

ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME IN WEST AFRICA  
PROGRAMME DE LUTTE CONTRE L'ONCHOCERCOSE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

EXPERTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Seventh meeting  
Bamako, 16-20 June 1986

OCP/EAC7.11  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING  
ON HYDROLOGY AND TELETRANSMISSION

(Kara, 13-16th May 1986)

1. Due to the development of insecticide resistance, especially in the savanna species of the S. damnosum s.l. complex, and, consequently, the obligation to use less selective larvicides such as permethrin and carbosulfan, the group stressed the extreme importance of accurate dosages and thus of improving the quality of the hydrological data used by the Programme.
2. To this aim, the group prepared recommendations related to:
  - including hydrology as a component of vector control;
  - the installation and maintenance of the hydrological network;
  - the operational integration of teletransmitted hydrological data, especially in the extension zones.

INTEGRATION OF HYDROLOGY INTO PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

3. To create within the Programme a hydrological team attached to the Vector Control Unit. It will consist of a senior hydrological engineer familiar with teletransmission techniques who will direct two brigades, each with a hydrologist, assistant and driver. One brigade will be based in Odienne and the other in Kara.
4. For the particular case of Guinea, to include the hydrological brigades in the agreement governing the collaboration of the national teams with the Programme, at the same title as the entomological teams.
5. To train each sub-sector chief and give him the equipment whereby he can measure discharges at low water levels, under the supervision of hydrologists, in order to check the calibration of the river gauges in their zone.
6. To intensify the study of larvicide dispersal and carry in flowing water in view of the improvement in application methods. Particular attention should be paid to the large, complex breeding sites which are still difficult to control perfectly.

EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE HYDROLOGICAL NETWORK

Western Operational Zone

7. To intensify the programme for the installation and calibration of hydrological stations in Phases 6 and 7, especially in Guinea.

8. Not to envisage a proper start to the campaign in the Guinea part of Phase 6 until the hydrological network has been installed and calibrated.

Eastern Operational Zone

9. To progressively rectify the Ghana network, since the 42 stations needed by the Programme are defective. The rank of priority will be defined according to the problems of resistance.
10. To install two river gauges on the Black Volta (Black Volta and Kohodio) in the Bui Zone at Tagadi. Taken together, the Bui Rapids, where savanna species are already resistant to temephos, are one of the largest producers of vectors in all the Programme.
11. To study the possibilities of using visual landmarks in the tributaries which do not have river gauges, so as to improve dosage precision.

THE PROGRESSIVE INTEGRATION OF TELETRANSMITTED HYDROLOGICAL DATA

12. To perfect the pilot experiment on teletransmission in Northern Togo during the 1986 rainy season.
13. To extend progressively the use of Argos transmitters, especially in the Western and Southern Extensions where they provide the only satisfactory response to the needs of the Programme.
14. To install in each of the two aerial bases one receiver station programmed to receive both OCP and relevant Hydro-Niger transmitters.
15. To make an official request to the Hydro-Niger Project for an agreement to use data produced from their stations in return for data produced by the OCP transmitters.