

Project Summary

Title	Socio-economic impact, spatial distribution and enhanced capacity to manage Rift Valley fever in East Africa
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Purpose	The main objective of this project is to improve the capacity to manage Rift Valley Fever in the East African Region through training of postgraduate students and establishment of baseline information on the socio-economic impact, spatial distribution of the hotspots for its occurrence and multi-stakeholder dialogue and involvement in the management of the disease.
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	<p>and producing a hemorrhagic syndrome in affected animals. It also causes an influenza-like febrile syndrome in humans which may progress to a hemorrhagic episode. Rift valley fever occurs in epidemics in East Africa every 10-15 years although it is endemic in many African countries including: Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Madagascar with outbreaks outside Africa in Saudi Arabia. The Socio-economic impacts, maps of hotspots of the RVF outbreaks and the reasons for the outbreaks, and community based knowledge on management of the disease in the East African region are not well known. The aim of the project is to enhance productivity of livestock for smallholder farmers and livestock owners in marginalised areas in East African countries by reducing the impacts of Rift valley fever virus infections in livestock. Specifically, the project will train two Master students who will carry our research in Tanzania and Kenya in areas that were severely affected by the disease during 2006-2007 outbreaks. Both students will work together in both countries however, their focus of concentration will be different. Whereas one student will focus on socioeconomic impact of the disease and cost/benefit analysis for the control measures, the other student will concentrate on mapping the RVF hotspots and determining the association of hotspots with risk factors of the disease. In addition, researchers in all collaborating institution will establish community based knowledge and practices in the control of the disease, multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue and strategy towards effective management of RVF and also analyse national and regional policy responsiveness to RVF. We are seeking US\$ 60,000 spread as follows: US 26,272 for Kenya, US\$ 26,272 for Tanzania and US\$ 7,456 for Uganda. The duration of proposed project is two (2) years. The proposal will create initiatives at the East African universities and the ministries responsible for animal health and agriculture for dialogue, collaborative research and graduate training in trans-boundary diseases and involve grass-root stakeholders. It is gender sensitive since two of the team members are women and we shall recruit a lady student.</p>
Country and Specific Location(s)	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda: Kajiado (outbreak pastoral) and Thika (outbreak dairy area) in Kenya; Arusha and Dodoma (pastoral outbreak areas) and Morogoro (dairy and agro pastoral outbreak areas) in Tanzania; and Entebbe and Jinja in Uganda.
Participating Institutions	Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) and University of Nairobi (Kenya).
Start Date	November, 2009
End date	November, 2011
Amount of Funding	USD 60,000

