



# COMMUNIQUE

## **32<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR THE TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL (ISCTRC) CONFERENCE**

**KHARTOUM, SUDAN**  
8-12 SEPTEMBER 2013

The 32nd ISCTRC Conference was held at the “Friendship Hall” of Khartoum, Sudan from the 8th to the 12th of September 2013.

The conference which was held under the theme **“Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research and Control for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development: Promoting partnership and Learning Agenda in the Context of African Renaissance”** was attended by over 200 scientists. Participants were from tsetse-infested countries, international organisations, research institutions and the private sector.

The chairperson of the National Organizing committee of the Sudan, Dr Ahmed Abdul-Rahman welcomed participants and thanked the African Union for choosing Sudan for the 32 ISCTRC conference. Dr. Sadou Maiga, the Chairman of the ISCTRC Executive Council, highlighted the activities the Executive Council had undertaken in Steering the Council.

The Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, outlined the broad objectives of the conference which included information sharing, the review of T&T control technologies, strategies and policy options, the identification of research gaps and to make recommendations for the next two years. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the excellent arrangements that have been made by the Government of the Sudan for the hosting of the conference

Her Excellency Madam Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission in a keynote address appealed to participants to use this opportunity to reflect on the progress made so far in the fight against the scourge of Trypanosomiasis which continues to cause severe economic losses to the detriment of most rural homes in Africa. The commissioner urged African countries to sign up to the National and Regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to ensure that T&T is given enough attention. In the same vein she urged African Countries to include T&T control in their poverty reduction strategy papers. She commended the African Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication campaign (PATTEC) for initiating projects that have yielded significant benefits to rural communities.

The Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rangeland, Dr. Faysal Hassan Ibrahim, highlighted the negative impact of trypanosomiasis on rural development of the Sudan and urged scientists and development partners to harness their energies and resources towards a sustainable solution to the problem

The conference was officially opened by the **First Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan, His Excellency Ali Osman Muhammed Taha**. His Excellency highlighted the importance of the joint African Cooperation and emphasized the role of Pan Africanism in the development of Africa. He reiterated the importance of livestock and the importance of protecting livestock from animal diseases for food security. He encouraged platforms like ISCTRC to continue providing information that would aid the the fight against T&T.

During the last 5 days 95 presentations were made out of which 70 were oral and 25 as poster. The thematic areas covered were contribution of International Organisations; PATTEC and Country reports; Human and African Animal Trypanosomiasis; Glossina Biology, control and eradication; Land Use, Environment and Socio-Economics.

The meeting observed the Capacity gaps existing for the control and elimination of tsetse and trypanosomiasis and the need to be address them. It was observed that the number of young African Scientists that have taken keen interest in T&T Research and publication has increased. It was encouraging to note the increasing synergy between actors in endemic countries, international organisations, research institutions, development partners and the private sector in the fight against T&T. This state of affairs has been facilitated by the good advocacy carried out by AU-PATTEC.

The meeting noted the progress that is being made in the development of new diagnostic tools and new therapeutics. Interest in the use of non-invasive methods for the early detection of second stage of Human African Trypanosomiasis continues to take a center stage in HAT. The need to ensure proper combination of drugs and dosages for the treatment of HAT was emphasized. The meeting noted with appreciation the contribution of countries towards the elimination of HAT as evidenced by the declining incidence of the disease. Endemic countries were however cautioned not to relent on HAT surveillance.

Considerable work was reported on tsetse genetic profiling as a step towards the development of area-wide tsetse control and/or eradication.

The conference noted a general trend towards the adoption an integrated approach to the management of T&T using methods that are appropriate for given circumstances. Some of the methods include the use of the Sequential Aerosol Technique (SAT), Ground Spraying, insecticide impregnated targets and screens, Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), and chemotherapy. These efforts have been targeted at improving both human and animal health. Suggestions were made for the involvement of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the formulation and implementation of tsetse programmes.

Participants called for AU-PATTEC to play a leading role in identifying management and resource challenges facing member countries in the fight against T&T and to propose sustainable ways of addressing these challenges.

