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## EMERGENCY TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) IN NAMIBIA

June 2024

SDGs:



Country:

Namibia

Project Code:

TCP/NAM/3902

FAO Contribution:

USD 500 000

Duration:

11 October 2022–31 March 2024

Contact Info:

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### Implementing Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR).

### Beneficiaries

Communal farmers in the northern regions of Namibia.

### Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF Output 2: Capacity strengthened for improved smallholder farmer productivity of the CPF.



### BACKGROUND

On 28 February 2022, the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) detected outbreaks of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in the Ncamangoro and Musese Constituencies of Kavango West region in Namibia. Following the Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011, the DVS conducted outbreak investigations and implemented control measures. These measures included collecting samples for laboratory analysis, mobilizing resources, conducting intensive surveillance, engaging farmers and stakeholders, and restricting livestock movement in and out of affected areas. The Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) confirmed five CBPP positive cases, with initial investigations reporting 15 cattle kraals affected, 60 clinical cases and 45 mortalities. Subsequent cases were reported in the Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati regions, further raising the number of cases, which are believed to be underrepresented due to capacity limitations.

The emergency, which arose amid economic challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine Russia war, impacting government spending, heavily affected an already weakened communal area relying on livestock. The CBPP outbreak threatened the community's primary asset, necessitating comprehensive disease control and resilience building-measures.

A public notification was issued, and the government approached the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for emergency technical support. The government also activated the CBPP contingency plan and mobilized resources. Key interventions included vaccinating cattle in eight Northern Communal Areas, restricting cattle movement and conducting intensive disease surveillance. Against this background, this project was designed to help curb the CBPP spread in the country, supplying vaccination materials, camping gear and diagnostic kits and to support managing checkpoints, vaccination, tagging, surveillance, tracing livestock movement and diagnosis.

### IMPACT

The project complemented the government's outbreak control measures and enhanced its responsive capacity by availing the needed equipment for surveillance, vaccination and diagnosis. It contributed towards a reduction of CBPP outbreaks, thus contributing to the improvement of animal health and management systems for communal farmers in the northern regions of Namibia. The capacity built during this project will also aid in controlling Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), further benefiting the region's livestock health and trade potential. The intervention helped achieve SDG 2 especially Target 2.4 by contributing to sustainable food production and implementing resilient agricultural practices through disease control in order to increase productivity and output.

### ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project was designed to complement the government's efforts to control the outbreak of CBPP in Namibia's Northern Communal Areas (NCAs), especially considering the transboundary nature of the outbreak. By the end of the project, the government had vaccinated 1 285 820 cattle, with ear tags provided for traceability, and no new CBPP outbreaks were reported, significantly contributing to disease control. The project also enhanced the DVS' responsiveness by providing essential equipment, including a vehicle, camping gear for vaccination teams, laboratory equipment and personal protective gear.

The project additionally trained farmers to recognize CBPP clinical signs, transmission modes and protective measures. FAO enhanced awareness through pamphlets and leaflets in local languages, reaching 3 400 farmers across eight regions.

The project's comprehensive approach and FAO's support significantly bolstered the government's capacity to control CBPP and prepared the region for future challenges, such as FMD.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Due to some delays in the project implementation, caused by procurement related challenges, a no-cost extension until 31 March 2024 was requested and approved. This allowed for the implementation of all project activities within the planned budget. Savings resulted in more equipment being procured than originally planned.

## FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Continuous awareness campaigns with farmers on diseases that are of economic importance drawing from lessons learned during the implementation of this project.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### 1. Capacity development

The DVS established disease response plans, and this project significantly enhanced the government's capacity to implement these plans effectively. The project focused on procuring essential equipment for controlling CBPP, as well as providing comprehensive training for government officials and farmers on CBPP management and prevention.

The project facilitated a stronger partnership between the FAO and the MAWLR, particularly the DVS. This collaboration extended to the farmers in the affected regions, ensuring a cohesive and community-inclusive approach to combating CBPP. Through these efforts, the project not only addressed the immediate outbreak but also contributed to long term sustainability and resilience building within the livestock sector.



### 2. Gender equality

The project ensured a gender sensitive approach to the design of activities, promoting equal gender representation.

### 3. Economic sustainability

The project helped to ensure the sustainability of the farmers' herds by supporting the vaccination campaigns through the provision of needed veterinary equipment. In that way, herd immunity against CBPP was ensured. For future outbreaks, farmers were trained on CBPP to identify clinical signs and what to do to minimize the spread of the disease should an outbreak occur. Hence, through this project, economic losses will be minimized as officials and farmers are now better capacitated to handle a future outbreak.



## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- MAWLR. 2023. *Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Awareness Pamphlet* (translation into four local languages: Otjiherero, Rukwangali, Oshiwambo and Khoekhoegowab).



## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Expected Impact</b>	<b>Improved animal health and management system for communal farmers in the northern regions of Namibia</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	Prevention, control and reduction in the cases of CBPP for enhanced cattle production and productivity		
	<b>Indicator</b>	Minimal CBPP Outbreaks in the NCAs.	
	<b>Baseline</b>	188 Confirmed cases.	
	<b>End Target</b>	80% reduction in CBPP cases in the NCAs.	
	<b>Comments and follow-up action to be taken</b>	<p>The project achieved most of its targets, though there were delays due to initial procurement challenges. Much of the essential equipment needed by the MAWLR had to be sourced from outside the country, complicating timely delivery due to cross-border trade requirements. Ensuring that samples met the required specifications before delivery also posed challenges, as they came from foreign companies. However, assistance from other country offices, such as FAO India, helped ensure the samples met the necessary specifications before mass production commenced.</p> <p>Overall, the project strengthened the capacity of the DVS by providing the necessary skills and equipment to conduct surveillance programmes and curb the spread of CBPP. As a follow-up, FAO may consider assisting the government in enhancing its capacity to control the spread of FMD, which is limiting access to potentially lucrative markets.</p>	
<b>Output 1</b>	CBPP outbreak control measures implemented effectively		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	Number of CBPP cases.	0	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	188 cases.		
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The activities and outputs of this project were designed to complement the government's efforts to control the outbreak of CBPP in the northern communal areas of Namibia, considering the transboundary nature of the outbreak due to its proximity to the country's northern neighbours. The implementation of the project significantly contributed to controlling CBPP, as no new outbreaks were reported by the project's end. The project enhanced the DVS' responsiveness to CBPP by providing essential equipment, including a vehicle, camping gear for vaccination teams, laboratory equipment and personal protective gear.</p> <p>However, while the project primarily focused on procuring the necessary equipment to control CBPP, the procurement process experienced significant delays, which slowed down project implementation. Besides CBPP, FMD also poses a challenge to trade in the target regions. Therefore, the capacity built during this project will also aid in controlling FMD, further benefiting the region's livestock health and trade potential.</p>		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	<b>Assemble vaccination teams</b>		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<p>This activity involved organizing vaccination teams composed of veterinary health technicians from various regions, including those not affected by the disease. FAO complemented the government by supporting the payment of daily subsistence allowances for some team members. Additionally, FAO covered catering costs for refresher courses on CBPP conducted by state veterinarians for the vaccination teams. With the project's support, 110 Animal health technicians received refresher training on CBPP.</p>	
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
<b>Activity 1.2</b>	<b>Improve the mobility of the vaccination teams</b>		
	<b>Comments</b>	<p>This activity involved the purchase of one vehicle by FAO to complement the government fleet assigned to the vaccination teams. The procurement was necessary due to the limited number of vehicles available to the DVS. The vehicle was procured and officially handed over to the government, which effectively utilized it during the campaign. As a follow-up, future projects could consider purchasing more fully equipped camping vehicles to further support the already stretched DVS fleet.</p>	

Activity 1.3	Vaccinate Cattle against CBPP	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The DVS vaccinated 1 285 820 cattle at risk of contracting CBPP. The vaccinated cattle were recorded through ear tag numbers, and untagged cattle were tagged to identify them as vaccinated by the vaccination teams. To complement this effort, FAO provided 80 000 Radio Frequency Identification ear tags. Due to savings in the project budget, twice the planned number of ear tags were procured. However, despite procuring additional ear tags, there remains a significant gap in demand. For traceability purposes, it is recommended that future support should assist farmers in tagging their cattle. Additionally, FAO supplied camping equipment (tents, chairs, personal protective equipment and cooler boxes) to the DVS to support the ongoing vaccination campaign.
Activity 1.4	Conduct CBPP surveillance (verification of active cases and immunity level)	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	This activity complemented the government's efforts to inspect cattle in the infected and adjacent areas to determine the extent of the outbreak. FAO provided laboratory diagnostic equipment, including syringes, needles and diagnostic reagents. However, the delivery of this equipment was delayed due to procurement challenges. Unfortunately, although the equipment was eventually delivered, it was not used in time for the surveillance process.
Activity 1.5	CBPP awareness campaigns	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	This activity involved training farmers by the DVS to recognize CBPP clinical signs, understand its mode of transmission and implement protective measures. FAO provided logistical support and enhanced the awareness campaign by developing and producing pamphlets and leaflets translated into different local languages for distribution to farmers and other relevant stakeholders. This communication material on CBPP helped raise awareness among 3 400 farmers (1 530 females and 1 870 males) across the eight target regions of Namibia: Kunene, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Kavango West, Kavango East and Zambezi.

**Partnerships and Outreach**

For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

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