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Does control of animal infectious risks offer a new international perspective

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RISK ASSESSMENT OF MAJOR ZOONOTIC DISEASES IN UGANDA

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ABSTRACT

Uganda, an enclave in the Great Lakes region, has prioritized animal production in the Programme for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) put in place in 2000 to alleviate poverty. The French cooperation participates in the PMA implementation by developing activities in the dairy sector in the southwestern Mbarara region, where close to one million cattle contribute to the greatest amount of milk to Kampala, the capital city. The high prevalence of tuberculosis and brucellosis registered in cattle farming has raised public concern on the zoonotic risk of these diseases. Results presented in this study confirm high animal prevalence of both tuberculosis and brucellosis, and surveys carried out in the human population concluded that the crucial public health problem of these diseases is more pronounced in Mbarara than in Kampala, due to a lower consumption of raw milk in the capital city. Recommendations highlight on a better sensitization on the risks associated with raw milk consumption, particularly within pastoral farming where brucellosis prevalence is the highest. The risk for humans to contract tuberculosis from Mycobacterium bovis is low, but further investigation must focus on the role of M. tuberculosis and M. other than tuberculosis in the animal-humans transmission of this major disease in the context of a high prevalence of HIV infection.

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