******

**Supporting Evidence-Based Interventions in Tanzania to Achieve Agricultural**

**Development Goals (SEBI-TZ)**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are working on a project with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) together with international partners from the University of Glasgow (UK), Washington State University (USA), and University of Otago (New Zealand).

We are investigating causes of livestock diseases in Tanzania, including livestock abortion, perinatal mortality and *ormilo*. We would like to understand which diseases are affecting different livestock species, and how these incidents affect livestock-keeping households.

The study is being funded through an award from the University of Edinburgh supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The study has been approved by the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre.

**WHY HAS MY HOUSEHOLD BEEN VISITED?**

We are very grateful to you for reporting an incident of livestock abortion or case of *ormilo* in your flock, and this visit is part of a follow-up investigation to find out more about the circumstances, causes and consequences of the disease problem.

**WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED?**

As part of this visit, we will be collecting some information required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on the number of animals affected during this abortion incident, the type of disease signs, and any treatment or preventive measures that have been undertaken. We will also collect samples, if possible, from the foetus and placenta, as well as some samples from the dam, including approximately 20mls of blood, 10mls of milk and two vaginal swabs. We will test these samples to look for some diseases that can cause abortion in livestock. Testing will be carried out at the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency in Arusha or Dar es Salaam and the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute in Moshi.

For additional research purposes, we would also like to collect some information about the abortion incident and livestock management practices to find out why some animals and households may be more at risk from abortion and the impact that abortion incidents have on livestock-keeping households. We may also be collecting some preliminary information about cases of *ormilo* in your sheep/goat flock. This may include examination of affected animals to record signs of disease and collection of a blood sample from the animal. If you have chosen to have any *ormilo*-affected animals slaughtered, we would also like to examine the carcass of the animal and collect samples to help identify the cause of the problem. You will be reimbursed for the market value of any organs from which post-mortem samples are collected.

The sample collection and questionnaire should not take more than one hour.

**FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION**

Within one week of this visit, we will follow up with a phone call to inform you of any results that are available following the laboratory testing. We will also provide more specific advice as to preventive measures as appropriate. We may also need to return to your farm in two to six weeks to collect a small additional blood sample from the affected animal.

If we have not been able to find out a cause of the abortion, we will let you know what further investigations are being carried out and when you might expect to hear the results.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?**

The samples and data that we collect about your animals and your household will be stored at the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) Biotechnology Laboratory and at the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency. Some samples may be shipped and stored at the University of Glasgow in Scotland or other reference laboratories and collaborating institutions for further testing. Since this additional testing will be done in the future, we may not be able to inform you of all results, but will do so if the information would have an important impact on the way you manage affected animals. All samples will be stored in a secure place. The samples from your animals will be identified by a unique code. Your name will not be on the samples so no one outside of the study team will be able to identify you from the samples.

The questionnaire data that we collect will be stored securely at KCRI, and will be shared with project researchers. You will not be identifiable by name when these data are shared but by a coded study number. Samples and data will be retained for at least ten years.

**HOW WILL THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE USED?**

The results of the study will be made available in reports the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, National Institute of Medical Research and the Tanzania Commission of Science and Technology and will be published in scientific articles. Your name or any or other facts that might identify you will not appear in any reports or articles. The study will also contribute information to a PhD study being conducted by Tanzanian veterinarians, Dr. Tito Kibona and Dr. George Semango, registered at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology.

**YOUR RIGHT TO REFUSE OR WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY**

You can refuse to take part in the survey and you can withdraw from the study at any time. You do not need to give a reason. Withdrawal will not incur any sort of penalty. If you make this decision whilst project staff are still in your household, please talk to the study coordinator. If you decide to withdraw, no new information will be collected, and you can also ask us to not test any samples or use any information we have already collected about your household and animals. If you would like to withdraw after we have left your household, please call Dr Tito Kibona on +255717360041. Alternatively, you can write to: Prof. Sarah Cleaveland, c/o Prof. Blandina Mmbaga, KCRI-KCMC, PO Box 2236, Moshi, Tanzania.

**ARE THERE BENEFITS TO TAKING PART IN THE STUDY?**

The information that we obtain from this study will help us to advise you on the diseases that are causing abortion in your herd or flock, how these may affect other animals that you keep and the potential risks to family members, particularly pregnant women. We will also obtain more information about the causes of ormilo and we may be able to provide specific advice to control and prevent these diseases in the future. We hope that the information learned from this study will also benefit other people in this area and help to find ways to prevent and control diseases in people and livestock.

**ARE THERE DANGERS OF BEING INVOLVED?**

Collection of samples from your livestock may cause the animal temporary discomfort. Potential risks are uncommon but include brief bleeding and local bruising through blood sampling. There is a very small risk that your animal may be injured during sampling. We may also ask you to pen your animal for a short period (not exceeding 12 hours) while we collect samples, potentially disrupting grazing.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

For the research study, all information will be kept confidential. We will keep the records under a code number rather than your name. We will keep the records in a safe place and only study staff will be allowed to look at them. Your name, or other facts that might point to you will not appear when we present this study or publish the results.

**WHOM DO I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?**

For questions about the study or if you have complaints, concerns or suggestions about the research, please contact Dr. Tito Kibona on +255717360041. For questions about your rights as a research participant, or to discuss problems, concerns or suggestions related to the research, or to obtain information or offer input about the research, contact Prof. Blandina Mmbaga on +255-27-275-4201 or the National Health Research Ethics committee (NatHREC) on +255-22-2121400.

**THANK YOU!**

**On behalf of all the project investigators, we would like to thank you for your time today.**