Enhancing animal production and disease control in Uganda
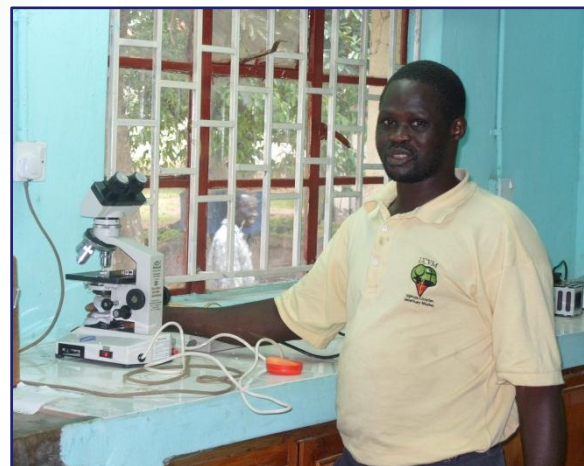
The challenge…

Over 70% of the total population of Uganda are engaged in agriculture. Livestock is a major component, but growth in this sector needs improvement, mainly due to diseases and parasites that affect national herds and flocks.

Uganda is land locked and borders 5 livestock keeping countries with a high interaction with the Ugandan herd. This scenario creates a potential risk for disease exchange for both animal diseases and zoonoses. Efficient border control of animal diseases is required for disease control, which requires fast disease identification at border areas.

The project…

Uganda has worked with the IAEA's technical cooperation (TC) programme for many years. A range of projects have provided expertise to support the establishment of laboratories and to build capacity for their operation.

Through this project, the IAEA assisted Uganda through capacity building of staff and by providing equipment for the established mini mobile laboratories at border posts for fast and efficient diagnosis and control of animal diseases, using nuclear techniques. In addition, mapping of the stock routes and animal check points were initiated to improve the planning and implementation of animal and transboundary animal diseases (TADs) control in Uganda.

District Veterinary Officer at the border district laboratory in Arua, Uganda.

The impact…

At the National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC), TC projects have supported the establishment of a molecular diagnostic laboratory, which provides services for the rapid diagnosis of TADs. Nutrition laboratory centres have also been established that are able to be used for residue analysis in livestock and livestock products, and to promote production, productivity and marketing of livestock. Eighty per cent (up from 30%) of reported animal disease outbreaks are now investigated and diagnosed at NADDEC. Border post and mobile laboratories have been created to control disease incursions from five neighbouring countries. With this infrastructure in place, animal disease control has improved with accurate and timely diagnosis. Uganda is now serving as a fellowship training portal for Africa.

In addition, two artificial insemination (AI) centres have been renovated and made operational in Uganda, in Njeru and Ruhengere, with 168 inseminations occurring in the first half of 2014. The centres bring AI services nearer to farmers, and will have a direct impact on improving livestock productivity and farmer livelihood. It is estimated that farmers' access to AI services will increase by 10%.

Technical cooperation project UGA/5/032: Improving Animal Production and Productivity through Advanced Animal Disease Control and Animal Production Measures