

**Press Release N°222/2015****Joint 33rd General Conference of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC), and 14th PATTEC Coordinators meeting, N'Djamena, Chad, 14th –18th September 2015**

N'Djamena, Chad, 14th –18th September 2015 The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture has organized the 33rd General Conference of International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) and the 14th PATTEC Coordinators' meeting which will take place 14-18 September 2015 in N'djamena, Chad.

The International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) is a statutory Council of the African Union Commission with the Secretariat at African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal resources (AU-IBAR) in Nairobi, Kenya. It was established in the early 60s as a vehicle to promote international cooperation in the fight against trypanosomiasis which is one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the continent.

In order to stimulate faster implementation, PATTEC Coordinators' meetings are held annually to assess the performance of all countries, identify bottlenecks, solutions and revise action plans to ensure accelerated progress. The meetings bring together all Tsetse and Trypanosomosis (T&T) affected countries to present their progress reports and share lessons learned with others.

The General ISCTRC Conference will last five days and will be attended by 300 participants drawn from the 38 affected African countries and international organizations with over 100 scientific papers being presented. The meeting will disseminate scientific information on tsetse, human and animal trypanosomiasis problem, reviews control strategies and recommends appropriate approaches in research and control.

The expected outcomes of the joint meeting include sharing of achievements, challenges and lessons learned of the PATTEC initiative during the 15 years of implementation and developing a roadmap for the next ten years in alignment with the Malabo Declaration implementation strategy and roadmap. In addition, the conference is expected to adopt recommendations for tsetse and trypanosomosis research and control activities for the next two years.

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