AFRICAN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND HEALTH ADVANCEMENT

FOR ANIMALS. FOR HEALTH. FOR YOU.

ZOETIS A.L.P.H.A.
BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
Livestock production on smallholder farms (< 5 hectares) is the most prevalent form of agriculture globally and produces over half of the world’s protein supply\(^1\). Yet countries with large numbers of these farms are also home to half of the world’s undernourished population, with the majority of people living in absolute poverty\(^1\).

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has some of the highest human population growth rates in the world with up to a five-fold increase in population expected in some SSA countries by 2100\(^2\). Nigeria’s population is set to outgrow the United States by 2050 and become the third most populous country in the world\(^2\).

SSA also has some of the largest livestock populations in the world:

- **Nigeria** has the largest overall African livestock population of 144 million chickens and 131 million ruminants\(^3\).
- **Ethiopia** has the largest African cattle population of 57 million\(^5\).
- **Uganda** has the highest pork consumption rate per capita in East Africa. The pig population is projected to grow from 3.2 million to 8 million in 2020\(^4\).
- **Tanzania** has an estimated livestock population of 107 million, of which 88% are kept in traditional smallholder systems\(^6\).
Livestock are an essential asset to rural communities, and the health of livestock is critical to achieving food security in regions where there is exceptionally high incidence of livestock and human disease.

In order to ensure rising food and nutrient needs are met, livestock farming productivity must be improved. However, there are serious constraints to livestock farming and severe limitations in the animal health sector overall, including:

- Lack of access to high-quality veterinary medicines and products
- High unmet need for veterinary extension services in rural communities, as current medicalization rates are low and disease incidence is high
- Limited diagnostic infrastructure available for animal disease detection and intervention
- Changing regulations for the supply of veterinary products and lack of product and disease education result in incorrect product use, and subsequent ineffectiveness of veterinary medicines.

Zoetis is confident that solutions are available and significant progress can be made through collaboration between business, governmental authorities, local veterinarians, farmers and their associations, as well as NGOs.

We believe that stimulating improvements in the quality and quantity of local food production is essential to meet productivity and security requirements. These improvements will also create more jobs.
“THE A.L.P.H.A. INITIATIVE IS ADVANCING LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA THROUGH THE INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES, SERVICES AND EDUCATION.”
Zoetis launched the African Livestock Productivity and Health Advancement (A.L.P.H.A.) initiative in May 2017 to establish sustainable veterinary diagnostic networks and animal health infrastructure in Uganda, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. Funded by a $14.4 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and co-funded by Zoetis, the initiative aims to improve livestock health and positively impact farmers’ livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A.L.P.H.A. launched in Uganda and Nigeria in 2017, followed by Ethiopia and Tanzania in 2018. The initiative advances livestock health and productivity through increased availability of veterinary medicines, services, education, and the implementation of disease diagnostics infrastructure. To ensure the initiative is sustainable, veterinary laboratory networks and outreach services are incorporated into business hubs in all A.L.P.H.A. countries.

IMPROVING LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND FARMERS’ LIVELIHOODS IN AFRICA

VETERINARY MEDICINES AND SERVICES

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

VETERINARY LABORATORY NETWORKS
THE A.L.P.H.A INITIATIVE HAS SEVEN OBJECTIVES:

1. **Improved availability of veterinary medicines** through novel product registrations to extend the number of veterinary treatments available for livestock diseases;

2. Adaptation of product packaging/volume for selected products to **ensure affordability and practicality** for the smallholder market;

3. Investment in the development of a **certified local distributor network**, including distributor training to ensure correct and responsible veterinary product use;

4. Organization of extension services for rural communities to **improve medicalization rates of livestock**, and deliver **community education regarding animal disease** to demonstrate the potential of animal health to maximize profitability of smallholder farming.

5. Provision of a fully **operational, sustainable diagnostic infrastructure** delivered in conjunction with local partners to improve the correct diagnosis of major livestock production diseases and increase correct and responsible use of veterinary products;

6. Support local veterinary stakeholders and farmers with **professional education and entrepreneurial skills development** via face-to-face training and online learning*.

7. Demonstrate the value of animal health for local farming communities through **Outcomes Research** driven by epidemiological studies, with results communicated in educational resources designed for maximum accessibility for farmers.

Throughout this initiative, Zoetis will collaborate with local stakeholders including governmental authorities, local veterinarians, farmers and their associations, national and international NGOs, private sector distribution companies, and global partners to maximize positive and sustainable impact to the region.

Contact us: ALPHA-initiative@zoetis.com

More information you can find in our Learn & Grow section on following country websites:

REFERENCES


