



THE PROGRAMME AGAINST AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH PAAT ADVISORY GROUP
CO-ORDINATORS MEETING**

MOMBASA, KENYA

23-24 SEPTEMBER, 1999

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the Organization of African Unity
International Atomic Energy Agency
World Health Organization of the United Nations**

FOREWORD

The fifth meeting of the Advisory Group Co-ordinators to the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) was convened in Mombasa, Kenya, from 23-24 September 1999, under the auspices of the joint FAO/IAEA/OAU-IBAR/WHO PAAT secretariat.

The meeting was arranged to coincide with the annual meeting of the FAO Liaison Officers of West and Central Africa in order to ensure the interaction of the expertise represented in the two meetings and to ensure that the PAAT Advisory Group (PAG) duly considers the problems perceived at the national level.

Most important was the harmonisation of both these meetings with the 25th Conference of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC). The silver jubilee of the Conference also formed the golden anniversary of the Council and became a most memorable and successful event, suggesting progressive international concertation. This was also demonstrated by the organisation of further meetings that took place:

- OAU/IBAR: Directors of Animal Resources;
- OAU/IBAR: ISCTRC Executive Committee members;
- WHO: Sleeping Sickness experts;
- IAEA: Insect genetics experts.

The PAG meeting was held with the financial and technical support of the joint secretariat with contributions from many other international and national institutions.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Peter Holmes, with Dr. Joseph Ndung'u as Vice-chairman. Rapporteurs comprised Messrs Brian Hursey, Reg Allsopp, Prof. Albert Ilemobade and Dr. Ron Dwinger, who collated the various contributions.

1. Introduction

The Agenda of the PAAT Advisory Group co-ordinators (PAG) meeting is attached as Annex 1, the Timetable as Annex 2 and the actual List of Participants as Annex 3. A summary of the discussions and the conclusions and recommendations as agreed during the meeting are recorded below.

Apologies for absence have been received from Prof. I. F. Grant (NRI) and Mr P. Bazeley (DFID). Dr R. J. Connor, Prof. G. Duvalliet and Prof. D. Mehlitz had to resign as advisory group co-ordinators. Dr. J. McDermott accepted to replace Prof. Mehlitz .

2. Chairman's report

- The Secretariat has had a successful meeting with the Directorate General (DG) VIII and the Service Commun Relex of the European Union. The following topics were discussed:
 - * interactions between PAAT and FITCA (Farming In Tsetse Controlled Areas)
 - * how PAAT could support FITCA
 - * the transfer of the PPI module to IBAR
- The Concerted Action programme, which underpins the PAAT R&D module, is now well underway.
- The PAAT-IS (information system) continues to develop effectively and the PAAT Newsletter has been published three times. The Chairman noted that PAAT's international recognition increases.
- Despite the above progress, the chairman voiced the following concerns:
 - * PAAT has lost key personnel through retirements (Messrs Brian Hursey and Guy Freeland). This resulted in an increased workload for the Secretariat, which needs to be resolved. The development of a Support Group to facilitate the uptake of PAAT recommendations and assist the Secretariat was introduced.
 - * Delays have occurred with the publication of the Position Papers.
 - * It is crucial that the PPI module is implemented soon. The donors are now looking for the impact of PAAT.

3. Agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was approved with the following amendments/additions:

- A report from the RTTCP by Mr. William Shereni;
- A paper on the economic impact of past DFID research by Mr. Leonard Budd;
- A discussion on how to measure the impact of PAAT;
- A report on the IBAR Workshop on policy harmonisation, 22-24 September 1999, Mombasa, with recommendations on tsetse and trypanosomosis control, to be considered by the PAG meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meetings

4.1. Advisory group co-ordinators meeting in Harare

Action points in the minutes of the last meeting were reviewed:

- * It was observed that all participants in the meeting now have electronic mail;
- * Improvement has been made on the standardisation of drug resistance;
- * No progress was made on training, but it was noted that the IAEA has funds available under regional manpower development projects, which could be used.

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

4.2. PAAT Programme Committee meeting in Vienna

- * The Position Paper on SIT was presented and is now nearly ready for publication.
- * Criteria for identification of priority areas were endorsed.
- * Formation of working groups was discussed and approved.

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

5. FAO Liaison Officer's Meeting

The FAO Liaison Officer's meeting on African Animal Trypanosomosis in Central and West Africa was held at Mombasa on 21-22 September, 1999, and the following recommendations to the PAG meeting were formulated during the meeting:

1. A programme similar to FITCA in East Africa, which has been drafted for West and Central Africa, is to be urgently activated by OAU/IBAR in conjunction with PAAT.

The PAAT chairman remarked that this recommendation was consistent with the PAAT Plan of Action on priority areas formulated during previous meetings. The chairman of IBAR confirmed that the subject is taken very seriously. Also, the OAU Ministers responsible for animal production and health had recommended that IBAR pursue the issue of a West African regional programme. The Ministers will have to be briefed on this issue on the progress at the next meeting in August 2000.

2. The Liaison Officers furthermore recommended that:

- National Governments should strive to organize measures minimising the development of drug resistance;
- FAO, WHO, IAEA, OAU/IBAR, PAAT and pharmaceutical companies work together in the quality control of trypanocidal drugs;
- FAO + OAU/IBAR should consult with OIE, ECOWAS and OCEAC on the possibility of their involvement in quality control and drug marketing.

3. The Liaison Officers emphasised the need for integrated control of trypanosomosis and noted with pleasure the involvement of PAAT in achieving this objective.

There was a general discussion on these recommendations. It was suggested that a working group on trypanocidal drugs should be formed to initiate quality control. There should be validation of generic products by a UN agency, while products which are not generic will need new specifications. FAO Liaison Officers could perhaps assist and also collect samples for quality assessment. It was suggested that there should be a continental or regional testing centre.

It was observed that drug quality is not a big issue in Sleeping Sickness treatment. The main problems are the availability of drugs and drug resistance.

The recommendations and guidelines produced by the Concerted Action workshop on drug resistance were summarized. It was felt that it would be difficult to police any regulations on drug use, but a certified stamp of approval by PAAT of the trypanocidal drugs made available on the African market would greatly assist the consumers.

6. IAEA report

It was reported that the formal membership of IAEA in PAAT has been agreed and is awaiting implementation.

7. IBAR report

The Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) programme ends in October 1999 and will be replaced by Pan African Control of Epizootic diseases (PACE). PAAT fits well with IBAR's policy harmonisation on livestock production and animal health.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between IBAR and IAEA on tsetse control and other pest management issues, and builds on the longstanding IAEA support for PARC.

FITCA

Farming in tsetse controlled areas (FITCA) is a regional programme originally involving 8 countries but at the moment restricted to Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The post of Regional Coordinator was filled this year and Kenya and Uganda each recruited a Technical Assistant. The tender for the Ethiopian component is imminent and will be followed first by Tanzania and then by Rwanda and Burundi. Sudan and Somalia will not be able to join the programme in the immediate future.

The FITCA programme was developed to create an alternative for area-wide control programmes which are difficult to sustain. Since donors favoured community participation FITCA was designed as a broad base rural development programme – although large scale vector control is not totally discounted. FITCA aims to increase the wealth of local communities, which will then have the capability to develop larger scale tsetse control programmes.

The current situation was summarised for each country participating in FITCA:

Kenya: A Regional Office has been established in Nairobi and Dr Julian Hopkins is in post as Technical Adviser (TA) in Busia. Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) has revealed that trypanosomosis is a major constraint to development here, coupled to water shortage.

Uganda: Dr Bob Dransfield is the TA and is now in post. A work plan has been produced and standard procedures agreed with Kenya.

Ethiopia: An addendum to the original agreement has been signed and tenders are being prepared. There is also an SIT programme in Ethiopia but this is an unrelated project and in a different geographical area.

Tanzania: US\$ 800,000 is in a country reserve but this will not be sufficient to finance technical assistance. Thus, the funds will be allocated to supplement existing projects with tsetse control components (two Dutch funded dairy development projects and one Germany assisted agro-forestry project).

PAAT-IBAR

Regarding PAAT-IBAR ties, IBAR Director Dr. Masiga confirmed that IBAR forms integral part of the Joint Secretariat and is a full member of the PAAT 'family'. He emphasized the role of PAAT as a think tank, to advise on the way forward to defeat the long term trypanosomosis problem. He confirmed that the transfer of the PPI module to IBAR was agreed, but that modalities and Terms of Reference still need to be finalised. OAU has systems and structures within which IBAR must operate and the integration of the PPI module must be carefully considered and consistent with the responsibilities of ISCTRC.

The chairman further introduced the proposed PAAT Support Group, in part created to accelerate the move to a fully Africa based PPI module. In total, three adviser profiles had been identified:

1. Donor relationships and policy (to be DFID funded)
2. Field programmes/quality control (through FAO/IAEA support)
3. Communications/publications (WHO support)

8. WHO report

Major programme structure changes within WHO have imposed a review of the objectives of the WHO Sleeping Sickness programme. Five new objectives have been identified:

- Ensure sustainability of field surveillance and control activities;
- Strengthen Inter-agency collaboration through the PAAT;
- Enhance epidemiological surveillance systems;
- Develop of a treatment and drug resistance network;
- Develop of an information system.

A number of achievements toward these objectives were noted:

- The creation of a treatment and drug resistance network, to be considered as a PAAT Advisory Group.
- The WHO contribution to PAAT, in particular through the Secretariat and the Support Group;
- The creation of a regional surveillance office with staff and financial support; the office will be opened in Yaoundé in November.

9. PAAT-IS and PAAT-L

Further development of the PAAT information system (PAAT-IS) comprises a predictive capability showing expected livestock increases following tsetse clearance. Although still relatively basic, the predictions support the priority accorded to Ethiopia and shows the potential in other countries such as Tanzania. High quality data on tsetse and disease distributions are now urgently needed. A CD-ROM containing all the information will be produced before March 2000. The importance of retaining support for the development of PAAT-IS was recognised.

The PAAT electronic mail link (PAAT-L) has now 200 subscribers but is not being fully utilised. A plea for tsetse updates was made by Dr William Wint, as to improve and refine the abundance maps of tsetse flies. It was remarked that trypanosomiasis infection rates and disease incidence are perhaps the parameters to aim for in the long term.

10. Concerted action

A progress report was presented by Dr Mark Eisler on “Concerted Action on the Integrated Control of Pathogenic Trypanosomes and their Vectors” (ICPTV), funded by the Service Commun RELEX of the European Union. A total of seven workshops will be organised, of which three have taken place.

The conclusions of the first workshop on “Improved epidemiological methods including diagnostics” were presented and have been published in full detail in the first ICPTV newsletter. The meeting expressed the need for simple and basic diagnostic techniques at the farm level, while most of the presently available diagnostic techniques are more suitable for research purposes.

The conclusions of the second workshop on “Drug delivery and resistance in the context of integrated disease management” were presented. During the workshop clear guidelines were developed to assist workers in the field in assessing trypanocidal drug resistance. The meeting agreed that the guidelines required further refinement, to become appropriate for all situations and should therefore be distributed to the FAO Liaison Officers for further comments.

A third workshop has been organised on “Data management and decision support systems including risk assessment and disease impact evaluation”. The recommendations and conclusions of the workshop are still being discussed and will be finalised by the participants over the ICPTV e-mail forum.

11. Reports from the co-ordinators

11.1. Socio-economic aspects

An update on the availability of background information on the socio-economic aspects of trypanosomosis and its control was presented by Dr. Kamuanga. Cost/benefit analyses have been carried out, but insufficient information is available on the benefits at the farm level. Topics for further research were outlined and an inventory of human resources was attempted. Structured monitoring of socio-economic aspects should take place as part of the regional programmes, while the primary purpose is disease control.

11.2. Bait technology

Mr. Francis Oloo presented a review of the current status and research needs for bait technology in Eastern Africa. He concluded that although odour bait techniques are available for tsetse management there is room to improve the techniques for use in a greater range of tsetse species. During the discussion concern was expressed that some of the available tools, although inexpensive, may be beyond the means of poor farmers. An effort should be made to make the techniques less complicated in order to facilitate their use by the farmers on a sustainable basis.

12. Economic analysis of international tsetse and trypanosomosis research and development

The study was instigated by DFID of UK and the analysis was executed by Mr. Leonard Budd. The managers of DFID wanted to assess the economic impact of DFID research support over the past 20 years. While five technical reviews had previously been commissioned, and, in turn, been reviewed by Mehlitz, Geerts and Feldmann, none of these did include an economic analysis. Thus, economic impact information was required in order for DFID to determine whether further inputs were advisable.

Evidently, the most efficient way of combating trypanosomosis on a wide scale is through vector control. The economic evaluation may be based on projected costs and benefits of a wide range of control strategies. The author assessed the cost/benefit to the user, the breadth of the benefit, the cost/benefit of the research programme, the sustainability and the socio-economic factors involved.

The discussion centred on the procedures used by the author to arrive at the conclusions. The main thrust of the analysis was on cattle (not on other animal species) and the model concerned only tsetse control and not other control methods concerning animal breed or the parasite. The main findings were that it is more beneficial to treat large geographical areas and that the economic efficacy improves as the proportion of work devoted to maintaining barriers decreases. Interestingly, the economic efficiency also appears high in small scale operations.

During the discussion, FAO stated that indiscriminate tsetse clearing is technically not feasible nor desirable, but that areas should be targeted for control (see PAAT Plan of Action).

Following the publication by DFID, the report will be put on the PAAT-L for further discussion and dissemination. It was proposed that the PAAT Support Group should investigate how the information in the report can be utilised to better advantage.

13. Meeting of the Animal Resources Directors

Dr. Diallo, CVO of Guinea-Conakry, and Chairman of the Meeting of Directors of Animal Resources, held 22-24 September, Mombasa, briefed PAAT members on their Workshop on Policy Harmonization and project cycle management. Directors of 14 different countries had been attending the past two days.

The contents of the workshop consisted of six major topics:

- The formulation and harmonization of livestock policies in order to facilitate the development of viable new projects;
- The necessity for harmonizing livestock development projects with the needs of agropastoralists;
- The process of registration, control and use of veterinary drugs;
- Harmonization of regional and sub-regional programmes which are presently ongoing in parts of East and Southern Africa and the necessity to assess the impact of previous projects on livestock farmers;
- Assessment of training to development, within the framework of IMF programme in Africa and the impact of IMF programmes on beneficiaries;
- Mechanisms of ensuring that different livestock programmes receive the support of PAAT.

As a result, a number of priority projects had been identified for the future, in addition to the existing regional disease control projects. The meeting was assured that the recommendations resulting from the workshop will be made available to PAAT.

14. OAU/ISCTRC meeting, 1999

Dr. Solomon Haile Mariam briefed the PAAT members on the forthcoming ISCTRC Conference and expressed appreciation for the cooperation received from PAAT and member organizations. Over 200 papers were submitted, 120 were accepted for oral presentation in parallel sessions, while 80 would be presented at a poster session. There will be an inaugural lecture, publication of a booklet celebrating the 50th anniversary and awards given to 15 individuals for outstanding scientific contributions. About 400 participants are expected to attend the conference.

15. PAAT Plan of action

Two different approaches to tsetse and trypanosomosis control had been discussed in detail during the fourth meeting of the PAAT Programme Committee in November 1998 in Vienna, Austria (see page 5 of the minutes of that meeting) and were approved during the meeting in Harare. However, it was now felt that there is a considerable overlap between area-wide and small scale and that it was not helpful to make a restrictive distinction between the two terms. Similarly, distinctions could be made between top down and bottom up approaches or isolated and non-isolated areas. After a long debate it was agreed to stress the range of activities and techniques that are available for tsetse and trypanosomosis control and/or eradication ranging from farmer based schemes to large scale interventions.

16. Position papers

It was observed that the majority of Position Papers that have been circulated in draft form on the PAAT-L were still to be published. The need to speed up publication was emphasized. It was agreed that Mr. Brian Hursey will lead an editorial group to review all the draft position papers in order to prepare these for publication. Some Position Papers need hardly any further work (those by Swallow and Feldmann), while others required major inputs from the editorial group (the paper by Allsopp). Dr. Glyn Vale will give detailed comments to the editorial group on the latter paper. Burkhard Bauer requested that comments are given on his Position Paper in order to enable improvements to be made. All socio-economic and cultural aspects of tsetse and trypanosomosis control should be combined in a single position paper (this would apply to the three papers prepared by Ssenyonga, Mwangi and Okali). The Chairman requested the WHO participants to prepare Position Papers on Sleeping Sickness.

17. PAAT Support Group

The concept and draft Terms of Reference for the PAAT Support Group was circulated and subsequently endorsed by the meeting. The purpose of this group is to facilitate the effective uptake of the conclusions and recommendations by the PAAT Advisory Group and PAAT Committee and to accelerate the creation of a fully Africa-based Planning, Policy and Implementation module. The PAAT Support Group consists of three senior level, part-time Advisors: one for policy development, one for field programme support and a third one to prepare publications and promote communication. Additional suggestions on the Terms of Reference were invited, to be submitted before the proposal is presented for endorsement to the Programme Committee which will meet in Rome on 22-23 November, 1999.

18. Any Other Business

RTTCP

Project activities in Zimbabwe were completed in December 1998. The activities in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique will be completed in December 1999. The project cleared 20.000 km² of tsetse in Zimbabwe, re-established fly distributions in the common fly belt, developed a database (DAVID) and maintained an active training programme.

Log frames

It is essential that the logical framework as it was prepared during the meeting in Montpellier, be revisited during each PAAT meeting. To facilitate this, the log frame should be part of the agenda and should be attached to the papers circulated at each meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PAAT endorses IBAR's initiative in taking forward the new discussions on proposed West and Central African regional programmes and recommends that the expertise within PAAT be fully utilised in formulating these programmes.

Action: Secretariat, to follow-up on proposals made for the formulation and composition of a PAAT advisory group for West and Central Africa..

2. PAAT to pursue the development of the Support Group.

Action: Chairman, to facilitate in collaboration with the Secretariat.

3. PAAT to strengthen and redefine the responsibilities of the PPI module, facilitate the transfer of these responsibilities to IBAR in Nairobi, assist with the development of new Terms of Reference and advise on the resource implications.

Action: IBAR/Secretariat/Support Group.

4. PAAT to initiate working groups on animal trypanocidal drug quality and on training.

Action: Chairman to initiate the formation of the working groups.

5. Experiences gained through project formulation and implementation, as well as technologies developed must be passed on and not lost.

Action: IBAR-PACE, with Secretariat support.

6. PAAT-IS should include information on the distribution of disease risk and drug resistance.

Action: PAAT-IS development team.

7. WHO treatment and drug resistance network to become a technical advisory group of PAAT.

8. The data collected by the regional surveillance office based in Yaoundé to become integrated with PAAT-IS.

9. The PAAT to draw more attention to the Sleeping Sickness situation and to the worsening epidemiological status of the disease.

10. The development of diagnostic tools for individual animal diagnosis should take into account the practical utility at the field level.

11. Further dialogue should be promoted through PAAT and the EU Concerted Action to provide practical advice on drug delivery and resistance.

Action: PAAT secretariat and EU concerted action.

12. The PAAT secretariat should initiate further discussions on the production of recommendations for action that may be proposed from the economic and financial analysis of the DFID International Research Programme.

Action: PAAT secretariat and support group.

13. PAAT, through OAU/IBAR and member organizations should ensure that the FITCA programme consider the research priorities identified by Advisory Group on socio-economic aspects.

Action: PAAT secretariat and FITCA regional co-ordinator.

14. It was recommended that the concept of area-wide versus farmer-based control schemes as previously adopted should no longer be maintained because of the likely confusion the terminology could generate. However, under the PAAT Plan of Action, the Programme will continue to encourage the improvement of, and provide guidance on a range of applications of concepts and techniques for tsetse/trypanosomosis control and/or eradication programmes. These could range from small-scale, farmer-based schemes to large-scale interventions.

15. There is a need for PAAT to be more effective in the advocacy of its programmes.

Action: PAAT Secretariat, Support Group and PAAT Committee.

16. Position Papers awaiting publication should be scrutinised and edited by an editorial group in order to ensure publication without further delay.

Action: Support Group.

17. There is a need for a position paper on issues pertaining to human Sleeping Sickness.

Action: WHO representatives suggest a topic and submit a draft for distribution on the PAAT-L.

Annex 1 - AGENDA

1. Opening address and introduction
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Report of November 1998 Programme Committee and matters arising
4. Current status of PAAT activities;
 - 4.1 Information and communication services
(Update of PAAT-IS by FAO and WHO)
 - 4.2 Publications: TTIQ; Newsletter; Position Papers
 - 4.3 IAEA - PAAT
 - 4.4 IBAR - PAAT
5. Sleeping Sickness situation; current situation and identification of PAAT support
6. PAAT Research and Development module and the EU funded Concerted Action programme
7. FITCA; current situation and plans
8. PAAT Plan of Action follow-up; area-wide and farmer/community based control
9. Management and quality control of drugs/pesticides/biologicals
10. ISCTRC Conference and PAAT
11. Any other business
12. Date and venue of next meeting
13. Close

Annex 2 - TIMETABLE

Thursday 23 September

08.30 - 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.00 Opening address and Welcome

10.00 - 10.15 Introduction by Chairman, adoption of Agenda and appointment of Rapporteurs

10.15 - 10.30 Adoption of minutes of last meeting

10.30 - 10.45 Report of 1998 Programme Committee and matters arising

10.45 - 11.00 **Break**

11.00 - 11.15 Report of FAO Liaison Officers meeting

11.15 - 11.30 IAEA and PAAT; Report on developments

11.30 - 12.00 IBAR and PAAT; Report on developments

12.00 - 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 - 14.45 Information and Communication Services; PAAT-L; PAAT-IS; PAAT publications

14.45 - 15.00 Sleeping Sickness; WHO information services

15.00 - 15.30 Sleeping Sickness; current field programmes

15.30 - 15.45 **Break**

15.45 - 16.15 PAAT support to SS control

16.15 - 16.45 FITCA - current situation and plans

16.45 - 17.00 Preliminary Conclusions and Recommendations of day 1.

Friday 24 September

09.00 - 10.00 PAAT Research and Development module and the EU funded Concerted Action;
R&D Co-ordinators reports

10.00 - 10.30 PPI Co-ordinators reports

10.30 - 10.45 **Break**

10.45 - 11.15 Field programmes in southern and western Africa;
PPI Co-ordinators report

11.15 - 12.00 PAAT Plan of Action follow-up;

i) support of area-wide control schemes

ii) support to farmer/based control

12.00 - 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 - 14.30 Management and quality control of drugs, pesticides and biologicals

14.30 - 15.30 PAAT Advisory Group; review of tasks and purposes;
planning of 1999-2000 activities

15.30 - 15.45 **Break**

15.45 - 16.00 Any other business

16.00 - 16.30 Conclusions and Recommendations

16.30 - 16.45 ISCTRC

16.45 - 17.00 **Close**

Annex 3 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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