



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



AFRICAN UNION  
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR  
ANIMAL RESOURCES



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (MAAIF), UGANDA

## LAUNCHING THE PROJECT FOR VACCINATION AGAINST NEGLECTED ANIMAL DISEASES (VACNADA)



**Hon. Hope Ruhindi Mwesigye**

Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries

### Introduction:

The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Uganda, has received 758,500 doses of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccine and 500,000 doses of Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) vaccine for hot spot vaccination of goats and sheep in Northern and Eastern Uganda, under the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The two diseases are trans-boundary and of high socioeconomic impact due to excessive morbidity and mortality. Uganda is landlocked and lies central among the East African countries—sharing borders with Kenya, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Rwanda and DRC. The small ruminant population in Uganda includes 12,449,670 goats and 3,410,370 sheep. The first outbreak was confirmed in Karamoja region in July, 2007. Over 500,000 animals are believed to have died between 2007 and 2008. The disease is believed to have now spread to include other districts and there is need for urgent intervention by vaccinating all the goats and sheep in high risk districts.

The project is funded under the European Union (EU) Food Facility Programme through the continental VACNADA programme. By the end of the project in August, 2011, it is anticipated that;

- about 700,000 goats and sheep in the high risk zones will have been vaccinated against PPR,
- about 450,000 goats in the high risk districts will have been vaccinated against CCPP,
- over 3 million farmers and market operators will have been sensitized on livestock diseases and their control,
- approximately 50 technical staff will have been trained on the diagnosis and surveillance of selected livestock diseases, and
- all the target districts and the Central Reference Laboratory at the National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC) will have received assorted laboratory, vaccination and cold chain equipment and materials.

The project is expected to improve the national capacity for

control of neglected diseases and other Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD's). The project has so far been launched in 23 districts in Uganda including; Kapchorwa, Katakwi, Kumi, Mbale, Sironko, Amuria, Bukedea, Bukwa, Kitgum, Lira, Pader, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Abim, Kaabong, Moroto, Napak, Amudat, Kween, Bulambuli, Alebtong, Ngora and Lamwo.

### Project Purpose:

VACNADA project is expected to contribute to a reduction of the impact of animal diseases in goats and sheep through increased access to quality vaccines. It is part of a regional programme involving the 26 African countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo Brazzaville, Congo DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. It is noteworthy that about 300 million people in Africa, living in poverty, depend on livestock for their livelihood but infectious diseases impact more than 20% losses to livestock productivity. Such diseases include Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats, contagious Caprine and Bovine Pleuropneumonias (CCPP & CBPP) in goats and cattle respectively, and Newcastle Disease (ND) in poultry.

The project's intervention is in response to soaring food prices to help the most vulnerable countries to move towards long-term food security through the reduction of the impact of animal diseases. It is regionally coordinated by AU-IBAR in close partnership with the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Center (AU-PANVAC), the Global Alliance for livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALV med), Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD) and the National Veterinary Authorities in the respective countries.

### Achievements so far:

- 758,500 doses of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccine have been received and distributed to the target districts
- and 500,000 doses of Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) vaccine have been received and distributed to the target districts
- Laboratory samples have been collected from Lamwo district, shipped to Vienna, Austria, and confirmed positive for PPR virus
- About 6,926 sheep and goats have been vaccinated in Lamwo district after a suspected CCPP outbreak along the Northern border with Sudan. PPR and CCPP vaccines are administered concurrently to minimize cost and maximize farmer compliance.
- About 200 VACNADA stickers have been distributed as a way of creating awareness
- A national inception meeting has been conducted for the different stakeholders

### Message by the Ministers of State for Animal Industry, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries on the inception of VACNADA project in Uganda



**Hon. Lt. Col. Bright K. Rwamirama**

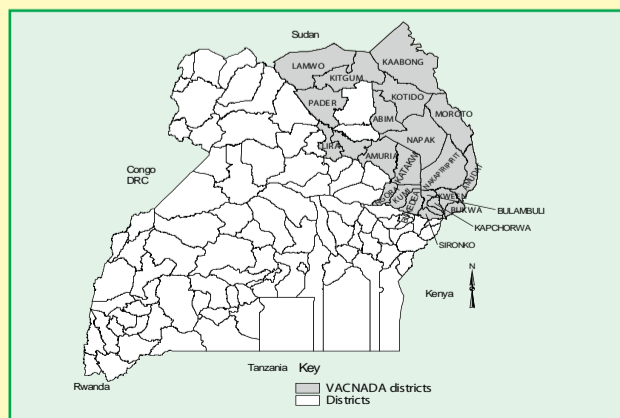
Minister of State for Animal Industry.

The need to control animal diseases in Uganda cannot be overemphasized. This is the time when the government is seriously considering export of beef and other livestock products to wider external markets. Food security and socioeconomic welfare are also very key issues in Uganda today. This project therefore is extremely significant in ensuring prosperity and freedom of our people.

I would like to express on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and of Government of Uganda, our appreciation to the VACNADA Project for getting concerned about VERY IMPORTANT BUT NEGLECTED animal diseases of goats and sheep, especially in Karamoja and the surrounding districts. This cluster is a home to a big percentage of the national herd with over 2.5 million goats and 2 million sheep. If the concerns of this region are not critically and properly dealt with, the part of the national herd therein could easily be decimated. This would consequently affect the food security and livelihoods of the people in this cluster.

I therefore, thank the European Union Food Facility Programme for funding the VACNADA continental project under the overall coordination of the InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Uganda government is taking keen interest in empowering farmers through a number of supplementary poverty alleviation programmes including the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme (NUREP), Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Programme (KIDDP). It is my sincere hope that VACNADA will address the problem of continuous spread of the deadly livestock diseases including PPR and CCPP. Uncontrolled movement of animals, cattle rustling and lack of farmer awareness seem to greatly contribute to the rampant spread of livestock diseases and it is therefore my sincere hope that this project will sort these issues out. I therefore wish to pledge Uganda's commitment and support to VACNADA Project for spearheading vaccinations against neglected animal diseases. I am sure that such efforts will also help out in controlling transboundary, as well as zoonotic animal diseases.



Map of Uganda showing the 23 districts in Northern and North Eastern Uganda that are implementing the control of PPR and CCPP under VACNADA project.



Vaccination of goats and sheep against PPR in Karamoja

