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**REGIONAL MEETING
ON THE EVALUATION AND
COORDINATION OF THE
PAN-AFRICAN CAMPAIGN
AGAINST RINDERPEST AND
CONTAGIOUS BOVINE
PLEUROPNEUMONIA**

**OUAGADOUGOU FROM NOVEMBER
30th TO DECEMBER 4th, 1992**

R E P O R T

The 7th Regional Meeting on the Evaluation and the Coordination of the Pan-African Campaign against Rinderpest and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia was held from November 30th to December 4th, 1992, at the headquarters of O.N.A.C. The meeting was organised by the West and Central African Regional Coordination of the OAU Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign Project -PARC/OAU/IBAR.

Representatives of the following countries were present at the meeting:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Côte-d'Ivoire
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinée Conakry
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria
- C.A.R.
- Senegal
- Chad

as well as representatives of the following inter-governmental and international organisations:

- West African Economic Community (WAEC) -CEAO
- Permanent Inter-State Committee of the fight against drought in the Sahel (C.I.L.S.S.)
- Economic Community of Livestock and Meat (E.C.L.M.)
- Authority for Integrated Development of the Liptako Gourma Region (A.L.G.)
- Board of Directors OAU/IBAR/PARC
- European Economic Community (EEC)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The meeting was solemnly opened by his Excellency Mr Sina Sere, the Burkinabe Junior Minister in charge of Animal Resources.

Three speeches were delivered on this occasion: the first by Mr.KWE VERBLOW, EDF delegate to Burkina Faso, the second by Dr.MASIGA of OAU/IBAR, and finally the opening speech delivered by His Excellency Mr.Sina SERE.

In his speech, the delegate of the Commission of European Economic Communities to Burkina Faso, Mr.KWE VERBLOW recalled the efforts made by the EEC in the field of rinderpest control in Africa.

He noted with satisfaction the achievements in the various countries participating in the PARC Programme since 1986 when the first meeting was held in Tillabéry -Niger.

Dr.MASIGA, Director General of OAU/IBAR, on behalf of the Secretary General of the OAU, expressed gratitude to the Government of Burkina Faso for having accepted to host the meeting. He was satisfied with the significant achievements made since the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign was launched and on this occasion congratulated the sub-regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa.

He finally called upon the political authorities of the member states to continue their efforts in further supporting this programme against epizootic diseases and for the rehabilitation of veterinary services.

In his speech, his excellency Mr.Sina SERE, Junior Minister in charge of Animal Resources, appreciated the holding of this sub-regional evaluation and coordination meeting of the PARC projet for the second time in Burkina Faso, subsequently to the Bobo-Dioulasso meeting in 1987.

This favorable situation results from the collaboration established between our states and International Organisations as well as from the commitment of the national technical services in the field.

However, the persistence of rinderpest in East Africa should keep us on the alert. Moreover, due attention should also be given to CBPP and other diseases such as trypanosomiasis which slow down the development of our production. It is indispensable that we improve the animal disease control situation so that our countries could actively partake in international trade. Nevertheless, the improvement of animal health should be integrated into a global program of livestock and animal production development.

It is therefore necessary that the livestock sub-sector be integrated into ongoing political and economic change.

The private practice of the veterinary profession as well as the creation of specific Funds for livestock related activities must be established.

The Minister mentioned then the situation of Burkina Faso where the PARC programme is underway. He further thanked the EEC which is the major sponsor of the project, FAO as well as the Inter-Governmental Organisations of the sub-region for their support of the programme.

He finally congratulated the Director of OAU/IBAR and the entire PARC Project Coordination Unit for a job well done.

The meeting elected a committee with the following members:

Chairman : Burkina Faso
 Vice-Chairman : Nigeria
 Rapporteurs : Niger and Senegal.

Then the following agenda was adopted:

I.- PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PARC PROGRAMME

1.1.- Report from the West and Central African Regional Coordination, submitted by Dr. SIDIBE

1.2.- Status of Control of Bovine Rinderpest in West and Central Africa by Drs. THOMPSON and DOMENECH.

1.3.- Reports by the National Coordinations.

II.- GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ERADICATING RINDERPEST: Rome Meeting, by Dr. THOMPSON.

III. _PHASE II OF PARC PROJECT by K.H.POLITZAR

3.1.- Progress report on privatization

3.2.- Revitalization of veterinary services

3.3.- Comments on funding requests

IV.- COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

V.- PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PARC PROGRAMME

1.1.- Report by the West and Central Africa Regional Coordinator.

In his report on the status of epizootic diseases, the Regional Coordinator indicated that as far as rinderpest is concerned, one may venture to say without claiming victory too soon that it is under control. As a matter of fact, no outbreaks have been reported in West Africa since 1988. In countries such as Senegal, no outbreaks have been reported since 1978. The Gambia has claimed freedom from the disease and complied with the rules of verification of freedom from the disease following OIE criteria. In countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia, vaccination has been stopped for a long time. The last outbreaks recorded in the infectious focus of bovine rinderpest in West Africa date back to 1984 for Mauritania and 1986 for Mali. In the light of the 1991-1992 results, the immunity status of herds in the west and central African Regions may be improving, but is still far from the 80% target. Now seromonitoring is essential and should be taken into account in formulating any new strategy.

However, infection could occur in Central Africa. As a matter of fact, it is commonly accepted that rinderpest outbreaks exist in southern Sudan. Such outbreaks are a direct threat to herds in Chad, C.A.R. and Nigeria, the latter being at the receiving end as far as livestock marketing in west and central Africa is concerned. Owing to the difficulties in monitoring the movements of herds, the danger of outbreaks of the disease still exists in these two regions.

An immune barrier should be set up in central Africa in order to protect the west African livestock. For some experts, all animals within an area of 400 km around the Chad-Soudan-C.A.R.-Soudan borders must be vaccinated and marked. For the Central African Veterinary Services gathered in Garoua, Cameroon, it is suggested that all livestock of the states of the region be systematically vaccinated and marked.

The Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign Project, for which a funding agreement was signed in June 1986 in Addis-Ababa between the EEC and OAU, can be considered today as an achievement in West and Central Africa as regards rinderpest control. Governments of the region and I.G.O. which spared no effort in Coordinating vaccination campaigns, organizing strategic coordination among border veterinary services, thus bringing about the strengthening of the actions of the PARC Project, should be associated with this achievement.

The heads of veterinary services that you are must address certain issues:

-Are there high enough immunity rates in the region so that the risks related to the resurgence of rinderpest may be considered remote?

-Is the virus still circulating in West Africa, notably towards the West African coast where vaccination campaigns against rinderpest have not been conducted for a long time now for various reasons?

-Should you decision makers continue to allocate significant resources of your budgets and those of herders to the control of a disease which might be considered currently under control?

-Is this the time for implementing the supporting measures which had been advocated at the end of PC 15, but which were unfortunately not followed upon?

-Are there potential risks that herds of the area may be infected by other herds, coming particularly from southern Sudan?

You are being called upon to participate in providing answers to these questions at this 7th sub-regional meeting on the evaluation and coordination of national campaigns against rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

As far as Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia is concerned, the situation continues to be alarming. A certain number of countries report outbreaks. We must continue to promote research in our laboratories with a view to developing a quality vaccine which will provide a long lasting immunity. Discussions are underway about diagnosis and protection against CBPP and OIE plans to discuss the matter as a technical theme during its general session due to take place in 1994.

We believe that success in the control of C.B.P.P. will depend to a large extent on the efficiency of the diagnosis, the implementation of disease control measures, improved cooperation among veterinary services during the passages of livestock across borders. The coordinator wishes you could stick to the schedule of meetings planned on a yearly basis among yourselves. The success of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign will be confirmed and maintained on the condition that the countries involved be endowed with efficient information systems that will guarantee a satisfactory regional epidemiological surveillance.

Dealing with the subject of Revitalization of veterinary services and Privatization of Veterinary Practice, the Regional Coordinator indicated that the aim was to establish an efficient instrument which will be adapted to tasks that will be assigned to it and will operate on the basis of the resources which are either allocated by the Government or generated by the system itself. Tasks assigned to it are generally related to quality control: surveillance and control of major epizootic diseases, Animal Public Health, inspection of animal based food stuffs, monitoring of imports and exports of animals.

Resources supporting the realisation of such rehabilitation are twofold:

-allocation from the state budget for operational purposes (this should not be a salary budget only);

-Direct resources generated from the costs of services supplied and which form a National Livestock Development Fund.

-It should be mentioned that the livestock policy reforms suggested under the dialogue intent are well perceived nowadays by all the countries. A few actions must be underscored;

In Guinea-Conakry: financing indemnification for CBPP certified infected animals which are sent to the slaughterhouse.

-In Mali, settling 50 young veterinarians in the private sector.

-Adoption in several countries of regulations pertaining to veterinary practice (Veterinarians' Association, Health policing, laws about veterinary drugs, etc.)

-Collection of costs of services in more countries such as Senegal, Côte-d'Ivoire.

-Creation of a Livestock Development Fund in Mauritania. Subsequent to the presentation made by the regional coordinator, discussions focused on:

-The status of research on the role of the wild fauna in the transmission of rinderpest;

-Criteria adopted by O.I.E. for declaring countries free of rinderpest;

-The mandatory marking of vaccinated animals;

-The conditioning of vaccines on the field;

-The conditions for cessation of the antibi-pestic vaccination and the persistence of outbreaks in southern Sudan;

-The state of research on CBPP;

-The Control Strategy to adopt against CBPP;

-The example of stamping out in Guinea-Conakry:

-The monitoring of the movements of animals;

-The need for controlling both diseases;

-The collection of costs of services.

All such questions were satisfactorily addressed by the coordination of OAU/IBAR. Thus it was stated that:

-The wild fauna is not responsible for transmitting rinderpest.

-The O.I.E. criteria were reiterated, notably the need for surveillance services that are efficient enough and are allowing for the diagnosis of pest-like diseases.

-The research projects on CBPP were entrusted with C I R A D/IEMVT;

-The CBPP control strategy must include the monitoring of the movements of animals, mass vaccination carried out on a yearly basis and only under favorable epidemiological conditions, the introduction of stamping out in order to eliminate residual foci;

-Regarding the collection of costs of services, most of the countries currently sell the vaccine or have taken the decision to sell veterinary inputs.

1.2.STATUS OF RINDERPEST CONTROL IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In his intervention Dr.THOMPSON first of all gave an account of the situation prevailing in East Africa:

-Rinderpest persists in countries such as Sudan (southern zone), Ethiopia (northern part) and Uganda (north-eastern part).

-There is a serious problem of insecurity in the region.

-Movements of herds within the region and towards the Central African countries, or even West African countries, are very little checked. However, a lot has been done to cope with the situation. Thus about five million calves were vaccinated in 1991, in addition to measures taken in order to ensure checking the movements of herds. The seriousness of the problem, in spite of the measures cited above, calls for the establishment of a sanitary belt and eventually an immune barrier. This layout should prevent movements of herds within a radius of 300km and targeting transhumance corridors and marketing channels. Success of this action will depend on:

-the sensitization of political authorities;

- the involvement of herders;
- adequate and motivated technical staff;
- the creation of an international body in charge of supervision.

Regarding west and central Africa, Dr. Thompson suggests that risks inherent to the individual countries be weighed out prior to the cessation of vaccination against rinderpest. However the prerequisites to any decision to stop vaccination should be:

- efficient clinical and serological surveillance;
- availability of a working laboratory and functioning veterinary services ensuring differential diagnosis to be carried out as against all other pest-like diseases;
- existence of a mobilizable emergency fund;
- relationships with neighbor countries based on trust.

He finally concluded that countries such as Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and the C.A.R. should continue vaccinating whereas others like Senegal and Mauritania could just like the Gambia consider a strategy that would lead to cessation of vaccination.

Dr. Domenech focussed his contribution on the threat looming on Central African countries owing to the situation prevailing in East Africa. In that respect, he pointed out the various items on which recommendations were made at the meeting for coordinating and harmonizing zoo-sanitary actions at the borders between Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. These are:

- the need for immediate action to ensure systematic vaccination of the livestock in the sub-region;
- the harmonization of veterinary health certificates as well as livestock passports;
- the launching or continuation of the privatization process as well as the revitalization of veterinary services;
- the control of biting insects;
- the improvement of transport, storage and administration conditions of vaccines with a view to significantly increase the immune rate of livestock against rinderpest;

The discussion which followed these two reports focussed on the following items:

-Cessation or continuation of vaccination against rinderpest: it was evident that there were prerequisites to the cessation of vaccination. Two committees were set up to reflect upon the issue in relation respectively to rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

-Storage and utilization conditions of vaccines: he is positive that manufacturing conditions of vaccines are regularly checked. Nevertheless, it is indispensable that the storage and utilization conditions at the other end of the process comply with required standards. For that purpose, it was particularly recommended that physiological dilutants such as magnesium sulfate or sodium chloride be utilized.

1.3.- REPORTS BY NATIONAL COORDINATIONS

1.3.1. -BENIN

1.3.1.1. Report on Health Status and Results of the 1991-1992 Campaign.

In spite of the fact that field operation of the Benin PARC Project could not start during the past agro-pastoral season, because of constraints of a procedural nature, the health situation was more or less under control. As a matter of fact no rinderpest outbreak was reported. Nevertheless bovine pasteurellosis, foot and mouth disease under its mild form, pest in small ruminants, were reported here and there but none of the cases had reached dramatic proportions. In particular, there wasn't any notable development for CBPP as opposed to the previous year. The disease persists owing mostly to the movements of both national and foreign herds. A total of 9 outbreaks were reported, 8 of which occurred in the Borgou district and one in the Atlantic district; 234 animals were infected and 187 died.

Vaccination efforts can be summarized up as follows:

-rinderpest: 573,640 cattle, or 52.72% coverage rate;

-CBPP: 465.272 animals, or 42.76% of national livestock.

In our opinion, these relatively low rates can be explained by:

-the epizootic lull that has prevailed for a few years and the very poor perception by livestock owners of the risks that non-vaccinated animals may run;

- the economic factor (vaccines being henceforth for sale);
- the resurgence of the foot and mouth disease which did not allow the gathering of herds in many regions;
- the fact that the BENIN/PARC project field operations did not get off.

1.3.1.2.- Achievement in terms of Revitalization of Livestock Services in Benin

In compliance with the points of dialogue retained within the framework of the PARC project as well as the objectives of the restructuring of agricultural services project (P.R.S.A.) underway since 1988:

- The partial recovery of the cost of vaccination which was set off in 1983 has been completed;
- Both studies that were planned (modalities for the liberalization of veterinary medicine in Benin and needs for price regulation of the meat product market have been implemented; the final versions of the reports of such studies are already available. We shall soon submit summary to the national authorities along with proposals for structures and mechanisms aiming at making livestock services more efficient, i.e. to adapt them to the assignments which are henceforth theirs within the context of liberalization of veterinary medicine and provide them with the appropriate budgetary resources (from the government and from the collection of the costs of services provided).
- Training and gradual responsabilization of herders has started.
- The national veterinary pharmacy contributes up to 2% of its turnover to the operational costs of the livestock head office.
- The legislative and statutory texts pertaining to the order of veterinarians, health policing, fees for services, have been prepared and submitted to the government and parliament.
- Young professional graduates of the livestock sub-sector who apply may set up their own private practice.
- A national programme for voluntary early retirement from public service has been implemented for two years with the technical and financial backing of E.D.F., the World Bank and other donors.

-Audits of the various ministries are underway with a view to better defining the activities to be privatized, the size of the staff to be retained for an optimal operation of Public Administration, and to carrying out the necessary training in support of the programme.

-The equipments needed for the strengthening of the livestock services (rolling stock, refrigeration, office supply, technical and data processing and technical equipment) have been ordered and will be delivered soon.

-Priority veterinary check-points are in the process of construction at the borders.

-Subsequent to the working visit paid by Mr. Jean Mulder in September 1992, the draft document of the consolidation phase was prepared with the assistance of Dr. K.H. POLITZAR and transmitted to the National Authorities and to E.D.F. so that the future project can be considered with no delay.

1.3.1.3.- Plan for the 1992-1993 Campaign

Most of the practical steps towards a good preparation and a concerted implementation of vaccination campaigns against rinderpest and CBPP at the national and regional levels were taken, including:

- the setting up of mobile vaccination teams;
- the training/recycling of livestock workers as well as communicators in the strategy and philosophy of the PARC programme;
- the programming of specialized training in serology in liaison with the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Bamako;
- the supplying of pliers to the vaccination teams for marking purposes.
- the convening of consultation meetings with the border veterinary services of Burkina Faso and Niger;
- the ordering of various materials in view of the logistical support from the PARC project to the district livestock service;
- the media campaign through the rural radio network.

Given the growing awareness of the senior staff thanks to the P.R.S.A., the enthusiasm created among the livestock workers and the populations by the communication component, performances in terms of vaccination coverage have been clearly on the rise since June 1992 (antipasteurellosis campaign). We hope that we shall rise up to technical standards in order to consolidate the national health status.

1.3.2.- Burkina Faso

1.3.2.1- 1991-1992 Vaccination Campaign

The campaign against rinderpest which took place from October 1991 to March 1992 represents the second year of reorientation of vaccination activities within the framework of the strategy which was adopted in view of controlling the disease; the global context of this campaign was characterized by the following features:

-The absence since 1988 of any rinderpest outbreaks in the whole of West Africa;

-The creation of the groundwork for settling private veterinarians.

-The vaccination operations which were carried out in 4000 centers reached

. 1,394,319 cattle for rinderpest;

. 1,264,301 cattle for CBPP.

It must be noted that the objective, following the discriminating strategy, was to vaccinate 1,585,000 cattle (about 40% of the total herd) against both diseases.

The border meetings were held with all neighbours except Côte-d'Ivoire and Togo.

The bivalent vaccine was used in most cases and was sold to livestock owners.

The analysis of the 4,280 sera yielded the following results:

-68.90% for animals in the age group 0 to 1 year;

-75.60% for animals in the age group 1-2 years

-80.60% " " 2-3 "

-84.90% " over 3 years of age.

The process of revitalizing veterinary services was pursued through the settling of private veterinarians, the enactment of legislative texts and the carrying out of a study on privatization (setting up needs for young professionals) and the setting up of a livestock development fund):

-20 applications, 15 veterinarians settled , including 9 in urban areas and 5 in semi-urban areas and 1 in a rural area.

-Texts relating to the National Order of Veterinarians were enacted.

In conclusion one may say that the 1991-1992 campaign took place without major problems. The vaccination coverage rates were satisfactory (87.9% for rinderpest and 79% for CBPP). Moreover, the Elisa tests have actually started .

1.3.2.2.- 1992-1993 Campaign

Subsequent to the achievements of the previous campaigns the 1992-1993 campaign will take place within the following context:

-Availability of the first results of the Elisa tests;

-Private veterinary practice alongside the public sector. The strategy to adopt will be as follows:

Systematic vaccination or re-vaccination of all animals from 0 to 2 years of age;

.Vaccination from the borders towards the interior with an optimal coverage at the borders (sanitary cordon);

.Maximum utilization of the bivalent vaccine obtained in Garoua and Dakar.

.The target for this campaign is 1,652,000 cattle vaccinated against both diseases;

The campaign will be carried out in two major phases:

*A technical and material preparation phase;

*Another phase for the vaccination operations.

Sera will be collected and the Elisa tests will be conducted. The process of revitalization of veterinary services will also be pursued with the same determination.

1.3.3.- Côte-d'Ivoire

The PARC Project has undergone a favorable development in Côte-d'Ivoire. The main achievements were made in the technical and in the reform areas.

1.3.3.1.- Major Technical Achievements

The technical programmes which were identified and carried out during the previous years included:

- the construction of 4 additional entry posts in order to improve the checking and health surveillance facilities at the borders;

- the equipment of the project (with vehicles, technical materials, etc.) with a view to improving the performances of the Head Office of veterinary services as well as field interventions for the vaccination campaigns;

- the setting up of a health surveillance network at the national level;

- the rehabilitation of the central distribution network of veterinary medicine, including the involvement of the project in the marketing of products with a view to ensuring the dissemination of such products throughout the country.

The marketing of the veterinary drugs has led to the creation of a reimbursement fund;

- the contribution of the project to the improvement of the health coverage is very important, including the following results:

a) Census of livestock

The total cattle population was 1,093,037 in 1991 as against 1,087,791 in 1990, 1,048,295, in 1989 and 956,356 in 1988. This population included 56.2% of fixed herds, 37.2% of transhuming cattle and 6.7% of cart oxen.

b)-Status of Rinderpest and CBPP outbreaks

- *The rinderpest status has been stable since 1986; no outbreak has been reported since then;

- *The number of CBPP outbreaks rose from 14 in 1989 to 44 in 1990 and 16 in 1991.

*Out of the 16 outbreaks, 10 were diagnosed in a laboratory, i.e. 62.5% as against 59% in 1990.

*With 13,788 cattle in 57 herds at risk, the outbreaks resulted in 120 deaths as against 197 in 1990, 35 animals were slaughtered as against 152 in 1990 and there were 12,887 emergency vaccinations.

*A slight decrease in CBPP outbreaks is reported. Yet one should be very careful because of the reduction in field interventions that is rather due to a lack of means. This may have led to unreliable census figures for CBPP, therefore fewer outbreaks in 1991.

c)-Immunization against rinderpest and CBPP

*Regarding rinderpest: the vaccination coverage went from 84% in 1988 to 90.4% in 1990 and 57.65% in 1991.

*Regarding CBPP: the coverage went from 85% in 1989 to 90.4% in 1991 and 71.32% in 1991.

As regards rinderpest, the low coverage is normal owing to the fact that the strategy adopted in 1991 consisted in vaccinating but the younger animals or those adults bearing but one clover mark or bearing no mark at all. Conversely the CBPP coverage is below normal estimates because that one involved all subjects old enough to be vaccinated.

-The setting up of a sero-surveillance programme:

The serological monitoring shows that the immune antibovine status of the herds that was 80% in 1989 had risen to 88% in 1990.

-The contribution of the project towards specialized training for 4 veterinary doctors in microbiology and the recycling of field staff.

-The setting up of a concerted cooperation programme at the borders with neighbors (Mali, Burkina Faso, with a view to achieving a better surveillance of such borders.

-The funding of two studies on the establishment of a compensatory levy system and privatization of veterinary services as well as training.

*Continuation of the programme in 1992.

For that year, a few significant actions were carried out, contributing towards the consolidation of achievements in the field of animal health. The programme selected three priorities:

1.) Assistance to the 1992 Vaccination Campaign

Just as in 1991, the 1992 rinderpest strategy involved but the non vaccinated younger animals of the 6 to 12 months age group and the adults bearing no clover mark or bearing a single ear-mark. CBPP vaccination was continued with the animals old enough to be vaccinated.

The results of the campaign will be available at the end of the year.

The project's interventions consisted of supplying vaccines and materials, repairing vehicles and supplying fuel during the vaccination periods.

The vaccinations were organised under the form of mobile teams of intervention from the sector chief-towns and extending over the whole territory. These teams were backed in some cases by the base training personnel still available.

The objective of this vaccination campaign consisted in ensuring the maintenance of the immunity status of the cattle against rinderpest and the fall of the CBPP rates at a level compatible with sanitary slaughterings.

2- Laboratory Activities

*The lab activities concerned mainly serosurveillance against rinderpest and have been limited to the ranches where the rates of immunity against rinderpest were inferior to those of the whole territory.

*The serosurveillance campaigns also bore on the species of sheep and goat which were vaccinated against small ruminants' pests with rinderpest heterology vaccine.

*The project's intervention consisted mainly in supplying fuel, maintenance of vehicles for field trips and travel expenses.

3- The Pilot Programme of Liberalization of the Veterinary Profession (not yet implemented)

The individual projects concerned mainly:

-The opening of veterinary units for rural practice; the veterinary unit is an establishment grouping together a pharmacy warehouse and a treatment room.

The funding concerned private veterinary medicine and the programme spread over four years at most, operating a junction with Phase II of the PARC I.C. Project, in which a more important component of settling veterinarians is planned.

1.3.3.2- The Main Reforms Induced by the Project

As far as main reforms are concerned, we can quote:

-The effective setting up of the compensatory levy system on imported meat of extra-African origin since January 28, 1991. The system has become operational and has allowed to levy to date nearly 1 billion CFA Francs for the year 1991.

-The progressive elimination of subsidies on the veterinarian drugs distributed by the public and parastatal services to herders and producers. Since April 1991, the elimination of the subsidy has been total;

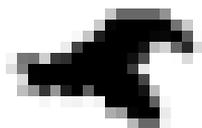
-The beginnings of a reflection on liberalizing the veterinary profession.

1.3.4- Gabon

The situation of Gabon shows that 85% of his country is covered by shadow thick forest. Only some savannah areas located in the south of the country broken with forest galleries allow cattle breeding. Small ruminants are found in all rural households in the country.

In 1978, after a seminar held by the technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, the State granted financial support to promote livestock raising in the country. Thus, 3 ranches were established and managed by SOGADEL with the technical assistance of Jules Van Lancker Company. The populating of the production units caused animal movements from countries such as Senegal and The Gambia where contagious diseases were sometimes rampant.

Currently, the national bovine herd is about 36,000 cattle. In 1985 small scale village stock raising units were initiated and are developing smoothly.



In order not to put a brake on these efforts, Gabon has secured a veterinary service capable of assuming protection of the national herd. It is therefore to fight against the appearance of these devastating diseases that our country subscribed to the regional project against rinderpest and CBPP.

Gabon PARC Project Situation

At the Gabon Government's request, successive missions carried out by Dr. CHENEAU and Dr. POLITZAR led to the drafting of a project document which was submitted to EEC for funding, Gabon being considered as a buffer zone in Central Africa, the main objective being the revitalization of veterinary services.

From 1988 up to date, the project has experienced a slow evolution imputable to the administrative procedures imposed by the EEC.

The recruitment of the Technical Assistant, a prerequisite to the beginning of the project, took 3 years. The latter was recruited in 1991 and arrived in Gabon in August 1991.

Since his coming into office, the concrete achievements have been very few and limited to the peri-urban area of Libreville.

The programme estimate and the bid for tender were introduced in June 1992. The invitation files to tender were perused and analysed at the end of September 1992. The minutes of the analysis were sent to the National Officer with power to authorize expenditures for the request of market attributions. We hope to acquire the 6 lots of material during the first quarter of 1993, that is, in the 5 or 6 last months of the project calendar.

The repair work on the veterinary centers has not yet begun, while the persons in charge of the veterinary sub-offices are already in place.

During Mr. MULDER's visit (17 - 21 Septembre 1992) we reviewed the state of the project in Gabon while putting it in the particular perspective of a country which was free of rinderpest.

Ongoing Realizations

Some elements contained in the project objectives served as bases for concrete actions:

-The veterinary pharmacy with the setting up of a management method accepted in the framework of the project to polish its handling. The drugs are sold with a profit margin and herders welcome this system favorably;

-The timely interventions, for which trips to the farms are paid for by the farmers themselves;

-The herders's groupings: 8 months ago, an association of poultry farmers of the peri-urban area of Libreville was created;

-The cattle food: solutions to allow the supply of fodder at low cost are being studied;

-Improvement of grazing lands: to allow the development of sheep breeding, a grazing lands improvement programme will be set up and the plots for seeding have been identified.

Health Actions

Though the thick forest continues to be a natural barrier to the introduction of contagious diseases, SOGATEL, who is in charge of managing the ranches and the village component, makes systematic annual vaccinations against rinderpest, contagious pleuromneumonia, anthrax and brucellosis, even if no pest focus is reported.

Apart from these actions in controlled cattle raising, no national vaccination campaign has been undertaken to-date even if this component exists in the PARC project. However, this part will concern but four provinces of the country where the animal production is more important and which constitute the target provinces of the project.

As far as legislation is concerned, texts relating to the practice of the veterinary profession and veterinary pharmacy are being drafted. The texts relating to health policy and the inspection of food products of animal origin which date back from 1965 are being up-dated.

Finally, if the privatization of the profession constitutes for the time being an objective that cannot be circumvented, it remains that the small number of veterinarians (3) and the small size of the animal population (35,000 animals) as well as the scattering of the herd cannot put such privatization in the first rank among our concerns.

1.4.5.- Ghana

Ghana now has an estimated cattle population of 1.2 million heads. About 80% are made of West African shorthorns, the rest being made up of N'damas, sangas and zebus, in that order.

1.4.5.1 -Disease Situation

Between January and August, 1992, the following disease outbreaks were reported in cattle:

Disease	No. of Cases	Losses
Anthrax	12	31
Trypanosomiasis	1	1
Black leg	1	2
Lumpy skin disease	2	3
Tuberculosis	-	10 Diagnosed during meat inspection

No cases of rinderpest and CBPP were reported.

PARC in Ghana

The PARC I programme in Ghana was submitted as early as 1987. However the financial proposals relating to it were concluded between January and July, 1990 by the EEC and OAU (February, May) on the one hand and the EEC and Ghana (July) on the other hand.

Tender documents for the supply of campaign equipment and materials were finalized in the latter part of 1991 (September). The supply of equipment and materials began arriving in May 1992, and before the end of July, equipment and materials had been delivered.

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The Commission Delegate of the EEC in Ghana officially handed over the equipment and materials consisting of vehicles, cold chain, vaccine, veterinary and campaign equipment on June 30, 1992.

1.a- Vaccination Campaign

Vaccination against rinderpest started as early as April this year in some selected areas in three regions, using whatever resources were available, that is before the arrival of PARC equipment. This was necessary because at other times the weather and other conditions in these areas would have made the attempt futile. 312,488 cattle had been vaccinated by the end of August. By September vaccination was in progress in most areas of the country and is expected to be completed by December this year.

PARC in Ghana was officially launched on October 21 by the Secretary of Agriculture in an important cattle area of the north. CBPP: only 7,042 cattle were vaccinated.

1.b- Serosurveillance

Between May and August this year, the Pong-Tamale and Accra laboratories carried out a serological survey to estimate the level of successful vaccination during the 1991/1992 National Rinderpest Campaign. Using a random sampling frame, 1,398 sera were collected from thirty five (35) sampling sites, and examined for antibodies using the FAO/IAEA-Elisa based procedure. The results showed that on the average 71% of the animals vaccinated were protected (immune).

1.3.5.2.- Organization of Livestock Farmers into Associations

To-date, about 11 livestock associations have been established in the Upper Western Region while (5) are being in the Upper Eastern part of the country. Marking irons, reflecting devices to help control cattle theft and regarded as symbols for farmers' associations, have been given to some of the already formed associations.

1.3.5.3- Privatization of Veterinary Services

Steps have been taken during the year to prepare the ground for veterinarians, when they set up private practices, to operate with legal backing. In September, a draft veterinary law was submitted to government for enactment. Meanwhile a privatization steering committee has been set up and will review applications for candidates to private practice.

1.3.5.4. -PARC Communication

Illustrated discussions with flipcharts, posters, billboards, etc. were prepared in the first quarter. In July a training seminar in the use of these aids was held for Regional Officers, leaders of vaccination and advanced collection teams. A workshop on the strategies and objectives of PARC II in Ghana was organized for the livestock community in October, one day before the official launching of the project. The organization of rural radio fora with farmers/herders has just been completed in the two northern regions of Ghana. The northern region which holds about 40% of Ghana's cattle is the more involved.

1.3.5.5.- Border Harmonization

Two meetings took place this year. The first was with Burkina Faso in Bolgatanga/Ghana in January and the second with Togo in Kpalime/Togo. A meeting with Côte-d'Ivoire could not come off despite the obstinate attempts at contacting the Director of Veterinary Services of our neighbor.

Technical Assistance

1)- Integration of small ruminants into arable cropping in the Western Region of Ghana: a Dutch consulting firm, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF) has submitted its reports. This is to be part of an integrated agricultural development programme for the Western Region which has the largest tree species in Ghana.

1.3.6- Guinea

1.3.6.1. - Epizootic Situation

Compared to 1991, it has not progressed significantly. CBPP is widespread in Upper Guinea and at Beyla in Forest Guinea. Rinderpest has been absent from the country since 1967; which could confer on Guinea the status of disease free country; vaccination against the disease takes place but along a North and North-east border protection belt which is 50 km deep. The partial results of vaccination campaigns which end towards December 15, 1992 are the following:

CBPP: 383,261

Rinderpest: 70,250

In 1991, the final results of vaccination campaigns were as follows:

CBPP: 389,125; CBPP + Pest=180,000 Rinderpest: 131,546

The predictions were reviewed toward lower figures for vaccination against rinderpest: 150,000 in Middle-Guinea, 160,000 for the CBPP + Pest bivalent in Upper Guinea and will be further reduced in 1993 and 1994 and will finally involve mainly CBPP.

Numerous steps have been taken for integrating Guinea to the Panafrican Rinderpest Campaign (OARC). A project to that effect is being discussed between the Guinean Authorities, the Commission of European Communities and OAU/IBAR.

The Diagnosis Veterinary Laboratory, in its on-going programme, will undertake a serological survey that will bear on the immunity rate of our cattle.

As far as the particular control of CBPP is concerned, in addition to vaccination, one must remember that the sanitary cordon is operating between the endemic disease area (Upper Guinea) and the no disease area (Mid-Guinea) and we are experimenting with a reduced funding procedure of indemnification of herders who have voluntarily delivered to butchers, under veterinary control, the animals which had pleuropneumonia.

This operation really began in May 1992 in the Prefectures of Dabola and Dinguiraye and has given the following results:

No. of Payment	Period	Prefecture	Beneficiary	Animals Slaughtered	Amount of Allowance
1	May	Dabola	10	15	600,000
		Dinguiraye	2	11	440,000
2	June	Dabola	15	20	800,000
		Dinguiraye	5	2	480,000
3	August	Dabola	70	82*	520,000
		Dinguiraye	-	25*	

*69 animals belonging to 62 herders were slaughtered without indemnification in Dabola between June and August 1992.

** During the same period, in Dinguiraye, 25 animals were slaughtered without indemnification. The leader of the Kankan vaccination base, coordinator of the operation, doubts of the morals of some agents and local authorities in their statements with respect to slaughtering; that's why he delayed the payment of allowances. If it is true that the goal sought by the operation could reduce the incidence of the disease through elimination of sick animals and the extinction of some foci, it remains also true that the indemnification procedure better encourages the herders not to hide their sick animals any more from veterinarians but could at the same time tempt the latter to declare sick all slaughtered animals, even those which were healthy, so to be able to take more money out. This possibility is real and the observation in the field is that in three (3) months of indemnification, the only two experimental Prefectures show a number of sick animals equal to half the figure reported for the whole endemic area. A survey is in progress to make the necessary corrections. Because of the prudence observed in releasing the funds and the stringent conditions for granting indemnities, the results obtained can be considered satisfactory.

The management of funds and the follow-up in the field must be the responsibility of capable and honest officers. It is yet too early to draw conclusions on the experiment that has lasted only 3 months.

Harmonization meetings of vaccination campaigns with neighboring countries have not been held for two years. Senegal announced its arrival and was awaited at Labé but cancelled its visit at the last minute without advance notice. Guinea was supposed to go to Mali but postponed the trip because of a schedule problem.

As for privatization of the veterinary profession, it has not progressed compared to 1991. The picture is as follows: set up: 1 veterinary practice, 6 veterinarians associated with chemists for the distribution of veterinary drugs: 1 poultry food maker.

Candidates/ 15 files recorded as follows:

Veterinary practice	2
Cattle breeding	2
Poultry farming	6
Pig farming	4
Cattle feeding	1

In the framework of the V.S.R.P., privatization of the Veterinary Services level is in good place through a loan agreement concluded between the Republic of Guinea and IDA. For the implementation of this agreement, the National Livestock Department undertook several actions among which the sensitization and selection of the candidates, the search for a specialized structure of credit and the drafting of a subsidiary protocole of agreement, the establishment of a loan committee.

To-date, the N.D.L. has settled down to the technical and financial study of the files, at the end of which study the applicant meeting the conditions will have access to the credit. This component grants but development credits and not establishment ones; this conditional approach closes the door to many candidates among whom are those laid off from the civil service and young qualified people. The absence of a development bank with a reliable structure of rural credit and recognized by the state is another difficulty, and not a negligible one, that hinders the emergence of privatization in the sub-sector; the very high interest rates also fit in this category.

The National Livestock Department welcomes the idea of a sub-regional cooperation in the fight against forgery of veterinary drugs. Nowadays it is necessary to harmonize the policy of our states in that field, and short of being able to create a monitoring unit per country one could refer at least to a reference laboratory to analyse samples of veterinary drugs. It is useful to exchange information in the health field as well as information concerning veterinary products or bioproducts.

1.3.7 - Mali

The fourth year of the PARC in Mali, fully financed by the PARC VACCINE FUND, took place in a context marked on the one hand by the social events that shook the North and North East areas of the country where since June, total insecurity has been the rule and, on the other hand, by an irregular supply of vaccines to the vaccination mobile teams, following the fact that the supplier was out of stock.

Despite these serious handicaps that disturbed programming, the health situation remains good as far as rinderpest is concerned, no focus having been reported since 1986. It is improving vis-à-vis CBPP thanks to the implementation of health policy measures and a further investigation of the PARC epidemiological follow-up team in the field.

Vaccinations against rinderpest and CBPP involved respectively 1,856,866 and 1,215,591 cattle, against 1,856,512 and 1,688,414 cattle for the 1990/91 campaign. They were respectively 2,415,183 and 2,302,993 in 1989/90.

The average rates of immunity coverage were: 52.5% (in 1989), 76.61%(in 1990), 77,07%(in 1991) and 67.79% (in 1992).

We can observe that for two years insecurity has established itself in the North and North-West border areas of the country; our efforts tending to bring the immunity coverage in closer relationship with the vaccinal coverage are somewhat slowed down.

However the in-depth work done as early as the PARC's first two years has allowed to achieve results that are still maintained in the fourth year where animals of over 2 years of age have an average rate of immunity coverage of about 78.66% (vaccinated animals). In fact, the danger would be more at the level of the 1-2 year old animals and those never vaccinated or having escaped vaccination.

From the financial standpoint, the intermediate phase of the project ended in September 1991 for the animal health activities, but still goes on correctly in the context of the "privatization credit line" component.

It is therefore all naturally and in perfect harmony with the PARC project philosophy on herders' contribution through the purchase of vaccines that it was possible to take over through funding entirely the operational costs of the 4th year as well as those of the 5th year of PARC that has just begun in October 1992.

We intend to make use of this fifth vaccination campaign to prepare the effective beginning of the large livestock sector revitalization project; the funding file, finalised in taking into account the OAU/IBAR and EDF observations, is now submitted to the EEC approval in the framework of the Regional Indicative Programme. At the same time, a second funding request to complete the first one for the adequate execution of all the project's components is prepared and will soon be sent to the PARC/Mali National Authorization Officer in the framework of the national indicative programme.

1.3.8- Mauritania

1.3.8.1.- Vaccination Campaign against Rinderpest

Though Mauritania was included in the PARC launched in 1986 by the agreement between the EEC and OAU, the country has never benefited from the financial assistance and up to 1990 had subsidised its vaccination campaigns on counterpart funds of the EEC food assistance or on IDA credits.

The direct funding through PARC might begin in 1993 if we refer to the different consultations done in 1991 and 1992 but this still remains only an assumption.

This vaccination campaign is organised annually from the month of October and generally ends towards March of the following year. It is mainly geared toward rinderpest and CBPP but vaccination against anthrax and botulism are often practiced at the same time.

In the past, these vaccinations were important, particularly during the 1979-1985 campaigns because there existed residual foci of the two first affections. But since their disappearance respectively in 1985 and 1986 and despite the compulsory character of these veterinary interventions, they are constantly diminishing for related reasons: they are now charged and the herders are not keen on spending money to treat diseases which they no longer perceive as dangerous.

However, the possible existence of these diseases in non controlled or troubled neighboring sectors requires permanent attention and above all control of the degree of immunization of the most threatened herd, the one in the East.

Traditional transhumances are also strongly diminishing, which lowers the risk of contamination but they still exist and are sources of danger.

One should know that other diseases such as botulism and anthrax are sometimes pathological dominants in some livestock areas but they are "seasonal" and most of the time, herders request the intervention of the veterinary services when they have already lost some animals.

Finally, it should be kept in mind that in the framework of the national vaccination campaign, a serological investigation led by the National Livestock and Veterinary Research Center (CNERV) in cooperation with the veterinary laboratory of Bingerville in Côte-d'Ivoire, has given seropositivity results of 57% for rinderpest (based on a sample of 755 animals) in 1990-91 and 28% in 1991-92 but this latter result refers only to three areas (the two hodhs and the Brakna) the latter being far from contamination risks, transhumance toward Senegal being non existant. Nevertheless, sustained caution must be exercised at any moment by the livestock agents, above all those of the regions and information through radio may be immediately conveyed to the Head Office.

Number of Vaccinated Cattle

1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
766,308	911,111	785,535	609,776	639,536	575,989	518,222	482,080

1.3.8.2- Privatization of Veterinary Activities

For two years, the objective of the Government has been focused toward the private sector to take an active part in the investment and production of the rural sector level.

To that effect, many private livestock projects have been examined and backed by the National Livestock Office and the tendency is now to encourage privatization in a field that was the exclusive responsibility of the administrative services, that of animal health in particular.

Consequently, a draft decree is being written to regulate the insertion of private businessmen in the main activities of animal health according to prevention, detection, collective or individual treatment actions, and in the supplying of drugs and inputs, not under the complementary form any more but more under the form of substitution to public service. In the current Mauritanian context, the substitution of the state in the prevention and treatment of animals is still premature for two reasons: herders refuse to take up more costs while they have already been taking care, for some years, of the payment of the vaccines and some other medicine, and the fact that the number of veterinary doctors is too small to have reliable action in the private sector.

As a result, it is mainly the supply of drugs and veterinary inputs that the draft decree will regulate in its preliminary phase and such decree will be modified in later years according to the process of evolution.

1.3.8.3- Livestock Development Fund

This fund was created in 1991 and the nature of its sources is defined as follows:

- a customs tax of 9% on the veterinary inputs and materials imported by the private sector and deposited in an account of the treasury.

- a retrocession of 15% of the annual turnover of the livestock inputs bureau (BIE) raised in the framework of "Livestock II" project. This fund allows to finance, among other things, the acquisition of cold material, drugs and vaccines, facilities, charges and service goods ... etc.

This fund currently faces a joint requirement of the IMF and the World Bank which, nevertheless, had recommended if not demanded it, and which is "the suppression of extra-budgetary funding channels in a concern for budgetary orthodoxy". This fund will be compensated with difficulty by budgeting the operation and investments of the Livestock Services and this will surely lead to disruptions in its future actions.

To avoid this decision, it would be desirable to plan the institution of taxes on the registration and the control of veterinary drugs and livestock supplies when issuing authorization for marketing that could be done through structures of the Livestock Head Office.

1.3.8.4- Forgery of Veterinary Drugs

Mauritania is not yet confronted with such a phenomenon or at most no case of drug forgery has been observed.

Even if the imports seem sometimes disorderly, it appears that these drugs meet the classical standard, particularly because of a strong competition through which "bad drugs" do not have customers on the market.

But it has sometimes been observed that expired drugs were still sold and it must still be determined if they expired locally or before they were imported. For the time being, the system seems to work correctly though in the future, emphasis must be put on control.

Already, the central services have turned on "the indicator lights" by informing the regional services of these possible forgeries and by warning them against all forms of veterinary drug "piracy".

1.3.9. - Niger

1.3.9.1- The 1991-1992 Vaccination Campaign.

The 1991-92 vaccination campaign coincided with the setting up of the PARC project in Niger. Therefore, the project intervened only in funding serosurveillance.

The 1991-92 vaccination campaign encountered the following difficulties:

- insufficiency of material and financial means;
- very early departure of herds in transhumance;
- vaccine shortages;
- insecurity in the northern part of the country.

Nevertheless, one can note the double merit of the current campaign in terms of the following:

a) first national paying campaign with very modest prices of 25francs per cattle and 10F per small ruminant vaccinated;

b) testing of the funding capacity of the vaccination campaigns by the territorial collectivities. As a matter of fact, their contribution has reached a proportion of 80% of charges relating to the current campaign (purchase of vaccine, fuel, technical materials, recruitment of auxiliaries for vaccination).

1.3.9.1.1 - The Objectives of this 1991-1992 campaign were the following:

- Vaccination of 80% of the cattle despite the numerous negative factors;
- Vaccination of 100% of young cattle of over 6 months;
- Systematic marking of all vaccinated animals;

- Organization of a serosurveillance campaign;
- Border meetings with neighboring countries;
- Vaccination of small ruminants against PPR.

1.3.9.1.2 - Campaign Results

Cattle against rinderpest and CBPP: 6167,514 animals, i.e.. a vaccinal coverage of 24.59% against 54% in 1990.

Small ruminants against PPR: 585,907, i.e. a vaccinal coverage of 5.18% against 20% in 1990.

1.3.9.1.3 - Rinderpest and CBPP situation

No rinderpest focus has been reported in the country since 1984. As for CBPP, we observe an increase of foci: 8 foci registered on small size cattle -10 -20 animals- back from transhumance. Fortunately these foci were quickly controlled through the joint efforts of the field veterinary services.

1.3.9.2. - PARC project evolution in Niger

The PARC project started in Niger in October 1991.

1.3.9.2.1 - Serosurveillance

6,540 sera collected and analysed by the ELISA method. The immunity rate obtained was 55% on the average. This rate varies according to regions and age of animals. It is 47% for young from 0 to 1 year of age, 46% for 2 - 3 year old animals and 64% for animals over 3 years .

1.3.9.2.2.- Revitalization of Veterinary Services

A/ Privatization of service activities in the livestock field.

On the institutional level. Niger encouraged the creation and energization of many associations working in the field of livestock development:

- The national association of Niger veterinarians;
- The national association of zootechnicians and Agropastoralists;
- 4 national associations of herders.

At the regulatory level: awaiting the end of the government transition, and to facilitate the starting of some livestock activities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock undertook the following actions:

- Enactment of decision no.115 dated 10/7/92 defining the conditions of private practice and /or exploitation of the veterinary pharmacy;
- Draft order determining the conditions for the practice of the veterinary profession.

Practical Organization of Privatization: the Head Office of Livestock and animal Industries has developed a programme entitled PAIPE (Programme of Support to Private Initiatives in Livestock). The main lines are:

- The private practice of medicine and pharmacy;
- The observation of sanitary terms;
- The socio-economic follow-up of private individual or associative breeding.

As far as private practice of veterinary medicine and pharmacy is concerned, two concrete actions must be noted:

- 11 warehouses of veterinary products were authorized;
- The PARC project is setting up a supply station of veterinary products for promoting a network of drug distribution in the field.

B/ National Livestock Development Fund.

The process is engaged by the drafting of an order and a decree of implementation. The fund should be supplied by the following levies and taxes:

- * 2% of declared value of animals and animal products at customs;
- * 20% increase of animal identification taxes on the market;
- * 10F and 5F taxes on the controlled slaughtering of large and small ruminants respectively;
- * 2% taxes on veterinary import products;

A simulation by statistical data showed that the annual amount of these levies and taxes that would supply this fund could go up to 156 million CFA Francs.

C/ Communication/Information

This component began in June 1992 and works closely with the herders' associations. A national programme of communication has been set up.

1.3.9.2.3 - Border Meetings

Border meetings take place with the border technicians of neighboring countries: Burkina, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Mali.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The campaign should be evaluated in terms of achievements for the paying vaccination campaigns supported by the participation of the different partners and not in terms of vaccination figures.

Although vaccination figures are decreasing, serosurveillance results dropped by 3.4% only as against the 1989 figure.

As far as privatization is concerned it appears that Niger has resolutely embarked on the road to privatization through a gradual and careful approach by providing competent officers with possibilities in the private sector and by creating the National Livestock Development Fund (NLDF) in order to cope with the animal health and production problems.

In order to achieve a good storage of vaccines, PARC should endeavour to either undertake a renewal of the cold chain or extend thermostable vaccines made with our local strains. Finally, in the framework of the revitalization of veterinary services, communication does play an important role. That's why this activity should be granted additional financial backing by the PARC.

1.3.10. NIGERIA

The resurgence of rinderpest outbreaks in 1983 led the Nigerian government to set up a National Control Programme and later PARC which resulted in the reduction of outbreak figures from 1,081 with 500 losses, 158 heads in 1983, to only 1 outbreak with 173 losses in 1987. No outbreak was reported from 1987 until October 1992, when rinderpest was diagnosed in a bull in a herd of 28 heads. The bull died 10 days later.

Conversely the situation with CBPP was completely different, with outbreaks on the increase despite efforts at conducting vaccination campaigns. This called for a three year national CBPP control Programme, due to start in January 1993.

Vaccination figures for rinderpest for the years 1988-1991 are 4.2 million, 2.3 million, 4.4 million and 4.2 million, respectively. Corresponding figures for CBPP are 3.7 million, 3 million, 4 million and 4 million, respectively.

Seromonitoring activities on rinderpest have shown an increase of the national herd coverage from 37% in 1990 to 47% in 1991. To date sera have been collected from 14 of the 16 states identified for sampling. Samples are presently being processed.

We are presently about to start Phase II of the PARC Project. We have also set up a revolving fund for the supply of drugs to veterinary services in countries of the Federation. At the same time we promote diagnostic services and renovation of veterinary clinics in member states.

Since Nigeria is always at the receiving end with regard to animal movements and subsequently with regard to the transmission of disease within the West and Central African sub-region we can only hope that our neighbors increase their efforts in applying adequate zoo-sanitary measures within the framework of PARC.

We would like to seize this opportunity to report the death of our Director Dr. John BINCAN on September 17, 1992. A new Director, Dr. JAAFARN Ladan has been appointed. We also announce the appointment of a new National Rinderpest Coordinator, Dr. SHEHU N.A. Saidu; the former coordinator, Dr. AFOLAGAN, has been reassigned to head the Zoonoses Branch of the Livestock Department.

1.3.11. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1.3.11.1.- Report on Vaccination Campaigns

Efforts at immunizing the national herd against rinderpest were maintained from 1983 up to this date with a significant decreasing trend in the numbers of cattle vaccinated from one year to another.

The state of vaccination is as follows:

YEAR	VACCINATED NUMBERS	%VACCINATED
1983	2,140,362	100
1984	1,425,493	66.5
1985	1,168,867	54.6
1986	1,044,487	48.8
1988	659,545	30.8
1989	348,286	16.2
1990	654,344	32.7
1991	538,018	25
1992	530,000	24.5

The decreasing trend could be mostly explained by the following facts:

- There has been a charge for vaccination since 1985;
- the specter of disease is fading away;
- the return of Chadian livestock subsequent to periods of general panic which prompted the livestock owners the most to have their livestock vaccinated.
- the religious taxes being levied during the vaccination sessions;
- the small means used and notably the lack of a specific budget for vaccination campaigns.

Along with this decrease in vaccination rates comes a degradation of the immune status of livestock vaccinated against rinderpest.

The situation is more alarming at the borders where very small numbers of cattle are vaccinated every year out of a large number of both trade and transhuming herds originating from Chad and Sudan.

The small veterinary intervention means in these remote zones does not allow coverage of the entire livestock.

The policy of recovering the cost of vaccination applied since 1985 has allowed a very decisive and efficient contribution from the owners to vaccination campaigns and has made it possible to overcome the cash problems that the livestock service is confronted with. The price of vaccination is determined taking into account the socio-economic status of the owners: 75F/vaccinated animal for the national herd and 125F/animal for foreign transhuming cattle.

F.N.E.C. is involved in organizing vaccination campaigns regarding strategies to set up, the collection of taxes and the construction of vaccination parks.

1.3.11.2. Sero-Surveillance

Rinderpest sero-surveillance started in 1988 with the collection of sera from the main slaughterhouses of the country and their analysis by sero-neutralization in the Garoua laboratory.

The analysis of the sera yielded an overall protection rate of 75%. On the basis of this result we changed our vaccination strategy in 1985 by limiting vaccination to the young animals inside the country; we also tried to set up immune barriers at the borders.

Owing to the fact that we did not have adequate means to achieve that goal we had to revert back to the initial strategy, i.e. mass vaccination across the national territory.

With the implementation of the ELISA technique and the acquisition of the ELISA reader in 1991, we were able to assess again the immune status of herds vaccinated against rinderpest per sector, livestock center, and vaccination park.

Out of 5,718 sera tested, 57% were found positive. Across sectors, the immune rates vary from 43 to 81%. The results have been published and have already been communicated during the Entébé meeting.

Because of the decrease in the immune rates and because of the prevalence of the disease in Sudan, a special stress is put on vaccination at the borders where large numbers of transhuming and trade livestock gather (about 300,000 cattle).

1.3.11.3. New Vaccination Strategy

The new vaccination strategy is prompted by the following concerns:

- existence of rinderpest foci in Soudan;
- significance of livestock movements.

1.3.12. SENEGAL

1.3.12.1. - 1991-1992 Vaccination Campaign

Launched in October 1991, the annual vaccination campaign against rinderpest and CBPP ended early this year because of interrupted supplies of Bissecc vaccines.

The National Livestock and Veterinary Research Laboratory (LNERV) of Dakar, which experienced cash problems and technical difficulties could not meet the Bissecc vaccine demand from the Livestock Head Office. Only 38% of the order of some 1,800,000 Bissecc doses were supplied. Such supplies supplemented with the remaining pre-tested stocks of the 1990-1991 campaign, allowed the achievement of an average vaccination coverage of 39.5% of the whole cattle population.

Estimated number	2,356,100
Visited number	1,002,811
Vaccinated number	931,074

The vaccination involved particularly the border areas, making it possible to maintain an immune barrier for the interior of the country.

The 1992-1993 campaign, which started in October is going on smoothly with no major vaccine supply problems and with a mandatory 30 CFA Francs per vaccinated cattle and the marking of these animals.

1.3.12.2- Livestock Development Fund or "Pastoral Fund"

This was established by Law 8461 of June 28, 1984 which was modified by Law 88 02 of June 16, 1988. The rules of organization and operation were fixed by decree no.80 454 dated August 13, 1989.

However, since its creation, the mobilization of resources for the fund has never been totally effective and the suppression of the special accounts at the Treasury which occurred under the 1991/1992 Financial Law did not bring about any improvement.

Currently the budget provides for a 25 million package which may be revised upwards; this facility is used by the livestock Head Office as advance cash.

The recent inter-ministerial Council on Livestock which was held on November 6, 1992, recommended that the Pastoral Fund become truly operational .

In that respect, the Livestock Head Office is considering, in consultation with the Finances, the steps to take.

1.3.12.3. New Institutional Reforms

Such reforms involve:

- a mandatory 30F to be paid by the owners per cattle vaccinated against rinderpest and CBPP.

- The enactment of a law establishing the order of veterinary doctors in Senegal as well as a professional code of ethics for veterinary doctors.

In addition two draft legislations relating to

- the practice of the veterinary profession

- and the registration of veterinary drugs

are currently being introduced in the visa circuit.

The privatization of the veterinary profession continues. 72 practitioners have been listed, including

18 veterinary doctors,

15 livestock engineers,

39 livestock technical agents and veterinary nurses.

1.3.12.4.- PARC Project Situation

The different dialogue items that delayed the normal implementation of the PARC Project in Senegal are now settled between Senegal and the EEC. The international tender is planned to be launched on December 2, 1992. The perusal will be done on January 11, 1993. Reflection is underway now for the drafting of Phase II of the said project.

1.3.12.5.- Stopping Vaccination against Rinderpest

Senegal is planning this stopping according to a plan that takes into account the following elements:

- Serosurveillance results;
- History of rinderpest foci in Senegal and in neighboring countries;
- Level of recovery of costs and vaccination services.
- Human, material and financial resources of Senegal Livestock service.

Once all these elements are assessed, the planned strategy rests on the following proposals:

Year 1: mass vaccination in all the country for animals less than 3 years of age;

Vaccination of all animals of regions such as Saint-Louis, Louga, Diombel, Tambacounda, Kolda and Ziguinchor.

Year 2: Vaccination of all the animals of the above mentioned regions; vaccination of young animals over 6 months in the rest of the country.

Year 3: Vaccination of over 6 months old young animals of above mentioned regions.

Year 4: Putting an end to the vaccination

Year 5: The country is provisionally declared rinderpest free.

1.3.13.- Chad

The presentation aims at giving a view on the implementation of the campaigns during the first phase of the PARC, the 1991-92 vaccination campaign and the preparation level of the 1992-93 campaign, the privatization of the veterinary profession and the distribution of inputs in Chad.

1.3.13.1- Preparation

- Repairing the vehicles
- Setting up inputs
- Sensitization -training of herders
- Preparation and execution of vaccination campaigns by the field officers (Leaders of districts and team leaders).

1.3.13.2 -Means of Implementation

- 40 teams have been maintained over the 3 campaigns.
- as for the vehicles; they were defective during the first year, but they have been improved during the two last ones (2 receipts of 4WD) in 1990 and 1992).
- The vaccine supply has increased from year to year (8898000 doses).

1.3.13.3 -On the Progress of Campaigns

A important delay in the implementation of the first programme estimate, a 3 month interruption during the 1990-91 campaign with a loss of 10 4WD due to armed groups; an improvement of the level of organisation and management in 1991-92 (Annexe 4). The vaccination figures are as follows:

1989-90:	2,786,627	=	64%	of the national herd
1990-91:	2,035,935	=	47%	of the national herd
1991-92:	3,254,956	=	74%	of the national herd

1.3.13.4 - Constraints

- Generalized lack of technical material;
- Insufficient follow-up of vaccination teams;
- Lack of efficient dilutants;
- Weak seroprotection rates of the herds (48-50%).

1.3.13.5 - All the campaigns have benefited from joint materials and operation costs (PARC and National Livestock Project), e.g.: 1991-92 campaign: PARC: 55.3% and National Livestock Project: 44.7% only in operation).

1.3.13.6 - 1992-93 Campaign Strategy.

Because of the end of the first phase of the PARC in Chad, the Livestock Head Office has introduced to the National Livestock Project an estimate for the execution of the 1992-93 campaign of an amount of 177,000,000 CFA Francs. Funding has not been entirely secured yet. Because of the weak seroprotection rates of animals, Chad adopted the pursuit of the mass campaign while strengthening the Eastern border. The following observation of the Entébbé meeting was favorable according to Chad, that is, presence of rinderpest foci in southern Sudan, weakness of the seroprotection of herds in Central Africa, inadequate veterinary facilities along the Sudan, CAR and Chad borders, important and controlled movements of animals at the level of these three countries. Chad has taken many steps during the different meetings with the different senior workers and measures have been taken:

- Review of intervention teams (new vehicles, redeployment of field staff, inventory and distribution of cold chain and technical material).
- Empower the District leaders (supervisors and team leaders/annex91).
- Establishment of a control chain (DSA...District Leaders Team Leaders).
- Compulsory marking of vaccinated animals
- Pursuit of breeders' sensitization (a positive appraisal of PARC Phase I of the Communication Component)

-The respect of the cold chain from the laboratory to the field using the appropriate dilutant.

-The recycling of vaccinators and correct administration of the vaccinal doses;

-Control of the vaccine's efficiency by random checks on field supplies and sanitary surveillance with the backing of Farcha laboratory.

1.3.13.7 - Privatization of Veterinary Profession

a) Situation of the Statutory Context.

The Chad Government launched, through a letter of intent, a programme of reforms aimed at defining a political and institutional environment favorable to the development of livestock.

From 1988 to 1992, 4 orders, 4 decrees and 3 implementation orders were drafted and adopted.

b) Setting up of Agents in the Private Sector

As far as the setting up of livestock agents in the private sector is concerned, 13 files have been studied by the management committee, of which 10 have been approved. Among the 10 agents, 9 are effectively installed and practice as private professionals.

c) Privatization of the Revolving Fund

About 100 livestock agents who are in charge of field services have repurchased the stock of drugs put at their disposal.

This stock has become their property and they practice the veterinary profession provisionally by special exemption according to decree 384 of 07/31/1991 regulating the organisation of the veterinary profession.

d) Emergence of Private Businessmen

Requests for authorizations to open pharmacy warehouses for drugs sold without prescription have been issued to many private businessmen. An import company was created in 1992.

e) Situation of the Company for the Supply of Veterinary Products and Materials (SAPROVET)

The situation of SAPROVET still remains characterized by its evolution without a legal status. A management committee has been set up to propose correcting measures.

1.3.13.8 - Livestock Fund

The Livestock Fund was created in 1988; the receipts of the Fund come from taxes on consultations, clinical treatments, vaccination against the two anthraxes and pastereullosis and cattle export.

The Fund has been operating since the month of February 1992 and intervenes for 10% in the operation of the non salary taxes of the Ministry of Livestock, the 90% are supported by the World Bank.

1.3.13.9. - Rehabilitation Programme of the Veterinary Services

In the framework of the National Livestock Project 3 phases for rehabilitative facilities are planned to cover the whole territory, the first two phases are being implemented and the third is at the tender stage.

1.3.13.10. -Appraisal of Border Meetings

Chad has participated in several meetings of harmonization of the zoo-sanitary actions at the border that took place in Vouar (CAR) and Garoua (Cameroon).

Chad also took part in the PARC coordination meeting for West and Central Africa.

Following the presentations by the national coordinations, the Delegate of the Economic Community for Cattle and Meat (CEBV) made two important recommendations to the delegations of the States attending the meeting: on the one hand, they should take into account the sensitization section of the transhumance issues in the PARC Programme and on the other hand they should send to Intergovernmental Organizations information relating to decisions taken during border meetings.

II. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ERADICATION OF RINDERPEST

Dr. THOMPSON made a report of the meeting organized in Rome under the aegis of FAO on the different projects and programmes implemented to eradicate rinderpest around the world.

The meeting which gathered over 38 international experts was chaired by Dr.MASIGA of OAU/IBAR. The following elements came out of his presentation:

- Rinderpest is widespread in the Middle East (South Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Irak) and in Southern Asia.
- In each of these regions, an eradication campaign similar to the Panafrican Rinderpest Campaign exists.
- These campaigns draw their resources from the contributions of member states, UNDP, the EEC and other sponsors.
- The results obtained through these two campaigns still remain insignificant compared with PARC (mass scale vaccinations, serosurveillance).

Dr. THOMPSON then spoke of the interest to organize regular consultation meetings at the international level that will allow to design plans to eradicate rinderpest.

He said that he was optimistic as for the sponsors's will to mobilize the financial resources necessary for the implementation of such plans.

Finally, he made known FAO's intention to make the Middle East and southern Asia benefit from the experience of PARC experts.Following this presentation, a debate was opened that allowed to retain:

- The necessity of establishing an immune barrier between these regions of Asia and the eastern part of Africa to avoid any possibility of reinfestation, particularly from Egypt;
- The confirmation of the isolation of the rinderpest virus in small ruminants in India;
- The interest of developing a strategy of rinderpest eradication per continent, which will allow in the long run to hope that Africa will be the first to be relieved of this plague;
- It appears that there is no official deadline for the eradication of rinderpest in Africa, given the necessity to respect the required technical conditions and the taking into account of situations specific to the epidemiological realities of the main regions considered.

III. PARC PROJECT PHASE II

3.1- State of Progress of Privatization

Dr.POLITZAR introduced his topic with the prerequisites to privatization: the existence of a clear legislation, the definition of the tasks assigned the state and the private sector; he then presented the case of Mali which is characterized by:

- The existence of an association of veterinarians which has established a guarantee fund raised with 1% of members' salaries.

- 80% of the funding is granted by the PMI/PME project and 20% by the PARC Project;

- A follow-up committee established by the funding agencies and a representative of the association;

- The setting up of agents without distinction of categories or training level.

At the end of the presentation, many questions and comments followed. Then the following conclusions were drawn:

- The case of Mali is an exemple to consider for the commendable effort done.

- However, at the states level, the reflection should continue from global principles which are, on one hand the passage from the public sector to the private one, and on the other hand, the necessity for the PARC project to be adapted to each case.

- Privatization in the current context of structural adjustment put in evidence the issue of the training of senior civil servants that should be seriously addressed.

3.2- Remarks on the files submitted for Funding

In his presentation, Dr.POLITZAR first recalled that the PARC projects are different from other projects of development assistance because it is not only a matter of funding but also a philosophy at the base which is expressed in the dialogue items.

Already in the PARC Phase I projects, there have been special conditions attached to the convention between the particular country and the EEC. These conditions were aimed at deep changes of the structures of the livestock sub-sector under the key words: revitalization and structuring.

In most of these projects, the rinderpest vaccination component took the lion's share - hence the name PARC. Only in the countries which were not directly threatened by rinderpest the components such as privatization of the veterinary profession or the revolving fund for drugs played a major role.

Now due to the fact that rinderpest is controlled in West Africa and that it is under its endemic form but in two countries of East Africa, the PARC projects have a more "National" character without the endemic aspect of rinderpest. It is also the reason why the EEC wishes a combination of regional funds with funding by the National Indicative Funds.

When a project is completed, its results are appraised according to the normal procedures. When a project is presented for Phase II, reference must be made to the assets of the first phase in the points cited in the special conditions. He then specified some points that may be the subject of explanation requests from the Commission when it receives requests.

PRIVATIZATION

As for this point, you should prepare beforehand an appropriate legislation, establish a code of ethics and create an order of veterinarians, the role of which in the privatization operation must be determined.

Before a disbursement of the credit line corresponding to the privatization, a summary basic economic analysis that clarifies the possibilities for setting up and the individual requirements that may vary a lot according to the region where they set up. Regarding the credit line one should also specify: the selected bank and the services it provides, the charges for managing credit, interest rates (subsidized or not) amount (maximum or unlimited on the basis of the request made, personal support, warranties, deferred reimbursement... The allocation of tasks between the public and private sectors must be specified: what is left to the government, the share of the private sector and whatever can be transferred through health mandate. When someone settles in the private sector, the government disengages totally or partially.

The issue of the follow-up on privatization operations is equally important: monitoring the conditions for utilizing loans by D.S.V....Which type of structure or function for inspection monitoring or evaluation of private veterinarian activities can be set up? Should special funding be planned by the project?

If such points are not clarified and if appraisal possibilities do not exist in the veterinary service, a study must be requested and carried out either through project funds or through funds available at the EEC delegation in the country ("expert (E.D.F.)60,000 ECU" procedures).

Livestock Development Fund

It is generally required that a livestock development fund be created. To that end, one must first of all consider the current livestock development policy -except for the recovery of costs because this is a prerequisite which has already been accepted by all countries involved.

After considering the possibility of setting up the Fund, the supplying sources (import or export taxes on animals or animal products (meat, milk) animal food, etc.) the amounts of levies (percentages, ages, amounts expected) and finally the modalities of depositing such levies into the Fund, must be specified. How the levies shall be collected, what is their destination (local, provincial, government, veterinary services) must also be explained. Shall the money be transferred into the Public Treasury or on a special account? Who shall be authorized to disburse money and for what purpose, etc.? All such questions must be answered...

In the specific case of coastal countries, imports of meat of extra-African origin are made at dumping prices. Studies on the subject have concluded on an adverse impact of such practices on local production. In spite of the fact that a substantial part of such meat originates from the EEC countries (the latter organisation requires that measures for restricting such imports - for example: import quotas, taxes to raise prices, and bring them closer to the prices of local products- be specified. A Livestock Development Fund could then be set up and funded with the taxes collected. Of course, the creation of a fund is necessary. But in case this is impossible, the possibility is still there to make arrangements for the collection and utilization of money from veterinary services, for example funds collected from meat inspection. When a drug revolving fund or support to a national veterinary pharmacy is planned in the project, the evolution of the sales of drugs and vaccines must be indicated. Another thing which must be kept in mind as well is the evolution of sales relatively to the removal of subsidies. Finally it will be necessary to bring all necessary stipulations pertaining to the livestock development policy (total privatization of the sector, liberalization of imports, government control, etc.).

In order to address certain concerns that were expressed subsequent to the discussion that followed this presentation, Dr.MASIGA made the following clarifications:

-PARC is first and foremost a programme which was initiated by the OAU -the EEC is definitely the main donor although the contributions of Japan and the United States deserve to be stressed.

-All conditions laid down within the framework of EEC funding are negociable depending on the individual cases of the countries involved. OAU/IBAR will always stand by the countries to assist in these negotiations.

-The continuation of vaccination and its funding by the PARC will depend on the epidemiological status as well as the objective decision each country will make in that regard.

IV.- COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This subject was dealt with by Dr. Mahamat TOUADE. First of all he reviewed the various inter-governmental regional and sub-regional organizations involved in the development of livestock in Sub-Saharan Africa. After a brief summary of the activities of such organizations Dr.TOUADE highlighted their main difficulties: limited financial resources, lack of coordination and harmonization that hampers their cooperation. In conclusion, he made suggestions regarding the various forms of cooperation possible and the mobilization of financial resources.

SCHEDULE OF BORDER MEETINGS

Border meetings are traditionally organized on the basis of a schedule established by the country delegate with a view to harmonizing vaccination operations.

1. Border of Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso -Ghana _____ 2nd week of January 1993 Leo
 Burkina Faso-Côte d'Ivoire _____ 1st fortnight of March 1993
 in Korogho or Ferkessedougou
 Burkina Faso -Bénin _____ February 1993 in Burkina Faso
 Burkina Faso -Mali _____ Early March 1993 in Mopti

2. Border of Nigeria

Nigeria - Benin _____ Third week of January 1993
 in Imeko (Nigeria)
 Nigeria - Niger - Chad _____ 2nd week of March 1993
 in Maiduguri (Nigeria)

3. Border of Senegal

Senegal - Mali - Guinea and _____ 1st fortnight of April 1993
 in Tamba (Senegal)

4. Border of Chad

Chad - C.A.R. - Soudan _____ January 1993 in Khartoum

5. Border of Niger

Niger - Benin _____ February 1993 in Benin
 Mauritania

NOTE OF THANKS

We, the Delegates of Benin, Côte-d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, Representatives of the West African Economic Community (WAEC), of the Inter-State Committee against the Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the Economic Community for Meat and Livestock (ECML), the Integrated Authority for the Development of the Liptako Gourma Region (IALG), as well as the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the OAU and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), having participated in the Sub-Regional Meeting on Evaluation and Coordination of National Campaigns against Bovine Rinderpest and Contagious Pleuropneumonia held in Ouagadougou from November 30 to December 4, 1992, extend our warmest thanks to His Excellency President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, to the Government and the People of Burkina Faso for the warm, enthusiastic and brotherly welcome extended to us, and for all the facilities that were put at our disposal during our stay in Ouagadougou.

Ouagadougou December 4, 1992

The Meeting.

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The 7th West and Central African Regional Coordination Meeting of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign was held from November 30, 1992 to December 4, 1992 in the premises of the O.N.A.C. (National Foreign Trade Office) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Delegates of the following countries attended the meeting: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, as well as representatives of the following sub-regional, regional and international organizations: West African Economic Community (CEAO), Permanent Inter-State Committee of the fight against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), Economic Community for Livestock and Meat (ECLM), Authority for Integrated Development of the Liptako-Gourma region (ALG), Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of OAU (OAU/IBAR), European Economic Community (EEC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The meeting was solemnly opened by His Excellency Mr. Sina SERE, Burkina Minister in Charge of Animal Resources.

In his speech, Mr. Sina SERE first of all welcomed the participants and expressed his satisfaction as regards the hosting of the Evaluation and Coordination Meeting of the PARC Project for the second time by his country.

He further expressed the wish that special attention be paid to Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia as well as other diseases such as trypanosomiasis given the satisfactory results achieved as regards rinderpest control.

He furthermore stressed the need to place livestock activities within the context of on-going political and economic change with a view to setting up global animal health and production development programmes.

The Delegate of the Commission of the European Community to Burkina Faso, Mr. U.W. Verblow and the Director of OAU/IBAR, Dr. MASIGA, each spoke and described the efforts made in that part of Africa. Such efforts led to significant results substantiated by the disappearance of rinderpest outbreaks since 1988.

The meeting elected a bureau which was composed as follows:

Chairman : Burkina Faso
Vice-Chairman : Nigeria
Rapporteurs : Niger and Senegal

The following agenda was then adopted:

I.-PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PARC PROGRAMME

- 1.1.-Report by West and Central African Regional Coordination
- 1.2.-Status of Rinderpest Control in East and Central Africa
- 1.3.-Reports by the National Coordinations

II.-GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE ERADICATION OF RINDERPEST

Report on the Rome Meeting

III.-PARC PROJECT PHASE II

IV._ COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The discussions took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and determination to better harmonize campaign plans with a view to not only controlling but also totally eradicating rinderpest in the region.

A progress report on the PARC Project was submitted to the delegates of the states and representatives of inter-governmental organizations by the Regional Coordinator of West and Central Africa. The main features of the current status are as follows:

- No rinderpest foci since 1988;
- Systematization of sero-surveillance in practically all countries concerned;
- Project for setting up an immune belt in Central Africa in order to protect the region's livestock against the infection that exists in East Africa;
- Whether vaccination against rinderpest should be continued or not in the states and under what conditions;
- Persistence of CBPP foci in most states and the need to systematize control through appropriate measures.

In dealing with the subject of revitalization of veterinary services, the Regional Coordinator stated that the objective was to develop an efficient instrument that could operate on the basis of resources either allocated by the government or generated by itself.

Finally the Coordinator wished the states could adhere to the schedule of inter-state border meetings which is established annually. The meeting heard a report on the status of rinderpest in East and Central Africa. It would appear that:

-Rinderpest persists in southern Sudan, Ethiopia and North Eastern Uganda;

-The importance of the risk requires the setting up of a sanitary cordon in Central Africa. The success of this measure requires: the sensitization of political authorities, the involvement of the herders, an adequate and motivated technical staff and the setting up of an international monitoring structure.

The meeting then assessed the 1991-1992 vaccination campaigns in the different states as well as the state of progress of institutional reforms. In all states, there appears a favorable evolution of the measures taken since the last meeting of Lome in 1991. Furthermore, the delegates were briefed on the information required about the procedures needed for the development of future PARC Projects (PARC II).

The importance of livestock in our economic development programmes was reasserted. State delegates recommended that PARC phase II projects take into account, in addition to the disease control issues related to production, training, communication and marketing. The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) has made the firm commitment to continue to back the states in the development and negotiation of phase II PARC Projects.

As for cooperation between the African sub-regional organization, the meeting took note of the observations made by the delegate of the Regional Office of FAO for Africa.

The meeting commended the Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa for the untiring efforts he has been making for the success of the PARC Project.

At the end of the debates, the Conference adopted two recommendations relating to the strategy of rinderpest eradication and the CBPP control.

The participants also made a field visit to the Centre for Aawak Zebus multiplication of Loumbila.

The Conference decided to hold its next meeting in Dakar (Senegal) at a date to be decided later. At the end of the deliberations, a note of thanks was addressed to the authorities of Burkina Faso.

OUAGADOUGOU, DECEMBER 4, 1992

THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONTROL OF CBPP

Considering:

-that CBPP is an enzootic disease in many African countries and that it leads to considerable losses,

-that CBPP is a disease which can't be cured by any treatment and for which there are some frequent cases of chronical carry-over

-that CBPP is of difficult clinical differential diagnosis, a fact which requires a confirmation through relatively heavy laboratory methods,

-that the eradication of CBPP in a country can't be obtained without associating vaccination measures and sanitary measures, among which one can cite in particular at the level of foci the identification and the control of the movements of animals then the subsidized slaughtering of the disease stricken ones or carriers diagnosed through the classical serological tests,

*at the level of the non-stricken regions, the protection against the disease through the control of the movements of the herds

*the vaccines protect only over a period of 6 months to one year but the massive and annual vaccination campaign leads to a very important reduction of the number of foci, a fact that will make possible the setting up of eradication programs which are economically feasible,

the meeting recommends:

-the setting up at the earliest possible moment of a research program which aims at improving the efficiency of the vaccines and the methods of diagnosing the disease,

-the setting up of some efficient programs of control adapted to each region or sub-region and the planning of massive vaccination, control of the movements of the herds of cattle, a reinforcement of the detection of the foci and an indemnification of the owners of sick animals.

The Meeting

Ouagadougou December 5, 1992

RECOMMENDATION ON RINDERPEST ERADICATION STRATEGY

- Considering that West and Central Africa has been free from rinderpest for the four years and the difficulties of controlling the disease in parts of East Africa due to civil unrest which exists in parts of that area,
- Considering the risks of contamination linked to uncontrolled movements of cat between East Africa and the free areas,
- Considering the importance of eventually stopping vaccinations in the strategy for eradicating the disease,
- Considering the necessity of an active participation of livestock owners in this strategy.

THE MEETING RECOMMENDS

- The establishment of an efficient sanitary cordon in the Central African Republic and Chad to isolate the residual foci of East Africa ;
- The setting up of an efficient system of epidemiological surveillance (clinical and serological) prerequisite to the cessation of vaccination in the areas where the clinical form of the disease has been eradicated.
- The creation of an emergency fund to guarantee quick intervention in case of new cases.
- Increased sensitization of breeders for their participation in the eradication programme.

The Meeting

Ouagadougou December 5, 1992.

The Opening Speech at the 7th PARC sub-regional Meeting

It's an honour and a pleasure for our country to host for the second time, after Bobo-Dioulasso in 1987, the Sub-regional Evaluation and Coordination Meeting of the Panafrican Campaign against bovine Rinderpest.

First of all, I would like to extend to you all a cordial welcome to tell you once more that you are at home here in Burkina Faso.

The current meeting is the 7th of its kind since the first one held in Tillabéry, Niger, in 1986.

That is to say that it has become customary in the region of West and Central Africa, thus confirming the desire among the different states to cooperate in the field of bovine rinderpest control.

Much has been done since the Tillabéry meeting as far as the control of bovine rinderpest is concerned and the current situation is characterized by the absence of outbreaks of this disease since 1988 in the region of West and Central Africa.

We owe this favorable development to the permanent dialogue and follow-up between the different states and International Organizations. We owe it to the national technical services as well.

But the persistence of bovine rinderpest in East Africa must always keep us on the alert, if we don't want to see so many efforts destroyed by renewed invasion of the disease on the whole continent.

It must therefore continue to be a continuous concern in the sub-region, as must be contagious pleuropneumonia in cattle and other animals, trypanosomiasis for example, which constitute a brake to the development of animal productions in the face of a population growth leading to a constant increase of food needs and particularly animal products.

The persistence of an unsatisfactory zoo-sanitary situation limits the active participation of Africa in the flow of international exchanges of animals and animal products.

In the present context of the liberalization of international trade, the PARC project fits into this framework and contributes every day to lifting the constraints on the development of cattle breeding.

At the end of the year 1991, the PARC Project vaccinated about 85 million cattle against bovine rinderpest and massive sero-surveillance allowed the inspection of about 200,000 samples of sera.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The improvement of animal health, even within the framework of bovine rinderpest control, cannot be an end in itself. It must be integrated into a global programme of livestock and animal product development.

In addition, livestock development programmes must now intervene in a context of deep political and economic changes at the international level.

That is why the profitability of livestock data involves some aspects such as the institution of the liberal exercise of the veterinary profession, the creation of special funds for the financing of activities related to cattle breeding.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Burkina Faso, the control of bovine rinderpest and other epizootic diseases has always been permanent and still constitutes a concern for the government.

As a matter of fact, our country is at the crossroads in the sub-region as far as the movements of the animals during transhumance or trade exchanges are concerned. It is particularly exposed to all risks of epizootic disease outbreaks related to the appearance of the latter in the neighboring countries. That is why the stress has been put on the correct and efficient running of the PARC project in Burkina Faso.

Since its effective start in 1988, more than 7 million vaccinations have been conducted, with a coverage rate of more than 80% of the cattle population.

In addition, the installation of private veterinarians is continuing despite the funding difficulties which are still unresolved.

At the level of the funding of cattle breeding activities, studies are underway for the creation of a Development Fund which can give a new impetus to this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of the PARC project at the national and panafrican level has been possible only thanks to the international cooperation which has made it possible to gather adequate financial means and qualified staff for the achievements.

This is the right place for me to reiterate my thanks to the European Economic Community (EEC), the main sponsor of the project, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Inter-Governmental Organizations of the sub-region.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General of OAU/IBAR and the entire General Coordination of the Project for the efficient running of the programme in the field.

Ladies and Gentlemen Delegates,

The heavy agenda of the meeting imposes on you a sustained and intense effort and I am sure that some significant results will come out of your work for the development of livestock and animal productions.

Wishing you a smooth running of your proceedings, I declare open the 7th sub-regional Evaluation and Coordination Meeting of the Panafrican Campaign against bovine Rinderpest.

Thank you.

MALI

Dr. KARAMOKO WAGUE Coordinateur National PARC - Direction Nationale
de l'Elevage B.P. 265 - BAMAKO

Dr. MODIBO TRAORE Directeur National de l'Elevage B.P. 265
Tél. 22.20.22 - BAMAKO

M. ROBINSON RAOBEHARILALA Conseiller Technique du Cabinet MDRE/FED
Délégation C.C.E. B.P. 115 - Tél. 22.29.79 - BAMAKO

MAURITANIE

Dr. ELY O. AHMIDOU Directeur de l'Elevage B.P. 175 - Tél. 51567/57163
NOUAKCHOTT

NIGER

Dr. IDE TAHIROU Directeur de l'Elevage et des Industries Animales
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
B.P. 12.168 - NIAMEY

Dr. SEYDOU HAROUNA Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage
B.P. 12.168 - NIAMEY

NIGERIA

Dr. SHEHU N. A. SAIDU Federal Department of Livestock and Pest Control
Services P. M. B. 135 - ABUJA

SENEGAL

Dr. ABOU MAMADOU TOURE Directeur de l'Elevage - 37, Avenue Pasteur
B.P. 67 - DAKAR - Tél. 21.32.28 - 22.00.26
FAX 23.73.88

Dr. BOUNA A. DIOP Coordonnateur National PARC - Direction de
l'Elevage B.P. 67 - Tél. 22.00.26 / 23.43.99 - DAKAR

TCHAD

Dr. MANSOUNGARAL NASSINGAR Direction de l'Elevage B.P. 750 - N'DJAMENA

Dr. ADOUM GOUDJA Directeur de l'Elevage B.P. 750 - N'DJAMENA

ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET INTERAFRICAINES**AUTORITE DE DEVELOPPEMENT INTEGRE DE LA REGION DU LIPTAKO-GOURMA (A.L.G.)**

01 B.P. 619 - OUAGADOUGOU 01 (BURKINA FASO)

M. BONO D. ALPHONSE Chef du Département du Développement Rural

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DU BETAAIL ET DE LA VIANDE (C.E.B.V.) 01 B.P. 638

Tél. 30.62.66 et 67 - Téléx CEBEV 5329BF - OUAGADOUGOU 01 (BURKINA FASC

Dr. ALOUA MOUSSA	Secrétaire Exécutif
Dr. GUELLY PIERRE	Chef de la Section Production et Santé Animales
Mme DRABO TENIN	Secrétaire

COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL (C.I.L.S.S.)

B.P. 7049 - Tél. 30.62.51 - OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

Dr. GUIGMA SALIF	Chef Service Production Végétale et Animale
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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS-UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (F.A.O.)

Dr. TOUADE MAHAMAT	Bureau Régional de la F.A.O. pour l'Afrique P. O. Box 1628 - ACCRA
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OUA/IBAR P. O. Box 30786 - Phone 254-2-33.85.44 - FAX 254-2-33.20.46 - NAIROBI (KENYA)

Dr. W. N. MASIGA	Director OUA/IBAR
Dr. J. W. THOMSON	Adviser OUA/IBAR
Dr. DOMENECH JOSEPH	Adviser OUA/IBAR
Dr. K. H. POLITZAR	Adviser OUA/IBAR

PARC/OUA/IBAR B.P. 2954 - Tél. 22.60.53 - FAX (223) 22.95.83 - BAMAKO (MALI)

Dr. AMADOU SAMBA SIDIBE	Coordonnateur Régional Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre PARC/OUA/IBAR
M. KEITA SEYDOU	Comptable PARC/OUA/IBAR
Mme N'DIAYE YOUMA	Comptable Coordination nationale PARC/Mali