

**Report of the research caucus
17th ALive Executive Committee
April 5th – 6th Nairobi, Kenya**

Ralph von Kaufmann
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FARA

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

Presentation content:

1. The status of ALive research projects
2. Characteristics of Alive's research programme
3. The context of ALive's research programme
4. Recommendations

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

The research components of ALive

1. Establishing a learning system
2. Use of biotechnology
3. Documentation of success stories
4. Increasing trade in African livestock
5. Strengthening of livestock information systems
6. Foster intra and inter-regional trade of animal products

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

1. Establishing a learning system to capture and enhance knowledge pitfalls and best practices in controlling outbreaks of emerging diseases affecting livestock trade: HPAI

Partners: FARA and partners

- Not funded & not implemented

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

2. Use of biotechnology in genetic improvement of cattle: its impact on genetic diversity and implementation of global plan of action of animal genetic resources

Partners: AU-IBAR, FAO, ILRI

1. Assessment of crossbreeding - will be partially undertaken in 2011 by IBAR
2. Formulation of a continental wide programme to assist African countries for implementation of the global plan for AnGR – concept note submitted to EU

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

3. Documentation of success stories and lessons learnt on fodder production and rangeland management

Partners: AU-IBAR, RECs

- ongoing with funding from AUC

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

4. Increasing trade in African livestock and livestock products through appropriate animal health and food safety measures

Partners: AU-IBAR, ILRI, IFPRI, OIE

- Identifying conditions and countries for increased trade – ongoing with AUC funds
- Developing hazard profiles – not implemented
- Investigating SPS measures needed for allowing trade – concept note submitted to USAID
- Improvements required in supply chain management for optimising trade in the context of identified trade strategies – not implemented

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

5. Strengthening of livestock information management capacity of AU member states

Partners: AU-IBAR, RECs, OIE, FAO

- Develop exchange of databases among different information systems - ongoing

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

6. Foster intra and inter regional trade of animal products

Partners: AU-IBAR, WTO

- Conduct a continental wide analysis of livestock and animal product markets – ongoing with AUC funds
- Set up continental coordination and consultation platform of livestock and livestock products trade – ongoing with AUC funds

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

Characteristics of ALive's research programme:

- Good concepts
- Weak support
- Little logic and cohesion between components
- Questions about ALive's value addition

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

ALive research context

- African agricultural research and development is being advanced under the CAADP framework
- Yet ALive is not yet seen as being integrated with CAADP
- FARA is the lead institution for CAADP Pillar IV
 - Which covers research, technology development and dissemination with crosscutting capacity strengthening
- In this context FARA expects that AU-IBAR's overall strategy to feature strongly in CAADP's agenda because the livestock industry contributes over 25% of agricultural GDP

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

ALive research context in the context of CAADP Pillar IV

- It is evident that there are many important on-going livestock research projects
- It is also clear that much more must be done
 - Especially in improving intra-regional trade, conserving biodiversity, controlling TADs and zoonoses, adapting to increased pressure on resources and climate change
- It is not evident yet how ALive can add value
- There is a lot of scepticism that has resulted from past attitudes towards research projects that were never submitted for funding

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

- **Recommendation**

- It is time to take stock and determine if research should indeed feature in the ALive strategy and agenda
- The value that ALive can add must be debated and clearly articulated
- A sub-strategy should be developed by and **owned** by the livestock research community:
 - national – NARS; regional - CIRDES, ITC; and international ILRI and its partners in the Livestock CRP; and CAADP – ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CCARDESA and FARA
- That sub-strategy should be officially approved by AU-IBAR and presented to CAADP for endorsement and incorporation in CAADP processes

Report of the research caucus

TAP 2011 – 2011 research activities

- **Recommendation** (cont.)
 - The proposals should be mainstream projects with ALive facilitating access to critical marginal resources
 - Funding – ALive could help find funding that enables critical value-adding activities
 - Human – ALive could help bring institutions together to create critical mass
 - Physical – ALive could sponsor twinning relationships between institutions and laboratories to widen the scope of the research, e.g., BecA, CIRAD, Pirbright, etc



Let's make livestock research
a genuine component of ALive

Thank you