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CIRDES, your sub-regional partner for Research - Development on livestock in West Africa and the Sahel.
The International Center for Research and Development on Livestock in Subhumid Zones (CIRDES) is an intergovernmental organization created by replacing the Research Center on Animal Trypanosomiasis, following the signature of a convention in December 1991 that was ratified by the Ministers in charge of livestock of the five (5) member states of the "Conseil de l'Entente" (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Togo). Other countries joined later on: Mali in 2002, Guinea Bissau in 2005 and Guinea in 2013. CIRDES has financial and administrative management autonomy, international legal personality and a headquarters agreement with Burkina Faso.

**MANDATE**

To carry out research and development activities to improve the health of domestic animals and increase their productivity in order to satisfy the growing needs of populations and increase their income while respecting the ecological balance.

**GUARDIANSHIP - GOVERNANCE**

CIRDES is placed under the supervision of the ministries in charge of livestock of its member states. A Board of Directors made up of the Ministers in charge of livestock and a Committee of Experts representing all the Member States, constitute the governance organs of the Center. A Scientific Advisory Board ensures the follow-up and evaluation of research activities. A General Management is in charge of the execution of the decisions of the governing bodies.

**FIELDS OF ACTIVITY**

- Diagnosis, Epidemiology and Strategic Control of vectors (tsetse flies, ticks) and vector-borne diseases (African animal/human trypanosomiasis, tick-borne diseases);
- Characterization of genetic resources for the conservation of environmental, animal and plant biodiversity;
- Studies and co-design of more productive and sustainable livestock systems in the face of climate change; Capacity building of human resources in the West African sub-region through training and transfer of innovative agricultural technologies;
- Collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information on livestock in Africa.

**LABELS AND RECOGNITIONS OBTAINED BY THE CIRDES**

- WAEMU Regional Center of Excellence for Animal Biotechnology;
- FAO Reference Center for Vectors and Vector-borne African Animal Diseases;
- Headquarters of the West African Genebank for Animal Genetic Resources;
- WHO Collaborating Centre for the fight against HAT;
- CORAF Base Centre;
- Depository center for FAO publications;
- Reference laboratory for the diagnosis of chemoresistance to trypanocides.

**FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH**

The scientific management is coordinated by a Scientific Director. The research activities are grouped in three research programs within two (2) units.

**Program 1 - Strategic control of vector-borne hemoparasitic diseases**

- Epidemiology and Diagnosis of African trypanosomiasis (Animal Trypanosomiasis and Human African Trypanosomiasis, AAT & HAT) and Tick-borne Diseases (TBD) in "one health" approach. Chemoresistance to usual drug molecules; Biology and Ecology of the vectors of the above-mentioned diseases; Strategic control of the above-mentioned diseases.

**Program 2 - Sustainable Integrated Management of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Resources**

- Farm typologies; ecological intensification; improvement of agricultural-livestock integration production systems; improvement of animal feed; improvement of livestock systems.

**Program 3 - Biodiversity and Genetic Improvement**

- Genetic characterization of animal genetic resources and aquaculture genetic resources; Studies of mechanisms of resistance of animals and humans to diseases; Conservation and preservation of domestic animal breeds.

**Priority research areas**

- The development of reliable parasitological, serological and molecular diagnostic tools allowing a better knowledge of the epidemiology of hemoparasitoses (African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Tick-borne diseases) of cattle;
- Studies on animal and environmental biodiversity for conservation or improvement of animal genetic resources;
- Research on markers of resistance and/or susceptibility to diseases and markers determining production abilities;
- The biology of tsetse and ticks to improve their capture and breeding methods;
- Improvement and implementation of innovative and efficient strategies to control vector-borne diseases;
- Epidemiology and strategic control of chemoresistance to trypanocides and acaricides.