

# East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Launch

ARUSHA, Tanzania | 20 May 2010







Dr Lieve Lynen of VETAGRO Tanzania Ltd which have been central to the success of the vaccine in Tanzania through positive interactions with the Department of Veterinary Services and Livestock Keepers



Healthy cattle increase milk yields used for the family and income



Mrs Anna Remi Nchira, headmistress of the village school in Engarenaibor, Tanzania attests to the difference that the vaccine makes to the lives of Pastoralists and in enabling children to go to school



The increased survival of cattle due to the vaccine has a direct impact on the quality of lives of the individuals, families and communities that use it.



Left – right: GALVmed CEO, Steve Sloan celebrating the success of the vaccine in Tanzania and its registration with special guest of honour Hon Bright Rwamirama, Minister of State for Animal Industry and Fisheries, Republic of Uganda and guest of honour Hon Dr James Wanyancha, Deputy Minister of Livestock Development and Fisheries, Tanzania.



Photograph © Getty Images

## **About GALVmed**

GALVmed is a registered charity and not-for-profit global alliance of public, private and government partners.

Nearly 700 million of the world's poorest people rely on livestock for their survival, and animal diseases devastate the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. GALVmed is making livestock vaccines, diagnostics and medicines accessible, affordable and available to the millions for whom livestock is a lifeline.





## East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Launch



Photographs, courtesy of James Glossop for *The Times*.

*Front cover:* Every animal vaccinated is given an ECF ear tag. Vaccinated animals fetch a higher price at market.

Pastoralists and Small-holder Dairy Keepers state that use of the vaccine has increased their standard of living, enabling them to send their children to school, have access to healthcare, improve housing and reinvest in their livelihoods.

*Above:* A wide range of stakeholders participated in the ECF Vaccine launch & conference on May 20th in the New Arusha Hotel, Arusha and came up with specific recommendations (see Annex).

## East Coast Fever ITM: Launch

20 May 2010 | The Arusha Hotel | Arusha, Tanzania | Agenda

### Morning

#### Announcement

#### Presentations by Key stakeholders.

Chair Dr J McDermott

- 08:00 Participant Arrival and Registration.
- 08:30 Entertainment, Music (Sukuma)
- 08:50 All guests Seated & Overview of the Day/Agenda (Dr Nuru)
- 09:00 Livestock Keeper: Pastoralist Mr Kiruswa (Elder) Alias Morindat (translator)
- 09:15 Presentation by MP for livestock keeper Hon Michael Lekule
- 09:30 Small Scale Dairy Aspects. Dr Ngowi
- 09:45 Presentation from ILRI (Manufacturer) Dr P Toye
- 10:00 Presentation by Distributor VetAgro Tanzania. Dr L Lynen
- 10:15 **Tea Break**
- 10:35 All Participants Seated
- 10:40 Introduction of Special Guests

#### Session 1

##### Opening: Chair Steve Sloan CEO GALVmed

- 10:45 Official Welcome and Presentation GALVmed CEO Steve Sloan
- 11:05 Welcome Remarks Director AU-IBAR Representative Dr Dickens Chibeu
- 11:10 Remarks and Presentation by Special Guest Hon Bright Rwamirama Minister of State for Animal Industry & Fisheries, Republic of Uganda
- 11:25 Key Note Address by Guest of Honour Hon Deputy Minister for Livestock Development & Fisheries Tanzania Hon Dr James Wanyancha. Government of Tanzania.

- 11:40 Summary of Key note address translation into Ki Swahili
- 11:55 Signing of Contract/Agreement GALVmed and VetAgro (Distributor)  
Presentation of Gift to Guest of Honour and Special Guest
- 12:10 GALVmed introduce ECF Launch DVD Erica Rugabandana (Maajabu Films)
- 12:15 ECF Film (DVD) Played
- 12:30 Entertainment, Maasai Women Choir ECF Song
- 12:40 Viewing of Exhibition Stands – Media Conference
- 13:15 **Lunch**

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Exhibition stands open during lunch period

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### Afternoon

#### Session III The way forward: No Chair (Facilitator)

- 14:00 DVD Presentation Awareness & Sensitization
- 14:30 Setting the Scene “Building on Tanzania’s success with ECF Vaccine: What are the Next Steps” The way forward – Dr Nuru GALVmed
- 14:50 Break out Groups and Group Work – The Questions
- 15:50 Tea Break
- 16:00 Group Work – Recommendations
- 16:30 Presentations and Plenary
- 17:00 Drafting of Recommendations
- 17:30 Closing Remarks – Steve Sloan GALVmed – Dr Nyamrunda PS Tanzania
- 17:40 Close and Departure of Participants.



# East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Launch

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The East Coast Fever Infection and Treatment Method vaccine (ECF-ITM) launch was organised by AU-IBAR, PANVAC, the Government of Tanzania, Dr Lieve Lynen and GALVmed as a platform to bring together key stakeholders in the manufacture, delivery and adoption of the ECF-ITM vaccine for the purpose of officially launching the vaccine in Tanzania. This was the first in a series of events. The launch drew participation from a wide spectrum of stakeholders including livestock ministers from Tanzania and Uganda, senior government officials, research institutions, ECF-ITM vaccine distributors, farmer groups, Masai cattle owners and media organisations. The occasion was also a vehicle for creating public awareness of the availability of the control using ECF-ITM and highlighting the importance of controlling East Coast Fever (ECF) not only in Tanzania but the region as whole.

Among the special invited guests were the minister of Agriculture Hon Bright Rwamirama, Uganda and Deputy Minister of Livestock Development and Fisheries, Dr James Wanyancha, their respective permanent secretaries and Directors of the Veterinary Services of Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya.

## Speeches

The day's programme was introduced by GALVmed CEO, Steve Sloan officially welcoming participants. He explained that though ECF vaccine had been used in Tanzania for many years and had proven a huge success, it was being officially launched to celebrate that fact and also recognise the hard work that had gone into developing the control method. Notable among the research community and funding organisations in the history of ECF-ITM were FAO, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) at Muguga, KARI and the International Livestock

Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, VetAgro and the governments of the republics of Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

This was followed by remarks delivered by the special guest of honour Hon Bright Rwamirama, Minister of State for Animal Industry and Fisheries, Republic of Uganda. He pointed out that in the region, ECF is the biggest hindrance to dairy and beef industry development and stressed the importance of using the vaccine to protect livestock. Uganda has used the vaccine since early 1990s on a demand-driven and cost recovery basis. He pledged Ugandan support to all efforts and technology aimed at increasing productivity of livestock in the region and acknowledged GALVmed's progress in facilitating registration of the vaccine in Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi.

The second speech was delivered by guest of honour Hon Dr James Wanyancha, Deputy Minister of Livestock Development and Fisheries, Tanzania. He also highlighted the losses caused by Ticks and Tick borne Diseases, estimated at Tsh. 63 billion annually in Tanzania. History of ECF-ITM went back as far 1967. He praised GALVmed who had worked towards making a sustainable model for manufacture and distribution of the vaccine. He urged policy makers to play their role in taking ownership and responsibility. At the end of his speech, he officially declared the use of Muguga cocktail launched in Tanzania.

The honourable ministers were then presented with gifts by the GALVmed CEO. These included GALVmed caps, T-shirts and traditional walking sticks.





## East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Launch

**ECF-ITM DVD** – a launch video *ECF vaccination – A Hope for a Better Future* was screened. This showed Masai, Sukuma and Smallholder dairy farmers giving testimony of the efficacy of the vaccine. This also elucidated the milestones reached in commercialisation of the vaccine and the current management structure.

**Media Conference** – Between sessions, participants were treated to a display of posters and literature from research and other animal health institutions and undertook media interviews. The event was reported positively on television, radio and in newspapers in Tanzania as well as online and made the front page of *The Times* newspaper in the UK as well as featuring in its online site.

### Afternoon session

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss the following topics:

- a) **Policy Framework and Advocacy,**
- b) **Value Chain, Distribution and Delivery if ECF-ITM and**
- c) **Technological Challenges**

Taking advantage of the various stakeholders represented at the launch, the objective was to bring out recommendations and resolutions under the respective topics that would contribute to the future of ECF-ITM in the region. This was followed by a plenary session in which the various resolutions were presented, discussed and summarised. These are appended in Annex 1.

The day ended with a vote of thanks by the GALVmed CEO.



**Pictured Left:** Special invited guest the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Bright Rwamirama, Republic of Uganda who pledged his support for ECF-ITM in Uganda **and Right:** Deputy Minister of Livestock Development and Fisheries, Dr James Wanyancha, United Republic of Tanzania who praised the alliance that has helped facilitate registration of the vaccine in Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi. *Photo, James Glossop for The Times.*



**ARUSHA, Tanzania | 20 May 2010**

## **Resolutions and Recommendations**

We, the participants of the first ECF-ITM launch held in Arusha, Tanzania on 20th May 2010 under the auspices of the Ministers responsible for Livestock of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda, in trying to progress on the future and way forward on the sustainability of the adoption of this vaccine in Tanzania; hereby adopt the following resolutions:

### **1 ON POLICY FRAMEWORK AND ADVOCACY**

**Concerned** about the need to have a solid policy base and to encourage a conducive environment between government and private partnerships which will attract private investment

**Recognising** the need to support farmer participation and enlightenment on use of this vaccine and promote its use

**Supporting** better and inclusive decision making and collaboration between Government, Private sector and relevant institutions and organisations dealing with this vaccine.

#### **We recommend that:**

- 1.1.** Efforts be made to improve communication and service delivery among pastoralists in under-served areas through sanitary mandates.
- 1.2.** The lessons learnt in Tanzania should be shared nationally and at regional level.
- 1.3.** To ensure sustainability, Tanzania should form a country specific mini ECF task force chaired by the Director of Veterinary Services comprising distributors, drug regulatory authorities and other pertinent stakeholders.

### **2 ON VALUE CHAINS, DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVERY**

Concerned about the low level of public and private investments into this adoption and uptake of this vaccine

**Recognizing** the need for more support towards extension service delivery of this vaccine into Pastoralist and Small scale dairy sector in the region

**Urge** Farmers and distributors to enhance capacity for vaccinations, timely collection, analysis and sharing of quality data to guide policy, strategy and investment programs;

#### **We recommend that:**

- 2.1.** The capacity to produce the vaccine needs to be diversified.
- 2.2.** There should be targeted subsidy by the public sector which should include the private sector for delivery
- 2.3.** In future, the manufacturer should be responsible for the selection of the distributor.
- 2.4.** With respect to pricing, there should be involvement of all parties including Government, distributors and the vaccine manufacturer.
- 2.5.** Alternative long acting oxytetracycline to Alamycin 30% should undergo clinical trials with the vaccine before adoption
- 2.6.** The concept of an “ECF vaccine package” that constitutes
  - i.** vaccine,
  - ii.** approved long acting tetracycline,
  - iii.** a de-wormer and
  - iv.** ear tagsshould be maintained and adopted within the region. This will facilitate marketing, stable pricing and adoption by beneficiaries.

### **3 ON TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES**

**Recognising** the call from farmers for a lower dosed package

**Concerned** about the challenges posed from the cold chain through use of Liquid Nitrogen

**Recognising** that this is the only vaccine of its kind which currently has a single source for manufacture

#### **We recommend that:**

- 3.1.** The manufacturer should explore opportunities for thermo-stabilising the vaccine through the use of appropriate technology such as lyophilisation and irradiation in order to ease delivery of the vaccine.
- 3.2.** There is further research into new improved vaccines.

*Arusha, 20th May 2010*





## PARTICIPANTS

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A Masai ladies' choir from Longido District sing a song, especially composed by the community to recognise the importance of the ECF vaccine



*Left – right:* GALVmed CEO, Steve Sloan & Beppe Di Giulio of VETAGRO Tanzania Ltd upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding



The ECF Vaccine which provides life-long immunity is enhancing the lives of Small-holder Dairy Keepers, lessening dependence on acaricides



The benefits of the vaccine are enabling children to attend secondary school and even university



The vaccine affords livestock keepers the dignity and freedom of choice



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