



President Museveni (R) shakes hands with FAO country representative Dr Alhaji Jallow recently. FILE PHOTO

# UN launches project to tame animal disease spread to humans

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The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and Agriculture ministry have launched a project titled Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 (ASL2050) that aims at minimising the spread of animal diseases to humans by 2050.

Launching the project last week in Kampala, FAO country representative, Dr Alhaji Jallow, said the project will enhance capacity to control and prevent negative effects of increasing

investments in the livestock sector, but also tame disease transmissions.

“The speed at which zoonotic diseases increasingly emerge and spread presents serious public health, economic and development concerns. This knowledge underscores the need for development of comprehensive disease detection and response capacities, particularly in hotspot regions,” Dr Jallow said while noting the project will also be operational in the other five African countries.

With an expected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of over 3 per cent annually in the coming decades, Africa is one of the fastest growing economic regions of the world.

As GDP and consumer purchasing power grow, so will the demand for meat, milk and eggs.

In response, producers will make significant investments in livestock farming systems and value chains.

The project, Dr Jallow said, focuses on better understanding of how the livestock sector will look like in the future.

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