

CBPP Vaccine Project Team Wins Public Service Excellence Awards

By Virginia Wangari

Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services this year scooped the coveted Public Service Excellence Awards (PSEA) for research being undertaken on Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) which is a devastating livestock lung disease.

Researchers and officers from KALRO-Veterinary Research Institute, and Directorate of Veterinary Services received the *Citizen Focused Service Delivery Team Category Award* in recognition for their outstanding commitment to duty since 2012 to develop thermostable vaccine to control CBPP in the country.

The award also recognized the team for their focus on service delivery to mwananchi in disease surveillance and socio-economic activities in various counties such as Wajir, Kajiado, Garissa, Narok and Laikipia. The information obtained in these activities will be



The Deputy President and Cabinet Secretary Mrs. Sicily Kariuki (back row) pose for a photograph with 2017 Public Service Excellence Awards winners (Picture by Boniface Malinda, KNA).

useful in planning the vaccine roll-out, and identifying associated delivery issues.

The development of the vaccine is expected to be a big relief to farmers in the country because the disease had impacted negatively on production and the income over the years and also drastically reduced the contribution of livestock sub-sector to the country's gross

domestic product (GDP).

Dr. Salome Kairu Wanyoike, the Deputy Director of veterinary services and CBPP vaccine project socio economic team leader said the new vaccine will reduce the risks of the spread of the contagious disease. "The vaccine will help restore both milk and meat production which were affected by the disease", she said.

"There will also be scaling up once the vaccine passes the field test so that it can be available to farmers at the shortest time and at lowest cost possible", she added.

Dr Kairu said that major achievement of producing this vaccine was the that the country stood to save a lot of money currently spent on cattle losses, surveillance and control measures terming the production a breakthrough and a big milestone." We are hoping

that in shortest time possible we will conclude the production of the vaccine since the surest way of controlling the CBPP is through vaccination”, she noted

Last year, Dr Kairu was part of a team that conducted a national survey in Kenya and in the IGAD region for CBPP and other livestock diseases and was able to demonstrate the hot spot areas for all livestock diseases.

The principal investigator of the thermostable CBPP vaccine who is also the project team leader at KALRO Dr Hezron Wesonga, said the new vaccine will be tested on cattle before being released in large scale.

Dr. Wesonga explained that the vaccine currently being used has a lot of shortcomings such as post vaccination reactions and requires a cold chain. “The new vaccine being developed will overcome all this and the cost will be much lower than the current one”, he added.

“The current vaccine is given two or three times a year but the one under development will not require to be used many times because the potency period is long”, he added.

The annual Public Service Excellence Awards (PSEA), recognizes outstanding public servants in the county and is open to all workers in the public service. This years’ awards ceremony was presided over by the Deputy President William Ruto and was attended by Cabinet Secretary Public Service, Youth and Gender, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki at Kenyatta Convention Center.



Mrs. Sicily Kariuki said PSEA scheme awards seeks to honor the dedication, commitment and excellence of civil servants who so often work below the radar and against significant odds to deliver.

Deputy Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Salome Kairu-Wanyoike (2nd Left) receives the “Citizen Focused Service Delivery Team Category Award”, from Deputy President William Ruto, on behalf of CBPP Vaccine Project Team (Picture by Boniface Malinda, KNA)