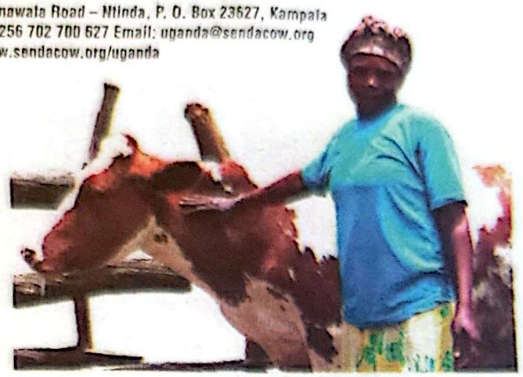
Send a Cow
UGANDA
Change a family's future

Plot 1, Ssemamwata Road – Ntinda, P. O. Box 23627, Kampala
Office line: +256 702 700 627 Email: uganda@sendacow.org
Website: www.sendacow.org/uganda

Send a Cow's contribution to the veterinary profession in Uganda



SACU supported farmer in Nebbi District beside her cow preparing for milking

In 1988, Send a Cow Uganda (SACU) was founded as a Livestock Aid Programme in the then Luwero triangle as livestock numbers had tremendously gone down because of the civil strife. The Programme reached out to farming communities in the central Districts of Uganda. The programme has now expanded beyond livestock to sustainable organic agriculture, enterprise development, gender and social development in over 40 districts.

SACU's key contribution is the extension service frontline staff in the livestock sector and is among the major sector employers of veterinary graduates from universities, institutes and colleges.

Apart from importing over 300 pure Friesian and Guernsey breeds into the country from the UK between 1988 and 1996, SACU has continued to make a contribution in improving the quality of the national breed through its Village Bull Scheme, where an exotic breeding bull is placed in the community to serve indigenous cows. SACU also pioneered embryo transplant in the private sector. SACU championed the use of Artificial Insemination, which today is the mainstay of its Livestock programming in an effort to continuously improve the quality of animals. At community level, SACU has led efforts towards Animal Improvement Management Systems and support structures like community livestock advisory committees and peer farmer trainers as resource persons.

In the last 30 years, SACU has contributed at least 11% of the national cattle population in collaboration with other sector players. Communities of SACU intervention have benefitted from 7,000 heads of exotic cattle directly, 10,728 indigenous cows, 1,533 oxen, 675 milk goats, 1,800 meat goats, 934 pigs and countless birds. Through the Pass on Gifts (POGs) principle where each farmer is expected to pass on the first female offspring animal to another member, contribution is in hundreds of thousands of livestock.

SACU Livestock extension services have enhanced increased average animal milk yield over the years from 1.5 litres to 12.5 litres per animal per day while animal calving is averaging at 8 calves before the mother cow is curled. The continued presence of SACU livestock extension staff in the community is our hallmark contribution towards the sustenance of the profession.

SACU holds the highest certificate of recognition by Uganda Veterinary Association in promoting the livestock profession and are continuously building on that. On this day, SACU recognizes and congratulates the veterinary profession in sustaining the economy.

Patrick Sambaga - Country Director

Global health risks and tomorrow's challenges

BY SARAH AANYU
saanyu@ug.nationmedia.com

Diseases of animal origin that are transmissible to humans, such as avian influenza, rabies, rift valley fever, tuberculosis and brucellosis, pose worldwide risks to public health that must be prevented and controlled.

Pathogens of animal origin such as foot and mouth disease virus that are not transmissible to humans, but which have a severe socio-economic impact on the production of animal proteins, should not be neglected either, particularly in developing countries such as Uganda.

In fact, they can lead to production losses and a reduction in the available food supply, leading to serious public health problems caused by food shortages and protein deficiencies.

These risks are increasing with trade globalisation, global warming and changes in human behaviour, all of which provide multiple opportunities for pathogens to colonize new territories and evolve into new forms.

Preventing and controlling

Past decades have shown that preventing diseases at their animal source is the most effective and economic way of protecting people. New models are needed to ensure early detection, prevention and control at the human–animal interface to reduce the persistent global threat of emerging animal diseases.

Given the complexity of these diseases and their emergence and spread in a world that is becoming increasingly globalised, it is essential to find effective strategies to control them at their source to reduce their potentially devastating impact on health.

This can be done by building upon the successes of the past, integrating new control methods and by entering into new partnerships to reduce future threats.

PREVENTION

Past decades have shown that preventing diseases at their animal source is the most effective and economic way of protecting people.

Networking

Swift and accurate identification of the pathogens responsible for animal diseases is an essential component in the early detection of disease. That is why the capabilities and reliability of national veterinary laboratories play a key role in controlling such diseases.

Coordination betwe the many players invol in human, animal and e ronmental health is vit meet the health challe of tomorrow. In this co three major internatio- ganisations, World I Organisation, Worl ganisation for Anima and Food and Agr Organisation are together to preve control health risk human–animal–ec interface. They a oping global strat tools to ensure a c harmonised appr to better coordina veterinary and er tal health polic national and in levels.