



TRYRAC-Trypanosomosis Rational Chemotherapy

Extraordinary PMC meeting Antwerp

September 30- October 2, 2014

Summarized minutes

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GPARD/ TRYRAC Management Board meeting – Antwerp 30th September, 1st, 2nd October 2015

1. Introduction - Meeting context

The necessity of an extraordinary PMC meeting was emphasized in the Mission Report of the joint FUB-ITM mission of June 2014 “Training WP 4 activities in the Guraghe zone, Ethiopia - June 10- 17 2014”

Activities in Ethiopia were questioned by the findings/observation of the mission and the following options were retained:

Option 1

TRYRAC has to accept Ethiopia’s national politics for Trypanosomoses and Tsetse control. Hence it will be up to the responsible technical services to decide whether the use of pour-on formulations or any other input will be provided either free of charge or at subsidized prices. But the concept of introducing sustainable ‘best-bet’ strategies for Trypanosomoses and Tsetse control would be gravely jeopardized. TRYRAC would face an uphill battle considering farmers’ attitudes and experiences with regard to national politics. Any farmer-based approach would therefore become obsolete. Within the available time frame TRYRAC’s objectives cannot be met. Under these circumstances the intervention should be terminated.

Option 2

There might be some constructive comments from our partner.

2. Agenda

List of Participants

Burkhard Bauer (independent expert), Antje Hoppenheit, Peter-Henning Clausen (Freie Universität Berlin – FUB), Eddy Timmermans, Joep Van Mierlo (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium – VSF), Anani Bankole (Direction de l’Elevage Togo - DE), Hermann Waibel (Leibniz University Of Hannover – LUH), Stanny Geerts (independent expert), Heidi Vanderheyden, Jan Van Den Abbeele, Vincent Delespau (Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp – ITM).

Thomas Cherenet (NAHDIC) (from the 01/10 afternoon)

Tuesday 30th September

General coordination (Vincent Delespau): Discussions were held with all partners on all WPs (mid-term progress).

General financial and administrative matters (Houssynatou Sy, Heidi Vanderheyden): audit, pre-financing, final budget reallocation

Face to face session on administration and finances with LUH, VSF, FUB: personalized forecast and pre-financing, contract amendment (budget reallocation), audit planning and results, varia.

Wednesday 1st October (morning)

Activities in Ethiopia were discussed:

-TRYRAC philosophy reminder (Vincent Delespau): a short presentation of the TRYRAC “Description of the Action” was made with emphasis on the sustainability and impact assessment.

-FUB-ITM missions in Ethiopia June 2014 (Antje Hoppenheit): the mission report available in the partner area of the website was summarized with emphasis on the conclusions.

-Vincent Delespau presented the comments of the absent partners on the FUB-ITM mission report of June 2014 (Zakaria Bengaly, CIRDES; Luis Neves, University of Pretoria).

-A general discussion with all present partners was held. The following points and comments were raised during this discussion:

- It was proposed that TRYRAC could be an adviser of the government within a subsidized system. This could optimize the use of resources by the government for a higher benefit of the farmers.
- It was questioned whether the Ethiopian partner is willing to continue the activities compliant with the TRYRAC project as the two systems are not compatible (i.e. subsidies from the government to the farmers (= ongoing system) and the sustainability approach proposed by TRYRAC based on revolving funds). The negative attitude of the farmers to TRYRAC that was experienced during the last FUB-ITM joint mission was found surprising since these farmers were present at the previous stakeholder meeting where it was clearly explained that TRYRAC was not offering free drugs and which seemed to be fully accepted by the farmers at that time. It was put forward that the simultaneous translation could be a potential source of misinterpretation. Translators clearly stated that no vector control operation was organized in the Guraghe zone and even that farmers were not aware of any technique. It was underlined that NAHDIC had a crucial role in the selection of the intervention region and that misinformation was clearly circulating between Southern Tsetse Eradication Program (STEP), NAHDIC and the farmers. We refer here to STEP but it might be the follower of STEP i.e. the recently created National Institute for the Control and Eradication of Tsetse and Trypanosomosis (NICETT).
- The role and pertinence of the PhD student (Dr. Tilahun Tekle) was questioned. It was emphasized that even when a PhD student is already enrolled, he can be stopped during the program in the case activities are not performed as planned or his capacities are not reaching a sufficient level required for a PhD defense.
- As a conclusion of the above described discussion the PMC proposed to send a firm statement to the Ethiopian partner with the following “key assumptions”: (1) Thomas Cherenet is responsible for a smooth synchronization of the project’s Action and the governmental activities, (2) an assessment of the insecticidal and acaricidal resistance situation should be performed imperatively since insecticides/acaricides have been widely used, (3) all data should be made available with a clear list of STEP/NICETT interventions, (4) the project is allowed to monitor the STEP/NICETT activities and to train different stakeholders when and where necessary, (5) the PhD student should go timely to the field for timely implementation of the planned activities, (6) the PhD student will report at least on a monthly basis and (7) a proof period will be determined so that a joint FUB-ITM mission can check whether these key assumptions are respected by NAHDIC before the end of 2014.

For the impact assessment, Hermann Waibel suggested to analyse the baseline survey, to train some Ethiopian staff and leave the final assessment to the newly trained persons. The initial program was jeopardized by the above described misunderstandings and the ‘best bet’ strategy will not be maintained for a period long enough to allow a proper impact within the timeframe of the project.

Wednesday 1st October (afternoon)

Thomas Cherenet presentation:

Dr Cherenet explained the new rules implemented by the Ethiopian Government. Subsidies and financial help for farmers were recently drastically decreased. Farmers pay now 60-75% of the price of the drugs. A revolving fund was started for trypanocides and insecticides. However, the government is 100% supporting SIT including insecticidal treatment for initial reduction of the vector population.

Peter-Henning Clausen was surprised about this unexpected change of policy regarding subsidies. Thomas Cherenet underlined the fact that the concept was created and was circulated among farmers by governmental agents.

Burkhard Bauer explained that partial subsidies still exist and was wondering how to synchronize actions between the government and TRYRAC. The choice of the insecticide to use should remain the responsibility of TRYRAC WP4. The governmental services engage themselves in assisting the project mostly at district level. Thomas Cherenet insisted again on the fact that “free is finished”, that the policy change was imposed by the government and that farmers had no other option than to accept the new situation. Thomas Cherenet confirmed that no vector control operation will happen and that all vector control is in the hands of the farmers.

The technical problem of importating an insecticidal/acaricidal spray formulation to Ethiopia was raised as well as the resistance against insecticides and acaricides. The situation has to be evaluated by the use of standardized bio assays.

Peter-Henning Clausen proposed that governmental extension services should organize a meeting with the farmers to ensure that farmers are ready for non-subsidized actions. Livestock extension services should join the TRYRAC meeting which is to be organized as soon as Thomas Cherenet confirms the willingness of the farmers to participate and the availability of liquid insecticide in the country.

A report by Thomas Cherenet will be sent to Vincent Delespaux before the 15th of November about the actions conducted to explain the new policy to the farmers so that the joint FUB-ITM mission could be planned for meeting the extension services and training of the PhD student. Thomas Cherenet confirmed that the PhD student was able to work 100% on the project and that no further obligations were planned for him. Training will be planned according to the WP 3 work plan proposed by FUB. Thomas Cherenet also agreed on a monthly feedback of the student to the TRYRAC. Thomas Cherenet insisted on the fact that his Institution was unable to pre-finance activities and that the agenda would be accepted as soon as funds would be available from the EC.

To do list:

- Thomas Cherenet has to meet with the farmers and obtain their agreement
- Insecticide must be imported (Decatix, no Smash)
- Finalizing the best bet protocol
- Mission schedules on the website
- Give a green light for mission VSF
- Inviting Dethié to the mission planned for December

Thursday 2nd October (morning)

Face to Face session on Administration and Finance with VET Togo & NADHIC (STEP): forecast and pre-financing, contract amendment (budget reallocation), audit planning and result, varia