

KYEEMA Foundation and AU-PANVAC set to expand sustainable Newcastle disease control in African Union member states in 2015

The Australian government funded project ‘Supporting Food Security and Capacity Building in African Union Member States through the Sustainable Control of Newcastle Disease in Village Chickens’ is in final preparations to deliver master training courses in selected member states. Since 2013 KYEEMA Foundation, in partnership with the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccination Centre (AU-PANVAC), has been working hard to deliver the program objectives which are to enable:

- 1) The production of quality assured Newcastle disease vaccine.
- 2) Enhanced laboratory diagnostic capability.
- 3) The delivery of cost-effective surveillance.
- 4) The implementation of vaccination programs for rural chickens.

Thanks to financial support from AU-PANVAC, the proceedings of the Newcastle Disease Coordination Meeting held in Addis Ababa in July 2013 have been published and are available [here](#) through the AU website. There were delegates from 19 African countries and representatives from several international organisations including OIE in attendance. Here the impact of Newcastle disease (ND) control in Africa and the different country situations relating to the challenges and opportunities for agriculture and ND control were presented and discussed.

Activities for the project so far cover two broad outcomes: evaluations of member states for inclusion in the project; and development of training materials for master trainers to deliver objectives.

In depth assessments for selection of countries to participate in this multi-year project have been carried out using a variety of platforms.



Program Master Trainers (from left): Professor Ayayi Justin Akakpo (Senegal); Dr. Nick Nwankpa (AU-PANVAC Ethiopia); Professor Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote D’Ivoire); Dr. Anabela dos Muchangos (Mozambique); Dr. Joseph Adongo Awuni (Ghana); Dr. Quintino Lobo (Mozambique); Dr. Halifa Msami (Tanzania); Mr Amilcar da Silva (Mozambique)

ND control surveillance reports in AU member states have been reviewed and the [findings published](#). Master trainers from Mozambique, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Cote d’Ivoire and AU-PANVAC held a meeting in Debre Zeit and have agreed on three ND control models to be considered to represent the circumstances prevailing in member states: 1) ND control in a country with national vaccine production; 2) ND control in a country electing to import vaccine for ND control; and 3) ND control in a post-conflict country. Considering socio-economic determinants, interest in ND control and geographical distribution, the countries considered for visits were *Mozambique, Ethiopia, Burundi, Madagascar, Burkina Faso and Liberia*. In-country visits have been conducted for all these countries except Liberia, where the Ebola outbreak has delayed the planned visit.

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Training materials for all objectives are in development and it is anticipated they will be ready for use by June 2015.



Recent country visit to Burkino Faso in January 2015. Dr Joseph Adongo Awuni and Prof. Ayayi Justin Akakpo meeting with the District Veterinary Office of Poa.



Homestead in the district of Poa.

The [ACIAR Newcastle Disease Control Laboratory Manual](#) has been updated, translated into French and printed in hard copy and CD. The Portuguese version is also available. The [ACIAR Newcastle Disease Control Field](#) and [Training Manuals](#) are being combined and updated and will also be translated into French and Portuguese. The master trainers are currently consulting on drafting the master trainer curriculum to complement the ND control manuals in vaccine production; testing and distribution; diagnostic laboratory; and field and surveillance activities.

KYEEMA is currently exploring options for funding opportunities to continue expansion of the project in 2015. Partnership with [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program \(CAADP\)](#) is being investigated, along with other funding options.



2015

International
Year of Soils

2015 is the International Year of Soils - relevant to the global food security, nutrition and livelihoods agenda, and of course to KYEEMA Foundation's vision to improve the living standards of individuals in developing countries.

Livestock, particularly poultry, play an important role to the health of soils. Mario Herrero, an international livestock expert who studies nitrogen flows, says in the developing world most manure will be used on crops, although it will only supply about half of the nitrogen they ideally need.

The organic versus mineral fertiliser debate is a common one. Green agriculture movements propose that organic fertilisers are the only way to go due to the negative impacts of mineral fertilisers on soil health over the long term. They also argue that in small holder systems in the developing world, their use negates the need to spend limited cash income on buying fertilisers that ultimately are not sustainable. The headline finding from the 2012 *Nature* paper was that organic crop yields were 25 percent lower than conventional mineral fertiliser yields, however for some crops like perennial trees and legumes there was almost no gap.

It is suggested by Bernard Vanlauwe, the R4D Director of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's central African hub, that crops require soil conditions that favour growth and a wide range of nutrients, and that neither mineral nor organic inputs alone can provide both of these. A middle ground is advocacy for Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM).

A core question for smallholder agriculture on a practical level is: How can we ensure mineral inputs are used in the most efficient and profitable ways without leaving unacceptable environmental footprints?

If access is not possible: How do we maximise the use of organic fertilisers from animal and vegetable waste to maximise crop production for sustainable livelihoods?

Launch of the EU funded Grants Facility in Gaborone – first of its kind for CCARDESA

Dr Rosa Costa, KYEEMA Foundation's Africa Regional Manager, attended the launch event for the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) grants facility on 19th November 2014 in Botswana. The facility is a collaboration of South African Development Community (SADC) members and the European Union (EU) as part of the 10th European Development Fund commitment to create a conducive environment to support agricultural research and development. CCARDESA received Euro 1.3 million from the EU and World Bank. The EU Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Alexander Baum, expressed confidence that the funds will help better prepare the region to address some of the key challenges facing the agricultural sector.



Dr Rosa Costa (second from right), KYEEMA Foundation, shaking hands with EU Ambassador to Botswana, Ambassador Alexander Baum (far left), together with representatives from SADC, CCARDESA and Botswana Ministry of Agriculture.

The event was attended by 60 representatives from the region, including development partners, national universities, non-government organisations and the private sector. Dr Costa represented KYEEMA Foundation as one of the eight grant beneficiaries from the region. She was one of two female grantee representatives of the seven in attendance. The seven beneficiaries were selected from a pool of 160 applications, after a call for proposals earlier in 2014. The selected projects address a wide range of topics from solar drying technology to urban farming practices in livestock throughout Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.

Each of the eight projects selected will receive approximately \$170,000 over a period of 3 years.

The project 'Improving Village Chicken Productivity for Increasing Income and Food Security in Tanzania and Mozambique' is a collaboration between TALIRI (Tanzanian Livestock Research Institute) and KYEEMA Foundation. The aim of the project is to improve productivity of village chickens that will contribute to household food security and income generation through use of thermotolerant I-2 vaccine, brooding and feeding technologies. The main target group of the project is small scale farmers keeping local chickens, especially women and youth. The key project activities will include: introduction of I-2 vaccine for the control of ND; dissemination of brooding and creep feeding technologies; and capacity building to project beneficiaries to increase productivity. Local chicken production will be addressed with a focus on chicken health, nutrition and management. The project will be conducted in Mtwara region in Tanzania and Gaza province in Mozambique. It is due to commence in mid-2015 with inception meetings, selection of sites and farmers, project awareness, baseline surveys, trainings and implementation of vaccination programs. KYEEMA Foundation will lead planned activities for this period in Mozambique.

KYEEMA is now a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) registered organisation

We are proud to announce that in February 2015, the KYEEMA Foundation was endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as an approved Deductible Gift Recipient organisation.

This means that donations given by any Australian taxpayer to the KYEEMA Foundation "Developing Country Fund" can now be claimed as a tax deduction.

Malawi's hottest export supporting the work of National Rural Poultry Centre

Shortly after starting to import Malawian Nali hot sauce to Australia in September 2013, *Adeng Imports* owner Russel Hunter committed \$1 from each \$12.95 bottle of sauce to aiding the work of the National Rural Poultry Centre (NRPC) in Malawi, an associate of KYEEMA Foundation. It has been a challenging import venture at times but this product has made important monetary contributions to the work of NRPC over the last 1.5 years and is now available online and at five retail locations in Melbourne and Adelaide.



Nali hot sauce product range. Order online at <http://www.nalisauce.com/>

With a piri piri heat score of 175,000 scoville units and seven flavours to choose from, chilli connoisseurs know this Malawian product is up there with the best on the global hot sauce stage. Do understand, when the locals say "Abale Samalani" or "Friend, take care", they have your best interests at heart! Nali is the brainchild of Mr Alford Nalilo Khoromana, a Malawian man who returned from holiday in India in the 1970s and decided he could re-create the chilli sauce he had tasted there but make it even better – Malawi style. Through his subsequently well-established family business, Nali sauce production is able to employ around 300 people locally and around 3000-4000 smallholder chilli farmers who prefer to sell most of their chilli to the company rather than the local market vendors who buy at a lower price.

This infamous sauce took Russel Hunter's fancy when he was volunteering with the Small-Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program (SSLLP) and NRPC in 2009 whilst dining in the local chicken and fish cafes in Malawi where the sauce is commonly available.

As an animal health consultant in project management and technical supervision at his own *Paraveterinary Projects*, he could see the (<http://www.paravetprojects.com.au/>) potential value that an Australian Nali sauce import venture could add to the agricultural program at NRPC.

His business acumen and past experience with AQIS helped him to start the process and deliver a successful venture that continues to grow. Sourcing and maintaining a reliable and efficient freight system and the lag times in communication to Malawi are constant challenges but online customers and retailers in Australia can expect a reliably accessible, sustainably packaged, ethically produced and tasty product.



An NRPC practical vaccination session in Ntchisi district in October 2014.

Russel says he is open to the idea of expanding his product range to other products with key ingredients that directly influence smallholder farmers in the region or elsewhere where there is a need, as long as there is a good project model and where import requirements and quarantine issues are relatively simple.

Such import enterprises are just one of the many new frontiers of funding for the 'third sector' of the development world. The book 'Leverage for Good: An Introduction to the New Frontiers of Philanthropy and Social Investment' by Lester M Salamon published in April 2014 by Oxford University Press, provides a good overview. These initiatives have been around for some time, but new partnerships, regulations and problem solving skills are needed to secure a profitable, transparent and ecologically sustainable model that is consumer competitive, has maximum community impact and can be easily up-scaled.

A successful example is the story of Aloe production and exportation by Masai women of Kenya to 'Lush Cosmetics UK' through the company's 'Sustainable Lush' or "Slush" fund. See an interesting short documentary about the initiative here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRAjR86WW9Q>

How are the ongoing Nali Sauce donations helping family poultry in Malawi?

NRPC assists in creating employment opportunities and improved income for individuals in the family poultry sector in Malawi through trainings in Newcastle disease vaccination programs and animal production. NRPC Director, Dr Pat Boland, reported on recently completed and planned upcoming activities of the organisation in December last year. He outlined the new program in the Ntchisi district that commenced in October 2014. In the extension planning areas of Malomo and Chipuka, 31 community based poultry technicians and 2 government field staff from 12 village groups, including almost 50% women, have been trained in vaccination delivery and poultry production. This activity means that NRPC is well on the road to reaching their target for the 'Improving Rural Livelihoods in Malawi through Village Poultry' project. They aim to reach 2,400 families and vaccinate at least 15, 000 chickens before the end of the GRM Communities First Program funds which are due for completion in March 2016.



The government and community based vaccinators from Malomo and Chipuka who attended the October trainings. Babies were welcome, however challenging participants!

NRPC is also helping the NGO 'Concern Worldwide' with training in setting up and supporting vaccination programs in Nkhotkota, Nsanje and Lilongwe. In addition, they are serving in an advisory and support role for the same organisation to deliver emergency restocking of the poultry sector after the recent devastating floods in the Nsanje district. Lastly, NRPC are involved in re-publishing a guide to guinea-fowl farming in Malawi. The refined digital version is expected to be completed and made available on the [website](#) soon.

Let's beat Newcastle disease in Nigeria

Poor rural poultry owners in northern Nigeria are now able to protect their flocks against Newcastle disease (ND) that kills up to 90% of their chickens every year. [Propcom Mai-karfi](#), a program supported by the UK Government and managed by GRM International Ltd. is collaborating with National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Vom, and Agriprojects Concepts International Ltd (ACI), a private Nigerian company, to ensure that owners of village chickens in Northern Nigeria have access to thermotolerant I-2 ND vaccine for their flocks.

Seeing the potential market among rural poultry owners, ACI developed a business model, coordinated the promotion of the vaccine, and selected distributors. The distributors select vaccinators from among their clients and train them in how to administer the vaccine and sell it to farmers. Finding vaccinators who are committed, business-minded and respected in their communities is central to success. Some vaccinators have dropped out since the program commenced but it has been found that people who relate with farmers on a regular basis and live in rural areas make good vaccinators.



A vaccinator informing community members of the vaccination activities.

The vaccinators, generally paravets or farmers located within the community, are provided with posters, flyers and a vaccinator vest.

The vaccinators are known as 'Garkuwan kaji' (chicken protectors) and create awareness of the vaccine through the village heads, religious groups, village town crier and in the market.

The vaccine is administered as an eye drop and farmers pay 20-40 Naira (USD 0.10-0.20) per chicken for the vaccination service.

On average, each vaccinator vaccinates 700-1,000 chickens per year during the provision of routine vaccination services throughout the year. These services increase in the peak ND outbreak period of October to March. 85% of the vaccines are sold and vaccinator activity is highest in this period which coincides with the Harmattan period of cold-dry and dusty trade winds that sweep the region.



A vaccinator vaccinating chickens with the help of the local children.

Currently there are about 50 vaccinators working in 15 communities across nine states in northern Nigeria. A vaccination campaign is also planned for delivery this year. This will involve pre-season and off season campaigns to increase awareness of the disease and will be driven by the private sector. Such campaigns are important for improving farmer expectations; sometimes there is a belief that the vaccine will be free, but explaining that vaccination is a good safeguarding investment is important - a chicken can sell for N500 [USD 2.50]. Seeing your neighbour's vaccinated chickens survive when yours die can quickly change attitudes.

An interesting video on their work can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcqzeDWacAs>

ACFID: addressing the future of NGOs in the age of disruption

KYEEMA has recently attended several Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) meetings, information sessions and workshops. Dr John Copland, KYEEMA Board member, represented the organisation at the **2014 ACFID Council and Annual General Meeting** from 22-24 October last year in Canberra. The meeting was well attended by member representatives, academics, government, consultants and development sector leaders, with almost a third attending for the first time. There were a series of key note speakers and interactive informative sessions. The main theme focused on strategies for adaptation of the sector in the face of enormous global challenges. Through the key note presentations, specific attention was given to **increasing global gender inequalities**, the **inexplicable link between environment and development** and the **role of migration** in development.

Several take home messages from the meet are summarised below:

- NGOs need to develop **transformative organisational strategies** as part of the global development agenda.
- In a “frontiers in funding” plenary session, a heavy emphasis was delivered on **new business collaborations with the private sector**.
- The importance of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for Australian NGOs was highlighted – **good news for KYEEMA as we were successful in achieving DGR approved status in early 2015**.
- An interesting interactive “foresight workshop” examined the **advantages of more long term planning of activities, up to 25 years ahead**.
- David Griggs (CEO Climate Works Australia and Director Monash Sustainability Institute) implored members that for every project proposal in the future, priority should be given to those that have **synergistic benefits to both development and the environment**. He suggested that there may a need to shift focus to policy change rather than on-ground work.

Did you know that in most African countries, over 70% of the poultry products and 20 percent of animal protein intake comes from scavenging, indigenous chickens found in virtually all villages and households in rural Africa?

The **new Australian Aid Campaign** and [website](#) was also promoted by Tim Costello. A link to most key presentations can be found at the [ACFID website](#).

Dr Copland has encouraged promotion of KYEEMA work by way of a short presentation in the member's forum at the upcoming 2015 [Annual ACFID National Conference](#) to be held from 15-16 October in Sydney.

In February this year more ACFID activities were attended with a focus on understanding how the new Australian Aid program will affect the work of Australian NGOs. On 19 February, Dr Copland engaged with DFAT staff at the **ACFID member information forum** in Canberra. A great challenge for the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) is how to strategise and prioritise work, given the 20-40% aid funding cuts. DFAT staff encouraged KYEEMA to apply for ANCP accreditation, despite the challenging administrative path. This will involve clear demonstration of compliance with ACFID accepted policies and sound financial management of the KYEEMA Foundation Developing Country Relief Fund. Considering our recent success in achieving the long road to DGR status, we hope the ANCP path is one we will be able to navigate as it is a great advantage in independently accessing funds for our work.



From left to right: Daphnee Cook (ACFID Membership Coordinator) and Sophie Green (ACFID Support Services Administrator); members of the ACFID team who support us at KYEEMA.

Finally, 24 February, Senior Technical Manager Dr Mary Young and intern Eliza Smith attended the **Introduction to Aid and Development workshop** in Brisbane. This was an informative day led by ACFID in which several topics were interactively dissected by a group of local NGO representatives; the post 2015 global development agenda, current development players, the new Australian Aid strategic framework and the ACFID member code of compliance were among these.

Participants were also led through a valuable publication on 'Australian Aid Mythbusters' – a useful tool when having the aid debate. With the one billion dollar cut from the 5 billion dollar aid budget from the 2014-15 budget to the 2015-16 budget, the need for rapid response with strategic change is apparent. The main changes in strategy proposed by the government include focusing on:

- 1) private sector development and strengthening [human development](#);
- 2) the Indo-Pacific region only;
- 3) increasing Aid for Trade schemes to 20% of the official development assistance (ODA) by 2020;
- 4) [a new performance framework](#); and
- 5) addressing gender equality and women's empowerment across the [priority investment areas](#).

KYEEMA associates look forward to attending several upcoming **DFAT-delivered webinars** to ensure we are well informed about this new government strategy, current global aid issues and relevant benchmarks.

KYEEMA is an Australian aboriginal word meaning "of the dawn".

Our philosophy is that through helping people to improve their livelihoods, we will assist them to start their lives with new hope for the future, to have a new dawn.

Articles for publication in our newsletter can be sent to:

ruralpoultry@kyeemafoundation.org

NB: The opinions expressed in articles contained in this newsletter are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newsletter editors.