expect a constant flow of electricity," been completed with exception of one or two people who are to be big need for electricity supply in the region," Kaestle said.

Karamoja herders demand tsetse fly aerial spray

Kaabong

By Olandason Wanyama

Herders from Kaabong and Kotido districts of Karamoja sub-region have appreciated the 'Emergency Tsetse fly control intervention project' that was launched in the area early this year.

Most of them said the Government's intervention has greatly improved the health status of their animals.

However, they demand that the Government should target the source of tsetse flies, which they say is Kidepo National Park.

According to local leaders, for some years, tsetse flies were a menace in Karamoja region, but the recent government intervention of erecting traps and spraying animals has reduced the flies' infestation.

Simon Loduk, a herder from Loyoro sub-county in Kaabong district, said as the dry season sets in, the tsetse flies may come back.

Tsetse flies transmit the Nagana disease in animals and sleeping sickness in humans. The leaders believe the disease has hindered livestock production in the region.

A World Bank funded project – Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP) under the agriculture ministry, was launched early this year to be implemented in selected highly infested 12 districts found in northeastern Uganda and the exercise started with Kaabong and Kotido.



A herdsman speaks about tsetse fly invasion in Kaabong.
Photo by Olandason Wanyama

During the launch, Simon Lokodo, the Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity, who officiated both at Kaabong and Kotido, said fighting tsetse flies was urgent as the livelihood of the Karimojong largely depends on livestock production.

"In order to fight the high level of poverty in this area, let us fight tsetse flies that transmit the disease so that their animal production improves," he said.

In Kotido district, the exercise took place at Kacheri sub-county cattle crush. At both venues, the Deltamethrin pour-on and Isometamedium chloride drugs were used.

This week, officials from the agriculture ministry, led by assistant commissioner for entomology Ambrose Gidudu, were back in the area to assess the progress in the implementation of the project.

According to the Kaabong district production and marketing officer, Dr Freddie Eladu, there is a great improvement in animal health after the pour-on drugs which were used, but more support is needed.

"Unless this exercise is done in Kidepo National Park where wild animals live, re-infection will persist. Wild animals which have been left untreated in this exercise come out to graze in the same areas as the treated animals, which brings about the re-infection," Eladu said.

Dr Joseph Longol, the assistant district veterinary officer for Kotido, said the intervention has enabled about 70% of animals in Kotido to get treated.

"We are happy that the number of deaths in animals has decreased tremendously while the birth rate has increased," Longol said.

Gidudu promised more drugs to be sent to Karamoja as the project is expected to take five years.

Other districts to benefit are Abim, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak Amudat, Amuria, Katakwi, Kumi Bukedea and Kween.

Zachary Lokure, the chairperson of Dairy Corporation Kaabong, saic within a period of two weeks afte applying the drugs, all the tsetse flie as well as ticks will have died.

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