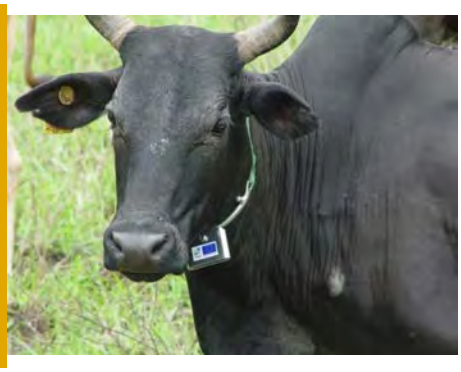
Agriculture

Science-led innovation protects livestock from the Tsetse fly in Kenya

"Previously we could not go close to the Park fence to graze our animals especially in the evenings, as the animals used to run back due to tsetse bites. But not now with the introduction of the collars".

Eunice Kilonzo – Kidongo location of Kwale County



Context

The Tsetse fly is one of the most dreaded livestock pests unique to Africa. The flies are predominantly found in wildlife reserves and game parks, affecting communities from the periphery of wildlife ecosystems - including the Maasai of Kenya. Tsetse flies have a devastating effect on livestock, transmitting Nagana, a fatal disease and reducing milk yield. They are also responsible for causing the human sleeping sickness, which kills about 100 people a day. In Kenya, statistics show that the livestock sector contributes to 12% of the GDP,and any loss in the sector has severe consequences on the social and economic livelihoods of a significant proportion of the population.

Objectives

- Contributing towards the improvement of the welfare, food security and general prosperity of poor livestock keepers in Africa.
- Contribute to improve livestock health and reducing key contraints in animal productivity.
- Effective tsetse repellent technology ready for upscaling.

Impact

- A reduction in disease incidence of >90% in the coastal areas of Kenya where the technology is being tested.
- More than 90% of the farmers report that the repellent technology is effective in protecting their cattle.
- 95% of participating farmers can graze their animals anywhere including in tsetse infested areas close to the park fence.
- 96% sampled farmers report decrease in drug (trypanocide) use.

EU Partners

International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology - ICIPE

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute

Association of Strengthening Research in Eastern and Central Africa

Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa - African Union - IBAR

Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign

Facts and Figures

- EU contribution: €1 500 000 (75% of total)
- Duration: August 2009 - July 2013
- Cattle selling price has tripled

For more information:
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"Before ICIPE came with the collars, the selling price (of cattle) was about € 91-110 per head. With the collars and subsequent weight increase, we can now sell animals above €322" says Sabina Tsehlo, one of the project's beneficiaries from Mkongani on Kenya's coast.

"Before the collars were introduced I got 1,5 litres of milk per day, now I get 3 litres. With collars, we can now introduce high-grade animals" adds Mary Ben Nzazi from Mangawani.

"Before the ICIPE repellent collars, I used to pay about €275 to plough my 20 acres of land. Now I use my protected bulls and pay nothing" Mohammed Sheria says proudly.

"Previously, my bulls ploughed 1 acre per day, now I can plough 3 acres per day," adds Mwalimu M. Sheria.

The development of the tsetse repellent technology could make a significant contribution to improving food security in Africa.

"Improvement of health and productivity of livestock can remove these farmers from the poverty trap" says Dr Saini.

Better protected bull ploughing the field