THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

AU-IBAR SIDE MEETING AT THE AFRICAN UNION – EUROPEAN UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONFERENCE

2ND JULY FROM 10.00 TO 12.00

ERADICATION OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS AND CONTROL OF OTHER PRIORITY SMALL RUMINANTS DISEASES, AND AU-IBAR - EU PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

Livestock contributes 30% of agricultural GDP of many African Countries. Small ruminants are perhaps the most important species because they are easy to manage and their reproduction is relatively rapid. Therefore, they will be among the most important species to receive focus in the transformation of the livestock sector as outlined in the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA). However, small ruminants all over the continent are either affected by peste des petits ruminants (PPR) or at risk of being affected, with very devastating consequences. This has necessitated the need to eradicate the disease. Considering the fact that small ruminants are mainly managed by women and youths, the objective of eradicating PPR by 2030 will impact positively on their livelihoods and employment, thereby enhancing their wellbeing. The widespread occurrence of PPR in endemic countries, its rapid spread to new areas and high mortality rates threaten the sustainable production of sheep and goats, thereby contributing to social instability and conflict. The loss of livelihoods contributes to the migration of affected populations in search of alternative sources of livelihoods thereby escalating the migration challenges being experienced in Africa. While the demographic profile of migrants varies across different areas in Africa, women, youth and pastoralists typically make up the majority of those moving.

By paying particular attention to rural women, youth and small holder livestock owners, PPR eradication will contribute to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, build the resilience of drought-prone pastoral communities and overcome trade barriers to livestock exports, and in this way contribute significantly to the implementation of the LiDeSA. It will eventually offer African countries with better opportunities to benefit from the livestock revolution while at the same time fostering regional integration. These will increase opportunities for income generation for livestock dependent communities/households and thus enhance their resilience, reducing the need for migration in search of alternative livelihood opportunities. Gainful employment will have positive impacts on the fragile environments where small ruminants are produced as the value chain actors will have incentives for not participating in alternative income generation activities that result in environmental degradation. In addition, the benefits from small ruminants' production and trade will motivate awareness and provide incentives for participation in the sustainable utilisation and management of the environment and natural resources thus mitigating the potential negative impacts on the environment of increased numbers of small ruminants that will result from the eradication of PPR. Business models that enhance the off-take of small ruminants through sales will further minimise the potential impacts on the environment due to the increased numbers of small ruminants.

The eradication of PPR and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases will reduce the risks of private sector investments in small ruminant production, value addition, trade and marketing. This will, therefore, stimulate private sector investments and involvement in the sub-sector. Such investments will generate opportunities for the employment of women and youth and other actors along the small ruminants' value chains thus contributing to their economic empowerment.

In the margins of the FAO bi-annual Conference, the African Union and the European Union will organize the AU-EU Ministers of Agriculture meeting on the 2nd July 2017. The meeting brings together partner organizations in the African Union and in the European Union, agribusinesses and farmers' organizations from African countries and EU, international organizations, development agencies and NGOs.

The conference will be co-hosted by the African Union Commission, the European Commission and the Estonian Presidency of the EU. It builds up on the first AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Meeting under the theme "Investing in a Food Secure Future" organized in July 2016 in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

The AU-IBAR will organize a session in the morning from 10.00 to 12.00 to present the continental strategy and programme for the eradication of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) one of the most important diseases on the African continent.

There will also be a presentation of the success stories of the AU-IBAR - EU partnership in the development of animal resources in Africa. This presentation will show case how a successful working partnership achieves tangible results in the transformation of the livestock sector in Africa. The stories will include the transformation of AU-IBAR from a disease focused organization to a continental animal resources holistically focused institution, the collective efforts in achieving the historic eradication of rinderpest, the critical support provided to AU Member States in carrying out policy, legislative and institutional support needed for the effective execution of the mandates of veterinary and livestock services, the rapid response to the threat posed by HPAI virus, the support given to Members States in dealing with issues of climate change, degradation and range management, the support provided to build the capacity of Member States in establishing coordination mechanisms for dealing with fisheries and aquaculture on the continent, the support to their participation in SPS standard-setting processes with one voice, the enhancement of MS's capacities to for data and information management needed for evidence based decision making, and finally, the formulation of the first ever livestock development strategy for Africa. These stories demonstrate the maturity that AUIBAR and MS, with the support of the EU, have acquired over the years to enable them develop the capacity to effectively deal with PPR eradication.

The session is therefore purposed for discussion of the pan-african PPR eradication programme, taking stock of on-going initiatives and mobilizing resources for coordination of interventions across Africa. This session also take stock of AU-IBAR - EU partnership success stories in the development of animal resources in Africa justifying the need to further strengthen the partnership with a special focus on the eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) through the implementation of the livestock development strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

In the afternoon, there will be a shorter presentation of the PPR control programme focused on enabling for private sector investment and youth employment. This will take place in the parallel session devoted for private sector investment. There will be a statement by an African Minister on peste des petits ruminants eradication: enabling environment for increased investment.

Below is the detailed programme of the event.

AU-IBAR SIDE EVENT DRAFT AGENDA

AT THE AFRICAN UNION–EUROPEAN UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONFERENCE
2ND JULY 2017, ROME, ITALY

09.00 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.30 Welcome remarks by Director AU-IBAR Remarks by EU

Opening remarks by Minister Cote D'Ivoire

Introduction of participants

10.30 - 11.00 Presentation of AU-EU success stories by Dr Bruce Mukanda

11.00 - 11.30 Presentations of the PPR strategy and programme by Dr Henry Wamwayi

11.30 - 12.00 Discussions and conclusions

12.00 - 13.00 Cocktail /Lunch, group photo and Poster session