



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The First Half Century

1957-2007

Eradicating tsetse fly from the Southern Rift Valley, Ethiopia

The challenge...

Tsetse fly infestation in the Southern Rift Valley of Ethiopia has limited the expansion of mixed farming in the region. The IAEA is supporting the Southern Tsetse Eradication Project (STEP) through the technical cooperation project ETH/5/012 - Integrating Sterile Insect Technique for Tsetse Eradication. The project aims to create a zone free of tsetse and trypanosomiasis in an area of 25 000 km² in the Southern Rift Valley (SRV), Ethiopia. This will free up the area to enable the introduction of mixed farming according to a land use plan being developed by the Government.

The project...

The project is currently focusing on an area of 10 500 km² which has considerable potential for agricultural development. Operational activities to clear this area will depend on the build-up of a sufficiently large colony of target tsetse fly species in captivity and other essential preparatory work, particularly in the field. It is likely that related field intervention work will need to continue through at least 2013.

The STEP Kaliti Tsetse Rearing and Irradiation Centre (Kaliti Centre) was inaugurated on 3 February 2007. When completely equipped and operational, the new facility will have a colony capacity of approximately 7 million female flies and will be able to produce over 700 000 sterile male flies per week – enough to treat approximately 7 000 km² at a time.



The impact...

The STEP is currently preparing for large-scale field operations, including the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). The creation of the tsetse-free zone in the entire target area is expected to be completed by 2017, including a four year verification phase.

ETH/5/012: Integrating Sterile Insect Technique for Tsetse Eradication.

This very large project is expected to cost in excess of US\$ 40 000 000. Major partnerships have been built to support the project, including with the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign of the African Union (AU-PATTEC), the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO/PAAT), the U.S. Government (which has contributed almost US\$ 3 000 000 and a full-time cost-free expert), OPEC Fund (US\$ 300 000), the Chinese Government (US\$ 95 000) and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). In February 2006, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) approved funding of about US\$ 1.7 million.

The Government of Ethiopia has secured a loan of US\$ 14 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support the tsetse programme, having already contributed several million dollars to the project in terms of running costs and the establishment of the Kaliti Tsetse Rearing and Irradiation Centre (Kaliti Centre).