

August 1997



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, 7-18 November 1997

THE PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (PAAT)

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
THE PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (PAAT)	1
A. Initiation of the Programme	1
B. Objective of the Programme	2
C. Structure of the Programme	2
D. Programme funding status and activities	3
CONCLUSION	4
DRAFT RESOLUTION	6

INTRODUCTION

1. The Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) is a recent FAO initiative which must be viewed as an integral component of the follow-up to the World Food Summit, particularly in the context of improving agriculture and health in the tsetse infested Low Income Food Deficient Countries in sub-saharan Africa. It will also contribute to the objectives of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) through the release of pressures on land in non-infested areas. It has international dimensions coordinated through a Joint FAO, WHO, OAU and IAEA Secretariat.
2. Tsetse transmitted African trypanosomiasis, both human and animal, adversely influences food production, the rational utilization of natural resources and the pattern of rural settlement throughout much of sub-saharan Africa. About one third of Africa, or approximately 9 million km², are affected. It is estimated that the direct losses to the continent's cattle population alone amount to between US \$ 600 and 1200 million annually, with animal deaths being as high as three million. Where trypanosomiasis prevails the reduction in the ability to cultivate and grow crops may contribute significantly to food insecurity and rural poverty. The disease is increasing in many countries and, in the case of the human form, sleeping sickness, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the situation may be approaching epidemic proportions on a scale last seen in the 1930s.
3. The problem caused by the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis, particularly in those areas where they critically affect human health and agriculture, must be overcome if the objectives of the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action are to be achieved.

THE PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (PAAT)

A. Initiation of the Programme

4. PAAT was conceived in response to international concern that considerable human and financial resources are dedicated to the control of African trypanosomiasis, yet despite recent technological advances the impact of the disease has hardly changed, and in some areas has even deteriorated over the last decades. It is estimated that the total recurrent annual investment just to live with the disease and to fund the associated research and control activities, may amount to some US\$ 200 million.
5. Initiation of the Programme has been facilitated through the exploitation of the structures available within the existing FAO Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development. These consist of a Commission advised by two Panels of Experts, namely; The Panel of Experts on Ecological and Technical Aspects of the Programme and the Panel on Development Aspects. As will be further described in this document, the PAAT structures now proposed are derived from the modification of these so that the Panels may form the basis for the annual meeting of the PAAT Advisory Group Coordinators, to meet the needs at the technical and scientific levels, whilst the Commission may now be abolished in consideration that the subject may be addressed, as may be justified from time to time, through the facility offered by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.
6. The PAAT concept was first proposed by the FAO Panels of Experts to the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, which, in their combined meeting in Rome, 1993, stressed the need for a new coordinated approach and urged FAO to take appropriate action. FAO, in conjunction with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thus convened a consultative group meeting in Vienna, Austria, 1994, the purpose being to advise on the most effective way to focus and coordinate the resources potentially available to trypanosomiasis research and development. This was followed by a

meeting of an ad hoc Steering Committee held under the auspices of the Organization for African Unity/Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 1995, which confirmed the need for collaboration between the efforts directed towards the human disease and those aimed at animal trypanosomiasis. Recommendations were also made on the outline composition and structure of the new Programme. It is therefore a justifiable and logical follow-up to the former FAO Programme, the structure of which now needs to be reconsidered to facilitate this new initiative.

7. Further interaction between FAO, WHO, OAU and IAEA, culminated in the FAO Panel of Experts meeting held in Rome, November 1995, where a detailed structure for the programme was proposed. It is designed to facilitate, advise, and encourage collaboration and participation at all levels, from the farmer through national governments to the international community.

8. PAAT would thus facilitate the provision of guidance to the myriad of activities across the various countries of the sub-continent as well as those undertaken by international entities. It is thus envisaged that PAAT would provide answers to some of the more acute and developing problems such as the emerging Sleeping Sickness epidemics, the increasing demand for land and the imbalance in the utilization of natural resources.

B. Objective of the Programme

9. The purpose of PAAT is "to promote and facilitate integrated and effective control of trypanosomiasis" towards the overall objective of "a sustainable increase of income, food security and human welfare in trypanosomiasis affected areas". In short, it will define priorities and coordinate and focus the investment of funds.

C. Structure of the Programme

10. PAAT has four major components. Overall responsibility rests with the PAAT Committee, with administrative and managerial support provided by the Secretariat. The technical aspects are grouped in two interlinked modules: the Research and Development (R&D) Module; and the Policy, Planning and Implementation (PPI) Module.

11. The contribution of each of these four components is further considered below.

(i) The PAAT Committee

12. This Committee consists of elected representatives of donor organizations and countries, who have a specific interest in aspects of livestock development. They are supported by policy level technical advisors. The Committee's Terms of Reference are "to define and regularly review the purposes and strategies of the programme, and to guide and review its activities and progress". It has an executive role, and also assists in procuring funding. In effect, the PAAT Committee provides the impetus to drive the Programme and to direct the focus on justifiable and realistic priorities.

13. This body is largely self funding in that elected representatives are funded by the organizations or countries they represent. However, some support from the Secretariat is required to ensure the participation of the independent technical advisors.

(ii) The Secretariat

14. The informal Joint FAO/WHO/OAU/IAEA Secretariat supports the PAAT Committee and facilitates implementing of its decisions. It provides an essential link between the

technical modules and the Committee. The primary functions are thus strategy and policy development, coordination, administration, data management and information dissemination.

(iii) The Research and Development (R&D) Module

15. This module brings together the many national, regional and international research facilities engaged on trypanosomiasis research. Its objective is to provide guidance, support and direction to ensure that research is problem driven with focus on the needs of rural communities. Coordination within each specified research area is effected through elected Advisory Group Coordinators who volunteer their services free of charge.

(iv) The Policy, Planning and Implementation (PPI) Module

16. This module brings together all those involved in the financing, implementation and planning of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control programmes, the objective of the module being "to provide guidance, support and direction to policy development, planning and the implementation of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control within the context of agricultural development". Coordination is again through elected Advisory Group Coordinators. Interaction between the R&D and PPI modules is essential.

D. Programme funding status and activities

17. During the last two years of Programme formulation, funding has been provided largely through the pooling of the Regular Programme resources of the organizations concerned - FAO, WHO, OAU and IAEA. This approach is in line with the recommendations of the First Programme Committee meeting, held at the European Commission (EC), Brussels, 1-2 April 1996, which stated that "the programme would be mainly supported through the funds available to the members of the secretariat, who would also modify their existing structures to conform with the revised needs. However,..... noting that this was the first time that all four mandated organizations had come together with an optimistic attitude, and that the objectives of the programme were both desirable and laudable, the Committee advised that, requests to donors, from the Secretariat, for assistance in running the Programme would be considered sympathetically".

18. The same Committee confirmed that "a key role of the programme was in advising donors how best to invest funds, based on the deliberations of the Technical Modules. Where such services were required, particularly in large-scale regional activities, the assistance requested of the Programme could be funded through on-going projects and programmes".

19. As a result of these recommendations, FAO subsequently convened meetings of the Advisory Group Coordinators through the facility of the Statutory Bodies; the Panels of Experts on Technical, Ecological and Development aspects to the Programme Against African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development. These actions have been supported, technically and financially, by contributions from OAU, WHO and IAEA and to a significant extent by the donor organisations to the Programme Committee. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID), has contributed to funding the full involvement of the Committee Chairman.

20. The UK has also approved the donation to FAO of US\$330 000 in kind, for technical support to Information Systems Development, under Regular Programme activities. This decision was based on recognition of the important role of FAO in the normative activities of the Programme, particularly in the fields of disease intelligence, strategy and policy development, data management and dissemination and as a repository for an international resource inventory.

21. The Programme was further advanced through a management planning workshop, held in Centre de Coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France, in March 1997. This workshop, largely funded by the EC with contributions from France and the UK, defined in detail the logical framework for PAAT and the timeframe to achieve specified objectives.

22. Through the Commission on the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, the tsetse infested countries in Africa have voiced their active support to this initiative and have demonstrated their collaboration in the compilation of an international knowledge base and resources inventory.

23. The EC has vigorously supported the development of PAAT with the stated view that it be justified through the harnessing of the technical competence of the international development agencies and the assistance that could thus be provided to large-scale regional programmes. The EC currently has some ECU 40 million invested in Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis programmes in East and Southern Africa, with a similar West African Programme being considered at a cost of ECU 40 million. The EC has stressed the opinion that, once fully established, the potential offered by PAAT may form the basis for the expansion of coordinated international activities over the wider issues of animal health, livestock production and rural development.

24. An early achievement of PAAT is the Publication of the "Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Information Quarterly", published in English and French, with a wide circulation to workers at all levels in Africa. This has been accomplished as an FAO Regular Programme activity, with financial support from within the Joint Secretariat and the donor community, particularly the EC and the UK.

25. International recognition was afforded to PAAT by the Fiftieth Session of the World Health Assembly, Geneva, 13 May 1997, when this body, in recognition of the severe consequences of the African Trypanosomiasis problem to human health, welcomed WHO's initiative for global collaboration and urged "all member states in endemic areas to reinforce control and surveillance activities and coordinate their actions through a joint OAU/FAO/IAEA/WHO project for global collaboration and coordination of action". This body further requested the Director-General of WHO to i) "bring the problem to the attention of the international and national development agencies, emphasizing the need to further mobilize resources and provide substantial and sustained support for effective collaboration"; ii) "to expand and intensify the coordination of control and surveillance and the development of human resources, and reinforce its links with FAO and OAU; and other international agencies, including UNICEF".

CONCLUSION

26. In recognition of the impact of trypanosomiasis on food production and, therefore, rural economies, PAAT may contribute significantly to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. It is also in line with UNCED's Agenda 21 as controlling the disease may have an important environmental impact through releasing new areas for agriculture, thus reducing demand on over-used tsetse-free lands and optimizing production over a greater area. It offers a new approach to the problem at an international level, based on a review and revision of the existing structures established under the FAO Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development.

27. It is now generally appreciated that strategic planning to control the tsetse problem cannot be undertaken in the narrow framework of animal health, nor indeed, confined to the livestock sector alone. It requires an understanding of resource potential, the environmental implications, farming systems and the constraints thereon, as well as consideration of the dynamics of population growth and food demand over time. It has rural development dimensions.

28. FAO is uniquely placed to not only further the direct aims of PAAT but also to ensure the consolidation of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control through the progressive integration into the programme of other essential components of animal health and livestock production.

29. The Conference may therefore wish to consider and endorse the following proposed actions:

- i) That the potential offered by the PAAT structures for strengthening international coordination in the broader aspects of the livestock sub-sector be further examined and pursued.
- ii) That the Director-General formalize the links required with WHO, IAEA and OAU to give due recognition to the joint nature of the PAAT secretariat.
- iii) That FAO afford formal recognition to the PAAT Committee as a forum for International Coordination.
- iv) That, within FAO, PAAT be given the priority and resources adequate for the attainment of its stated objectives.
- v) The substitution of the two existing Statutory Bodies, the Panels of Experts on Ecological, Technical and Development Aspects of the programme, by a single Statutory Body; "The Panel of PAAT Advisory Group Coordinators", which should meet annually, and be subject to an evaluation and review after six years to coincide with the period of the FAO Medium-Term Plan.
- vi) The abolition of the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis, based on the consideration that the subject may be discussed, as required from time to time, through the facility offered by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH CONFERENCE

THE PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (PAAT)

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing the severity of the impact of tsetse and trypanosomiasis on livestock, agriculture and human welfare in Africa;

Well aware that the disease has direct implications in attaining the objectives of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;

Welcoming FAO's initiative to secure international collaboration and coordination through the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT);

1. Urges all Member States affected by the disease to reinforce their efforts to combat the disease and to coordinate their actions through PAAT and the Joint FAO/WHO/OAU/IAEA Secretariat of this Programme.
2. Requests the Director-General:
 - i) to further define and pursue how the potential offered by PAAT may contribute to the broader objectives of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD);
 - ii) to consolidate international action in trypanosomiasis control by formalizing, through an exchange of letters, the collaborative links required with WHO, IAEA and OAU in order to effectively establish the Joint PAAT secretariat;
 - iii) to give formal recognition, within FAO, to the PAAT Committee;
 - vi) to afford PAAT the priority, profile and resources warranted by its potential to contribute to the aims of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;
 - v) to substitute the existing statutory bodies "The Panels of Experts on Ecological, Technical and Development Aspects to the Programme for the Control of African Trypanosomiasis and Related Development" for the "Panel of PAAT Advisory Group Coordinators" and to facilitate annual meetings;
 - vi) to abolish the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis based on the consideration that the subject may be discussed, on an as required basis, by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.