began in January 2006.

Biography

Dr Diouf started his career following completion of his studies: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the Ecole nationale d'agriculture, Grignon-Paris (France), Master of Science in Tropical Agronomy from the Ecole nationale d'application d'agronomie tropicale, Nogent-Paris (France), Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences of the Rural Sector (Agricultural Economics) from the Faculté de droit et de sciences économiques, Panthéon - Sorbonne, Paris (France).

From 1963, Dr Diouf has held several positions of responsibility in national and international agricultural institutions: Director of the European Office and the Agricultural Programme of the Marketing Board (Paris/Dakar); Executive Secretary of the African Groundnut Council in Nigeria; Executive Secretary of the West Africa Rice Development Association in Liberia and Adviser to the President and Regional Director of the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa (Canada).

His expertise was put at the service of the executive and legislative branches of the Senegalese Government as Secretary of State for Science and Technology in the Cabinet and Member of Parliament; Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee and Secretary-elect, Dakar (Senegal); Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations, New York (USA).

He also served as Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Governor of the Central Bank for West African States, Dakar (Senegal). On 8 November 1993, Dr Diouf was elected Director-General of FAO and he is currently serving in this position for a third mandate.

He sat on the boards of a number of international institutions and produced several scientific publications. He has received numerous high awards from governments around the world and various academic recognitions (Doctor Honoris Causa and Membership of Academies of Agriculture and Science).



Dr. Jacques Diouf hands a Gold World Food Day medal to President Museveni.

STATE HOUSE



President Museveni with the FAO team at State House



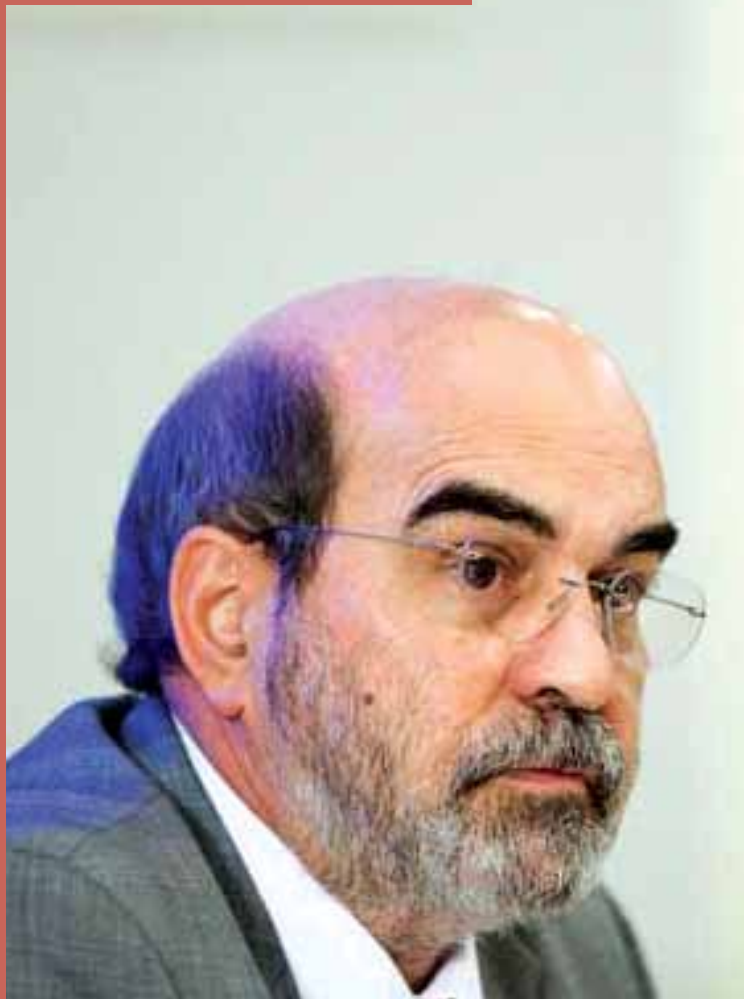
Honourable Tress Bucyanayandi displays his Silver World Food Day medal

FAO/2011/R. NANDELENGA



FAO staff in Uganda pose for a photo with the Director General

Jose' Graziano da Silva was elected Director general of FAO



José Graziano da Silva of Brazil elected FAO Director- General

José Graziano da Silva of Brazil was elected Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 26 June 2011.

The election took place on the second day of the biennial 191 member nation Conference of FAO, which also voted on the Organization's budget for 2012-2013.

As Brazil's Extraordinary Minister of Food Security and Fight Against Hunger he was responsible for implementing the country's highly-successful "Zero Hunger" ("Fome Zero") programme, in whose design he also played a leading role. The programme helped lift 24 million people out of extreme poverty in five years and to reduce undernourishment in Brazil by 25 percent.

Since 2006, he has served as FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Graziano da Silva was born on 17 November 1949. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy and a Master's Degree in Rural Economics and Sociology from the University of São Paulo as well as a Ph.D. in Economic Sciences from the State University of Campinas. In addition, he has two post-Doctorate degrees in Latin American Studies (University College of London) and Environmental Studies (University of California, Santa Cruz). Brazilian and Italian by nationality, he speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Graziano da Silva is FAO's eighth Director-General since the Organization was founded in Quebec City, Canada on October 16, 1945. The term of the new Director-General, who will succeed Senegal's Jacques Diouf, will start on 1 January 2012 and run through 31 July 2015.

A new CGIAR initiative explores opportunities for improving the smallholder pig value chain in Uganda



The research program, *More meat, milk and fish by and for the poor*, is a newly approved initiative of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) aimed at sustainably increasing productivity of small-scale livestock and fish systems so as to increase availability and affordability of meat, milk and fish for poor consumers.

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) leads this CGIAR Research Program in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the WorldFish Center as the core CGIAR partners. Various other strategic and value chain partners will play key roles in the implementation of the program. The research program will study nine pro-poor value chains across the developing world, two of which happen to be in Uganda: the smallholder pig and small-scale aquaculture value chains.

As part of the initial process of stakeholder engagement for the smallholder pig value chain, ILRI and CIAT convened a stakeholder meeting in Kampala on 14 June 2011 to consider opportunities for improving the smallholder pig value chain for growth and poverty alleviation.

The purpose of the meeting was to share information about ongoing research and development activities relevant to smallholder pig production and marketing, to solicit stakeholders' perspectives on constraints and to introduce and receive feedback on the new CGIAR Research Program. An anticipated project funded by the European Commission and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will allow the CGIAR Research Program to work with partners in Uganda to build

on and add to the existing research and development activities targeting the smallholder pig value chain. During the meeting, a consultant agricultural economist, Dr John Jagwe, presented some preliminary results of an ongoing study by ILRI, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to improve livestock statistics for decision-making, particularly focusing on production systems for dairy, beef, chicken, egg, pork and goat.

The study is generating data to guide the design and implementation of the smallholder pig value chain project and other potential opportunities, including data on quality and safety attributes, the type of consumer buying particular pork products, growth prospects by product type and constraints to growth in supply.

"Our initial findings show that more and more people are keeping pigs, and changing lifestyles and consumption patterns have led to an increase in demand for and consumption of pork," said Dr Jagwe.

The stakeholder meeting confirmed and enriched an initial assessment of the clear opportunities for research and development to accelerate the development of the smallholder pig sector and associated supply chains to meet the rapidly growing demand for pork in Uganda and regionally.

It also endorsed the value to be added by continuing to share information and coordinating better our collective research and development efforts to achieve the sector's potential for enhancing food security and livelihoods.

The meeting report is available online at <http://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/4049>.

For more information, please contact Dr Tom Randolph, email: t.randolph@cgiar.org.

Cutting food waste to feed the world

Over a billion tonnes squandered each year

Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes — gets lost or wasted, according to an FAO-commissioned study.

The document, *Global Food Losses and Food Waste*, was commissioned by FAO from the Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology (SIK) for Save Food!, an international congress that was held in Düsseldorf in May at the trade fair of the international packaging industry Interpack2011.

Other key findings include:

- Industrialized and developing countries dissipate roughly the same quantities of food — respectively 670 and 630 million tonnes.
- Every year, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).
- Fruits and vegetables, plus roots and tubers

have the highest waste-age rates of any food.

- The amount of food lost or wasted every year is equivalent to more than half of the world's annual cereals crop (2.3 billion tonnes in 2009/2010).

Losses and waste

The report distinguishes between food loss and food waste. Food losses — occurring at the production, harvest, post-harvest and processing phases — are most important in developing countries, due to poor infrastructure, low levels of technology and low investment in the food production systems.

Food waste is more a problem in industrialized countries, most often caused by both retailers and consumers throwing perfectly edible food-stuffs into the trash. Per capita waste by consumers is between 95-115 kg a year in Europe and North America, while consumers in sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia each throw away only 6-11 kg a year.

Total per capita food production for human



FAO staff members serve food at a party. Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year gets wasted.

In developing countries the problem is chiefly one of inadequate harvest techniques, poor post-harvest management and logistics



consumption is about 900 kg a year in rich countries, almost twice the 460 kg a year produced in the poorest regions. In developing countries 40 percent of losses occur at post-harvest and processing levels while in industrialized countries more than 40 percent of losses happen at retail and consumer levels.

Food losses during harvest and in storage translate into lost income for small farmers and into higher prices for poor consumers, the report noted. Reducing losses could therefore have an “immediate and significant” impact on their livelihoods and food security.

Squandering resources

Food loss and waste also amount to a major squandering of resources, including water, land, energy, labour and capital and needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.

The report offered a number of practical suggestions on how to reduce losses and waste.

In developing countries the problem is chiefly one of inadequate harvest techniques, poor post-harvest management and logistics, lack of suitable infrastructure, processing and packaging, and lack of marketing information which would allow production to better match demand.

The advice is therefore to strengthen the food supply chain by assisting small farmers to link directly to buyers. The private and public sectors should also invest more in infrastructure, transportation and in processing and packaging.

In middle- and high-income countries food losses and waste stem largely from consumer behaviour but also from lack of communication between different actors in the supply chain.

Over-emphasis on appearance

At retail level, large quantities of food are also wasted due to quality standards that over-emphasize appearance. Surveys show that consumers are willing to buy produce not meeting ap-

pearance standards as long as it is safe and tastes good. Customers thus have the power to influence quality standards and should do so, the report said. Selling farm produce closer to consumers, without having to conform to supermarkets’ quality standards, is another suggestion. This could be achieved through farmers’ markets and farm shops.

Good use for food that would otherwise be thrown away should be found. Commercial and charity organizations could work with retailers to collect, and then sell or use products that have been disposed of but are still good in terms of safety, taste and nutritional value.

Changing consumer attitudes

Consumers in rich countries are generally encouraged to buy more food than they need. “Buy three, pay two” promotions are one example, while the oversized ready-to-eat meals produced by the food industry are another. Restaurants frequently offer fixed-price buffets that spur customers to heap their plates.

Generally speaking, consumers fail to plan their food purchases properly, the report found. That means they often throw food away when “best-before” dates expired.

Education in schools and political initiatives are possible starting points to changing consumer attitudes, the report suggested. Rich-country consumers should be taught that throwing food away needlessly is unacceptable.

They should also be made aware that given the limited availability of natural resources it is more effective to reduce food losses than increase food production in order to feed a growing world population.

A separate report on food packaging for developing countries also prepared for the Save Food! Congress noted that appropriate packaging is a key factor impacting on losses occurring at almost every stage of the food chain.

World cereal markets expected to stay tight amid rising production

But prices drop on expected slowdown in economic recovery

Despite improved production prospects, world cereal markets are likely to remain fairly tight in 2011/2012.

FAO's quarterly Crop Prospects and Food Situation (CPFS) report forecasts world cereal production will total 2 310 million tonnes this marketing season, 3 percent or 68 million tonnes higher than in 2010/11. This was 3 million tonnes more than FAO forecast last month, largely because of improved expectations for wheat and rice crops.

The overall year-on-year increase includes a 4.6 percent (30 million tonnes) rise in global wheat production, a 3 percent (14 million tonnes) rise in the rice harvest and a 2.1 percent (24 million tonnes) hike for coarse grains.

Total cereal utilization in 2011/12 is also forecast to increase slightly at 2 302 million tonnes, 1.3 percent up from 2010/11.

But despite the expected production gains, the report warns that because of the slowdown in the global economic recovery and increased risks of recession, there is uncertainty as regards the impact on world food security. Worsening economic conditions could result in higher unemployment and lower incomes for the vulnerable and needy in the developing countries.

Prices decline

The report said the anticipated recovery in global cereal production combined with lower than earlier anticipated demand, including for ethanol, are contributing to a decline in prices. In September, international prices of all cereals

with the exception of rice fell sharply, driven by large export supplies from the Black Sea region and prospects for a weakening of demand.

FAO's monthly Food Price Index fell 2 percent in September compared to August, to 225 points, mostly on lower international prices of grains, sugar and oils. The Index is now 13 points below the peak of 238 reached in February 2011, but still higher than its September 2010 value of 195 points.

Stocks up slightly

Global cereal stocks by the close of seasons in 2012 are forecast at 494 million tonnes, 7 million tonnes up from their opening level. The increase would principally stem from a 10 million tonne build-up of world rice inventories, as wheat stocks are anticipated to grow only marginally and, in the case of coarse grains, to contract by 4 million tonnes to 161 million tonnes, the lowest level since 2007. Overall, the stock-to-use ratio for cereals is expected to remain low at around 21 percent.

After declining over the previous two years, the total cereal imports of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries in the 2011/12 marketing year are forecast to increase by about 4 million tonnes, representing a 5 percent rise over 2010/11.

This is consistent with the situation of the stagnant cereal production of LIFDCs, excluding India, in 2011 and some anticipated stock building during the marketing year.

Hot spots with grim outlook

Reviewing the food situation at regional level,

CPFS noted that the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Africa, and especially in famine-ravaged southern Somalia, continues to claim lives and decimate livestock and that the immediate outlook in drought-affected pastoralist areas remains grim as the lean season progresses. Four million people are in crisis in Somalia, with 750 000 people at risk of death in the next few months in the absence of adequate response.

However, ongoing relief interventions should start to improve the situation later in the year.

Irregular rains threaten crop prospects

In West Africa, several areas of the Sahel have been affected by irregular rains during the 2011 cropping season. An early cessation of rains will lead to significant drop in production and increased food insecurity in these regions.

In Far East Asia, a record 2011 cereal harvest is anticipated, but severe localized monsoon floods in several countries — Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines — may dampen the final outcome. In particular, flooding in Sindh province of Pakistan has resulted in severe devastation affecting over 8 million people, destroying some 880 000 hectares of standing crops and causing the death of large numbers of livestock.

FAO's latest estimates indicate that 32 countries around the world are in need of external assistance as a result of crop failures, conflict or insecurity, natural disasters, and high domestic food prices.

Statement by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf on the death of Wangari Maathai

The world loses a dedicated activist



Wangari Maathai

It is with profound sadness that I learned of the passing away of Nobel Prize for Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai. I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to her family in their hour of grief.

Wangari Maathai dedicated her life to saving the planet from environmental degradation and improving the well being of people, not only in Kenya, but around the world. We are indebted to the contributions she made to the work of FAO in recent years.

Her participation in the Ministerial Meeting on Forests and at the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Forestry in March 2005 helped raise awareness about the need for sustainable forest management and, in particular, the conservation of Central Africa's forests.

She brought to our attention the severe impact that violent conflict is having on forests around the world and the need to address this intricate link in our efforts to protect and sustainably use this precious resource. We are also grateful for the role she played at the UNFCCC's Forest Day 3 in Copenhagen in 2009 and for her contributions to the UN Forum on Forests.

We owe a great deal to her for the work she carried out to make this world a better place for all. She will be greatly missed.

27 September 2011, Rome

President Museveni gives direction on FAO's fruit project

While visiting the FAO stall at the 19th Annual Agricultural Show in Jinja on 23rd July 2011, President Museveni advised farmers supported by FAO to venture into fruit processing.

He also called upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to find a solution to fruit flies that mostly attack mangoes.

Fruit growing is being promoted under FAO's cross-border project "*Improvement of food security in cross-border districts of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda in support of modernization of agriculture under the NEPAD-CAADP framework*" in Kasese district. The main focus of project is to provide technical support to the selected commodity value chain actors and has so far supported 3,500 households.

The project supports farmers and actors along the fruit value chain in Kasese, dairy and honey value chain in Kisoro and potatoes in Kabale districts. In addition to institutional development, farmers are supported to access markets, value addition and processing and linkages to financial institutions.

So far, 16 farmer associations have been registered and linked to other project

partners including government programmes such as the Saving And Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOS) and the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), as well as to other service providers and value chain actors.

Organized by the Uganda National Farmers' Federation, the show provides an opportunity to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the agriculture sector and to establish business linkages.

This year's theme was "Promoting Agricultural Commercialization to Access the East African Common Markets".

One of the show organizers, Mr. Charles Ogang said people come to the show and learn new technologies and innovations". It therefore addresses the gaps that exist in agriculture in terms of production, market linkages, processing, packaging, coping with weather challenges among other issues", he added.

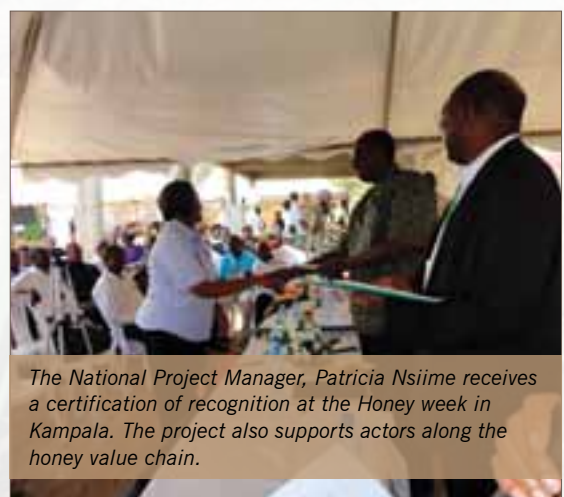
Other Government officials who visited the stall included the Prime Minister, Hon. John Patrick Amama Mbabazi, the Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Tress Bucyanayandi and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Eriya Kategaya.



President Museveni introduces an investor to the FAO fruit project team



President looks at the different varieties of mangoes at the FAO stall



The National Project Manager, Patricia Nsiime receives a certification of recognition at the Honey week in Kampala. The project also supports actors along the honey value chain.

FAO/2011/R. NANDELENGA

Former FAO Representative in Uganda speaks to and about Uganda

After exactly six years in office, Mr. Misika, the former FAO Representative in Uganda was transferred to China in April 2011, to take on a new assignment as FAO Representative for China, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea and the Republic of Mongolia. In the interview below, he talks about his work and life in Uganda and shares his thoughts about the future of FAO in Uganda.



The former FAO Representative in Uganda Percy Misika

Family and social life

I am married with four children. I come from a humble peasantry family background. My hobbies are soccer, exercising, athletics, reading and cooking. My favorite dish is meat.

Six years as FAO Representative, what are you most proud of achieving?

I would not claim that they are exclusively my achievements but the first thing that I am proud of is to put in place a team of professional and general service staff that is capable of delivering FAO's work and ensuring that FAO contributes to the development effort of Uganda.

Our interaction with the media to share the work and activities of FAO has also been another change that has been appreciated by many in the public and media houses.

What is your fondest memory of Uganda?

It is difficult to single out one. I really cherish my experience in Uganda; it is beautiful. But I think my fondest memory is in 2007 when I went to the North having been there in 2005, with protection and seeing the condition in camps. Now, I saw the people singing and dancing and they welcomed me to their plots es-

tablished in their villages. I appreciated that. It showed that you cannot talk of economic development without peace and security, which made me think of my own country, Namibia. For 30 years we had a liberation struggle, we could not develop, but once we got independent things changed.

What is your overall assessment of the food security situation in Uganda in the last six years?

My overall assessment is that Uganda has been food secure nationally. The country was able to produce or import food directly or through food aid. But when you talk of household food security, there were pockets of food insecurity because of insecurity or floods, or prolonged dry spells or droughts. But these have been overcome through the concerted efforts of government and other humanitarian actors and development partners who have always generally responded in addressing those gaps.

At the moment, because of the rising costs of fuel and food, there are sections of society, more especially the vulnerable in urban, peri-urban and rural areas who do not have the means to produce their own food and also do not have the means to procure their own food and as a result are threatened by food insecurity.

Do you think the current situation of soaring prices and weather changes will revert the progress made in attaining food security?

Yes. Whenever there is a shock - be it natural and man-made that has an impact on food security, such a shock either slows, stagnates or reverses the good progress that might have been made in the past to attain food security in any country and Uganda is not an exception.

It should be noted that some parts of Uganda have just emerged from conflict and the country has been in the process of ensuring that sections of its society that were affected by the long conflict first resettle then also revitalize their production capacity, having to start almost from nothing.

Under such circumstances, a shock such as what we are witnessing today of soaring food prices and unfavourable weather, certainly has adverse effects of frustrating and reversing the efforts and progress so far made towards attaining food security.

What should be done to improve the situation?

First, there is a need for concerted effort by all stakeholders; that is government, civil society, NGOs, the general public and development partners in developing comprehensive programmes that ensure food security at national and household levels. This requires putting in place first and foremost peace and stability; second putting in place appropriate policies and strategies; and third, translating these policies and strategies into investment priorities in the fields of agriculture and food security.

It requires putting in place climate change mitigation and adaptation measures such as early warning systems and irrigation, disease surveillance systems both for crops and livestock and effective and sustainable seed systems for all major crops. Then food storage systems at national, regional, district, sub county and household levels, and finally having an infrastructure that ensures adequate access to markets for major agricultural commodities. Simply put, it requires not only a vision but it requires prioritization in terms of programmes, budget allocation and commodities to be focused on.

It also requires ambition of moving each of these commodities from mere subsistence commodities to commodities that both contribute to food security and economic development by commercializing them. Lastly, it requires focus on the prioritized commodities for a reasonable period of time say three to five years to ensue the set targets and objectives for each commodity are met.

What has been FAO's contribution to Uganda's

development?

Our contribution has been the development of policies, it has been in transfer of appropriate technology, combating of diseases and pests, building capacity of national institution, Civil Society Organizations and NGOs in addressing issues of food security and sharing information in regards to best practices in agriculture. Since the adoption of voluntary guidelines to the Right to Food, FAO has assisted Government of Uganda to mainstream the Right to Food concept in its policies and its development work plans and budgets. In the same vein, we have been working with government to mainstream gender issues into its development plans, more especially at district levels to ensure gender issues are reflected in their own work plans and budgets. FAO has together with other development partners and government contributed to the return process of the population in Northern Uganda who were previously in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps but who had, because of the prevailing peace, started returning home by helping them to revitalize their agricultural production capacities; an indication of peace.

It is a fact that where as four years ago these people relied totally on food aid, today they meet their food security needs from their own production and even have surpluses that they today sell locally in the north, but also to the rest of the country and outside, for example to Juba and Kenya. For us, this is a remarkable noble contribution to which we are proud to have been part of.

Internally, do you leave a changed organization or it is still the same?

Organizational change is always interpreted or perceived in different ways by different people and at different levels, even within the same organization. This notwithstanding, I strongly believe that if we are talking about FAO as an organization in Uganda, yes I am leaving a changed institution.

Of course, changed as it is, it has to operate within the global corporate policies of the mother FAO, which has also, I believe been undergoing a reform process since 2005; reform that has helped us at country level to be able to effect the changes that are now visible.

When I came, FAO had only three offices (Kampala, Entebbe and Gulu); today FAO has nine offices (Kampala, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Soroti, Kotido, Moroto, Kabale and Kasese), which increases and enhances our field presence and has given us the capacity to deliver our services in parts of the country where we were not able to do so previously.

Our staff levels also changed from around 25 in 2005 to a peak of 76 in 2008/2009 to 55 now and this is a result of the increase in the number and value of

our programme portfolio. Whereas in 2005 we had a total of six projects, by 2008 we had about almost 20 projects and currently about 15 projects, translating in value terms USD 13,000,000 from USD 3,000,000 in 2005.

The personnel have undergone intensive training and mentoring in various aspects of their competences so I am leaving a highly competent team that is also motivated to serve the nation and uphold the image of FAO. I leave behind a team that is proud to be part of the FAO family.

On visibility, I came to Uganda when FAO was hardly known in Uganda. The first time when I went around and was introduced as FAOR, people were asking me for food aid; they were asking if I was taking over as Country Director of WFP. FAO was hardly known by the general public nor did they know FAO's mandate. Through intensive sensitization campaigns, information sharing, through our work in the field, through our information bulletins and videos that we started producing, FAO is better known by the Ugandan public. For me, that is a humble change that I am leaving behind that I am very proud of.

What is critical now, that you think the new leadership needs to prioritize in the country?

My humble advice to the new leadership of the Country Office will be restricted to at least five areas:

1. FAO at global level has 11 strategic objectives and two functional objectives. There is a need to look at these vis a vis the priorities of Uganda as set forth in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan and ensure that we prioritize and focus only on those areas where FAO has a comparative advantage in. Luckily, this has already been agreed upon by both the Government of Uganda and FAO in the Country Support Strategic Framework 2010 – 2014. I encourage the new leadership to focus on priorities set in this framework.
2. Uganda has fully embraced the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and it has spearheaded a call on ensuring that what a development partner does within a country is in harmony with the priorities at country level, it is owned by the country, it is transparent and that there is mutual accountability. The new leadership of FAO would need to work hand and glove with government to ensure that programmes and projects implemented by FAO responding to the country are born and sustained by the country when FAO's support is no longer there.
3. Both government and development partners have agreed or recognized that the need for emergency intervention /assistance in the northern and north eastern part of the country is coming to a close and

hence they need to focus on medium and long term recovery and development programmes. FAO's leadership should take this into cognizance and restructure itself internally to ensure that it can deliver on recovery and development programmes.

4. The new leadership may wish to foster, nurture and strengthen the prevailing team work that has been established within the Country Office to ensure they work as one team.
5. Last but not least, Uganda has applied to be included in the United Nations Delivering as One (DaO) approach and hopefully the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda will be embarking on this exercise by 2012. FAO leadership in Uganda needs to embrace this and ensure that it participates actively and effectively in all interventions geared towards DaO.

What potential have you seen in Uganda as the country tries to attain food security?

Uganda has unrivalled potential in Sub Saharan Africa to attain food security. It has a conducive climate, relatively fertile soils, a relatively high adult literacy rate - even among the farming communities, it still has the interest and presence of many donors and international agencies and it has a fairly young and active economically active population. Uganda is endowed with abundant natural resources.

All these potentials can be harnessed to ensure Uganda attains food security.

What will you not miss in Uganda?

Traffic jams and the very poor driving attitude of motorists, and of course the potholes!

So, where are you headed to?

I am headed to Beijing, China where I will be FAO Representative in China and also the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea and the Republic of Mongolia.

What is your final message to the people in Uganda?

Uganda is indeed the Pearl of Africa. It is a beautiful country with very friendly and welcoming people that I will always cherish and hold dear to my heart.

Uganda might have gone through decades of conflict in the past but it is my belief that with the prevailing peace and stability, it has the potential not only to become food secure, but a middle income country not so long in the future, and this can only be achieved by Ugandans for Ugandans with the assistance of the development partners. And I strongly believe Ugandans can achieve this.

May God bless you all and be your guide as you develop your country.

Thank you.

Food experts set melamine levels

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has set new maximum levels for melamine in food and feed: 1 mg/kg in powdered infant formula and 2.5 mg/kg in other foods and animal feed. In the last few years, high levels of melamine have been discovered in food products as diverse as infant formula and pet food, resulting in illness and death.

These levels were caused by deliberate addition of melamine to boost the apparent protein content of food products. The Commission also set measures to protect fresh salads from picking up pathogens like salmonella, e.coli and hepatitis A virus as well as to control the bacterial species *Vibrio* in seafood. Limits and measures for prevention were also set for aflatoxins, the carcinogenic fungal toxins that can contaminate corn, peanuts and other food crops such as tree nuts.

Inter-agency report to the G20 on food price volatility

The G20 Ministers for Agriculture in June 2011 set a series of recommendations and proposed various concrete measures to reduce food insecurity and the volatility of food prices for consideration at the G20 Cannes Summit in November 2011. The recommendations were based on a comprehensive report on policy options for coping with food price volatility. The report was coordinated by FAO and OECD, in partnership with IFAD, IMF, UNCTAD, WFP, the World Bank and the WTO.

Technologies for Africa (TECA)

Technologies for Agriculture - TECA is an FAO initiative that aims at improving access to information and knowledge sharing about proven technologies in order to enhance their adoption in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry thus addressing food security, climate change, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The sharing and upload of technologies is done on the TECA platform which can be accessed on www.fao.org/teca.

Currently, TECA is being piloted with end users in Uganda and an exchange group is being formed. Members of the exchange group comprise individuals interested or working in the Agricultural sector, farmers, extension workers, research institutions, students, NGOs, private sector and government. TECA also provides discussion forums as well as an avenue to directly ask an expert on any issue related to agriculture.

All those interested in joining the Uganda Exchange group can register at www.fao.org/teca.



Bird Flu Rears its Head Again: Increased Preparedness and Surveillance Urged Against Variant Strain

On 29 August 2011, FAO urged heightened readiness and surveillance against a possible major resurgence of the H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) amid signs that a new variant of H5N1 virus is spreading in Asia and beyond, with unpredictable risks to human health.

The H5N1 virus has infected 565 people since it first appeared in 2003, killing 331 of them, according to the latest WHO figures available. The latest death occurred last month in Cambodia, which has registered eight cases of human infection this year - all of them fatal.

Since 2003, H5N1 has killed or forced the culling of more than 400 million domestic poultry and caused an estimated \$20 billion of economic damage across the globe before it was eliminated from most of the 63 countries infected at its peak in 2006.

However, the virus remained endemic

in five nations, although the number of outbreaks in domestic poultry and wild bird populations shrank steadily from an annual peak of 4,000 to just 302 in mid 2008. But outbreaks have risen progressively since, with almost 800 cases recorded between 2010 and 2011.

Virus spread in both poultry and wild birds

The advance appears to be associated with migratory bird movements or other possible mechanism of virus dissemination (trade, contaminated materials), according to FAO Chief Veterinary Officer Juan Lubroth. He said migrations help the virus travel over long distances, so that H5N1 has in the past 24 months shown up in poultry or wild birds in countries that had been virus-free for several years. "Wild birds may introduce the virus, but it is peoples' actions in poultry production and marketing that spread it," Lubroth noted.

At the same time, 2008 marked the beginning of renewed geographic expansion of the H5N1 virus both in poultry and wild birds.



Rinderpest eradicated—what next?

Eradication of the deadly virus is a model for other diseases



“While we are celebrating one of the greatest successes for FAO and its partners, I wish to remind you that this extraordinary achievement would not have been possible without the joint efforts and strong commitments of governments, the main organizations in Africa, Asia and Europe, and without the continuous support of donors and international institutions”, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said today.

Diouf made the comment as FAO’s member countries officially recognized global freedom from the deadly cattle virus.

The FAO Conference, the highest body of the UN agency, adopted a resolution declaring global freedom from rinderpest. The resolution also called on the world community to follow up by ensuring that samples of rinderpest viruses and vaccines be kept under safe laboratory conditions and that rigorous standards for disease surveillance and reporting be applied.

The declaration is the final step in a decades-long global campaign implemented by FAO, in close coordination with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and other partners to eradicate rinderpest.

This highly infectious disease has killed many millions of cattle, buffalo and other animals, and caused hunger and economic hardship, primarily in Africa, Asia and Europe.

The announcement followed verification last month by the World Assembly of OIE, that the disease was no longer circulating in its natural habitat. The last outbreak of rinderpest was registered in wild buffalo in Kenya in 2001, and the last vaccination took place in 2006.

“This successful eradication shows that actions against animal diseases do not come within concepts of agricultural or merchant good but within the concept of Global Public Good because by alleviating poverty, contributing to public health and food security, and improving market access as well as animal

welfare, they benefit all people and generations in the world,” said Bernard Vallat, OIE Director-General.

A collaborative effort

Since 1994, FAO has spearheaded the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) with the OIE, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other institutional partners, governments, regional organizations such as the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, and communities worldwide.

These international cooperation and coordination mechanisms — funded by the European Union, Japan, Ireland, Italy, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and others and supported by academic and research institutions across the world — have been fundamental for the achievement of rinderpest eradication, particularly in the poorest countries.

The programme’s success had demonstrated the importance of political and financial support for veterinary services, community outreach, regional cooperation, and research.

Next steps

Although the rinderpest virus no longer circulates amongst live animals, it is still kept in a number of laboratories. The immediate post-eradication priority is to guard against reappearance of the disease in animals as a result of accidental or deliberate release from laboratories.

“Rinderpest is the first animal disease to be eradicated by mankind and the second disease in general after smallpox. We must also focus our attention on measures to be taken to ensure that this result is sustainable and benefits future generations. To do this, a post-eradication strategy should be put in place to prevent any recurrence of the disease”, Diouf said.

FAO, OIE and their partners are determined to implement internationally agreed procedures for con-

fining such virus stocks in highly bio-secure laboratory facilities.

More about the disease

Rinderpest is a highly contagious viral disease affecting several species of wild and domestic split-hoofed animals, notably cattle and buffalo. Many species, including sheep and goats, can show milder clinical signs of the disease when infected, but the mortality rate can reach up to 100 per cent in highly susceptible cattle or buffalo herds. An outbreak of rinderpest in imported animals in Belgium in 1920 was the impetus for international cooperation in controlling animal diseases, and a key factor leading to the establishment of the OIE in 1924.

Other high-impact animal diseases

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is a highly contagious trans-boundary animal disease of wild and domestic small ruminants caused by a virus of the same family as the rinderpest virus in cattle and human measles.

Affected sheep and goats suffer severe respiratory and digestive problems with high fatality rates.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals characterised by high fever, painful blisters around the mouth, tongue and feet. The infection can be lethal in young animals, such as lambs and piglets. It also causes serious production losses and is a major constraint to international trade in livestock products.

Brucellosis is a bacterial infectious disease, causing abortion, infertility and decreased milk yield in cattle, sheep and goats. It may cause serious disease in people as well.

Rabies is a viral disease of domestic and wild mammals, and can impact agricultural production. In humans, the infection is mostly transmitted by dog bites. The disease poses a serious threat to people's health, especially in children.

FAO/2009/WALTER ASTRADA



“If it can’t be measured, it tends to be ignored”: The case of livestock data in Uganda

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Uganda has a rich and diverse animal resource base comprised of 11.4 million cattle, 12.5 million goats, 3.4 million sheep, 3.2 million pigs and 37.4 million chickens (UBOS, 2008) and livestock constitutes an important part of rural livelihoods. In response to increasing recognition of the importance of reliable, timely, and accessible livestock data for planning and investment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAFF), is working with the Livestock Data Innovation Project (<http://www.africallivestockdata.org/afrlivestock/>) which is a US\$ 2.5 million initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and jointly implemented by the African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the International Livestock, Research Institute (ILRI).

The Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAFF), including the Department of Animal Production and Marketing and the Department of Livestock Health and Entomology in the Directorate of Animal Resources, is mandated to formulate and implement livestock sector policies, plans and programmes, as well as to control and manage animal epidemic diseases. The Ministry and the Project highlight the fact that missing and inaccurate livestock data constrain the sector’s development. At the 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources in Africa (Entebbe, Uganda, 13-14 May 2010) on ‘Improving access to markets for African Animal Resources to significantly contribute to economic

growth and reduction of poverty’, the Ministers:

- ‘recognizing that the current policy and institutional environment in the Animal Resources sector is not conducive [...];
- recognizing the need for reliable data, tools and mechanisms to develop quality investment plans [...];
- urge Member States to enhance capacity for timely collection, analysis and sharing of quality data to guide policy

Reliable livestock data and statistics are critical for MAAIF’s mandate, and generated by a variety of sources, including administrative records, surveys and censuses.

- (i) Administrative records livestock data are routinely collected by Local Governments in all the 112 districts of the country on a continuous basis.
- (ii) Agricultural surveys are administered every year or few years to a nationally representative sample of households on a multiplicity of their characteristics, and include some livestock-related questions. They are usually conducted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).
- (iii) Agricultural and livestock censuses are conducted about every ten years and collect a limited set of information from every household in the country. They provide the gold standard data against which administrative records data and surveys can be corrected and judged. They are usually carried out jointly by MAAIF and UBOS.

The project builds on the evidence that in Uganda (i) there are opportunities for a rapid, equitable growth of the livestock sector: on the demand side, population growth,

urbanization and gains in real per capita are associated with increased consumption of animal products; on the supply side, small scale producers keep a large share of the livestock, but in most cases are unable to satisfy the expanding demand for livestock products. (ii) In most Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, lack or inadequate livestock data and indicators prevent both the public and private sector from designing policies and making investments that effectively contribute to poverty reduction and livestock sector development, i.e. that help smallholders access and benefit from the growing market for animal food.

The initiatives are in line with the Uganda National Development Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15 which indicate that: ‘Statistics are an integral part of the enabling infrastructure for national development’. They are important for public policy and programme formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Statistics are critical to national development planning and implementation of private sector, civil society and academic research activities’





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