

Project Summary

Title	Developing capacity for implementing innovative PPR control strategies based on the Epidemiology and Socio-economic aspects of the disease in the East African region
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Purpose	The overall objective of this project is to develop regional capacity for implementing innovative PPR control strategies utilizing the Epidemiology and Socio-economic aspects of the disease in the East African region.
Project Summary	Livestock keeping is the main source of livelihood for most pastoral households found in in ASAL areas of East Africa which are characterized by extreme climatic features of drought, flooding, low investments, fragile ecosystems and poverty levels approaching 65 %. Peste des petit ruminants (PPR) is a relatively new highly contagious and infectious and often fatal disease of sheep and goats that has caused devastating losses in the East African region since it was first reported in 2007 in the Turkana and Karamaja areas. Despite intensive vaccination, quarantine and public awareness campaigns, the disease continues to spread southwards. It is therefore very important that human capacity trained on innovative strategies towards PPR control is developed. The focus of this project is to build such capacity, including post graduate training, in PPR. This is in line with the main RUFORUM strategy of capacity building in agriculture. The epidemiology of PPR including risk factors, prevalence, virus characteristics and socio-economic effects will be analysed using participatory tools with post graduate students as key participants. Conventional and community disease control strategies will be analyzed leading to development of innovative strategies. These will then be disseminated widely to all stakeholders including community members, development practitioners and policy makers for adoption. A communication strategy will be developed by defining the different categories involved in the PPR research based on information from stakeholder workshop. Communication with the target groups will be done through various fora

	including Barazas, village fairs, traditional folk media, stakeholder workshops. The enhanced control strategies will increase livestock productivity by reducing mortality and morbidity from PPR. The end result will be increased food security for poor livelihoods in the ASAL areas. The skills gained by the students in the project will enhance the capacity of the East African region to cope with challenges posed by climatic change and globalization that leads to TADs and other emerging diseases.
Country and Specific Location(s)	East Africa, Turkana, Moyale and Kajiado districts in Kenya.
Start Date	October, 2009
End date	October, 2011
Amount of Funding	US\$ 59,913

