

Introgression of Sahelian zebu cattle into trypanotolerant Boss taurus population of West Africa

Project Code: NRM/03/CF/CW/2011-14/

Objective:

From the phenotypic and genetic characterisation of West African cattle, the threat on trypanotolerant genetic resources will be assessed and recommendations for their sustainable management and conservation will be provided to Governments, breeders and stakeholders. The endogenous West African research capabilities to face these tasks will be enhanced.

Background/Rationale:

West African taurine cattle populations are a “genetic-treasure-trove”. They are at high genetic risk due to the introgression of non-trypanotolerant zebu cattle. This project will be carried out through the phenotypic and molecular characterisation of Burkina Faso, Benin and Mali cattle populations in order to identify geographic and biological patterns of admixture amongst taurine and zebu populations. This will be done ensuring the scientific coordination with major current livestock research programmes in West Africa and enhancing the research capabilities of West African groups. This 3-years-project will provide recommendations to Governments and stakeholders on strategies for sustainable management and conservation of trypanotolerant cattle.

Project Outputs:

1. Improve the genetic integrity of West African trypanotolerant cattle populations in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali;
2. Strengthen the capacity of target groups (researchers, breeder’s organizations and decision makers) to purebred and manage cattle populations in the Sahel region of Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali
3. Obtain a “map” for the presence of trypanosome species in West African cattle via the detection, identification and quantification of trypanosomes in the individuals assessed morphologically.
4. Design of recommendations for efficient strategies for sustainable management and conservation of trypanotolerant cattle breeds.

Project Funding Type: Competitive Project

Participating institution and country location:

1. INRAB - Bénin, Pr Delphin O. KOUDANDE 2. IPR - Mali, Pr Siaka DIARRA

Lead Institution:

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Ending date: 2014

Source of funding: MDTF CORAF

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