



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The First Half Century

1957-2007

Using diagnostic kits to detect major animal diseases in Senegal

The challenge...

Epizootic diseases cause high mortality rates in livestock, jeopardize both the quality and quantity of livestock products and discourage private investment in the sector. Systems to diagnose and monitor the major infectious diseases that affect livestock are needed. Rapid diagnostic kits are more sensitive, accurate and inexpensive than traditional tests such as c ELISA.

Control and eradication of major infectious diseases is essential to the sustainable development of rural-based agricultural production systems. SADC countries are particularly interested in maintaining their livestock trade with the European Community. Without accreditation of their national laboratories this trade could be considerably reduced.



The project...

The project aimed to assist national and regional animal disease diagnostic and surveillance programmes, supporting the development goal of the Organization of African Unity/Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) for achieving sustainable food security and promoting rural agriculture-based economies. In particular, the project focused on providing support to the OAU/IBAR/Pan-African Programme for Control of Epizootics (PACE) Co-ordination Unit to improve national capabilities for detecting and controlling economically devastating livestock diseases and for verifying the eradication of rinderpest from Africa; on providing support to OAU/IBAR to assist Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries implement a programme of quality assurance in national veterinary laboratories; and on assisting OAU/IBAR to create a sustainable regional supply of critical diagnostic reagents and kits.

The impact...

Due to the increase in the number of African scientists trained in the diagnosis and surveillance of transboundary diseases, a stronger capability to control these diseases has been developed. Kits for Rapid Diagnostic Indirect Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for the detection of antibodies for Rinderpest virus, Peste des Petits Ruminants, and African Swine Fever are now being produced and sold. The kit, when used in conjunction with a highly effective vaccine virus recombinant vaccine, also allows vaccinated animals to be distinguished from infected animals. This information is essential for epidemiological studies and for preventing the spread of diseases. It also allows the sale and export of vaccinated animals to disease-free zones.

RAF/5/053 - Assistance to OAU/IBAR PACE Programme for the Control and Eradication of Major Diseases Affecting Livestock. \$50,000 in equipment.

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