FARMERS' DESIRED ATTRIBUTES FOR COMMUNITY OWNED RESOURCE PERSONS FOR INTEGRATION IN TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMS IN KENYA

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Introduction

- African animal trypanosomiasis (AAT) and its vectors and drought are rated as the top limiting factors in cattle production in SSA (Alemayehu et al., 2012).
- Despite the ongoing efforts to control the spread and prevalence of the disease in Kenya, the losses to farmers in endemic areas are still significant.
- Subsequently, with the current insufficient extension and veterinary services in the country, farmers in endemic areas resort to presumptive and indiscriminate drug administration thus increasing the risks of drug resistance.
- Integrating community owned resource persons (CORPs) into control programs is believed to be the best approach to address the aforementioned challenges.

Materials and Methods

- Study area: Kwale County, Kenya as it is one of the most endemic and affected regions in Kenya by AAT.
- Participatory Research – Validating the CORP attributes identified from review of literature.
- Figure 1 shows farmers in a focus group discussion with the researchers to validate CORP attributes. This step was also necessary to separate the attributes into optional and compulsory.

Figure 1; Participants at the Focus group discussion (FGD)

- Choice experiment (CE) method was used to study desired attributes for CORPs by farmers. The method is appropriate as it considers individual choice behaviour. Random parameter logit (RPL) econometric technique was used to analyse CE data.
- A total of 312 farmers were randomly sampled for household survey. Figure 2 shows an enumerator administering a questionnaire to a farmer

Figure 2: Interview of a respondent by an enumerator

Results and discussion

- Results in figure 3 show that almost all respondents agree that the CORP must be a permanent resident within the community, must have completed at l east secondary school education, and must be a farmer facing the same tsetse and trypanosomiasis challenges. Approximately half of the respondents preferred a CORP who is married.

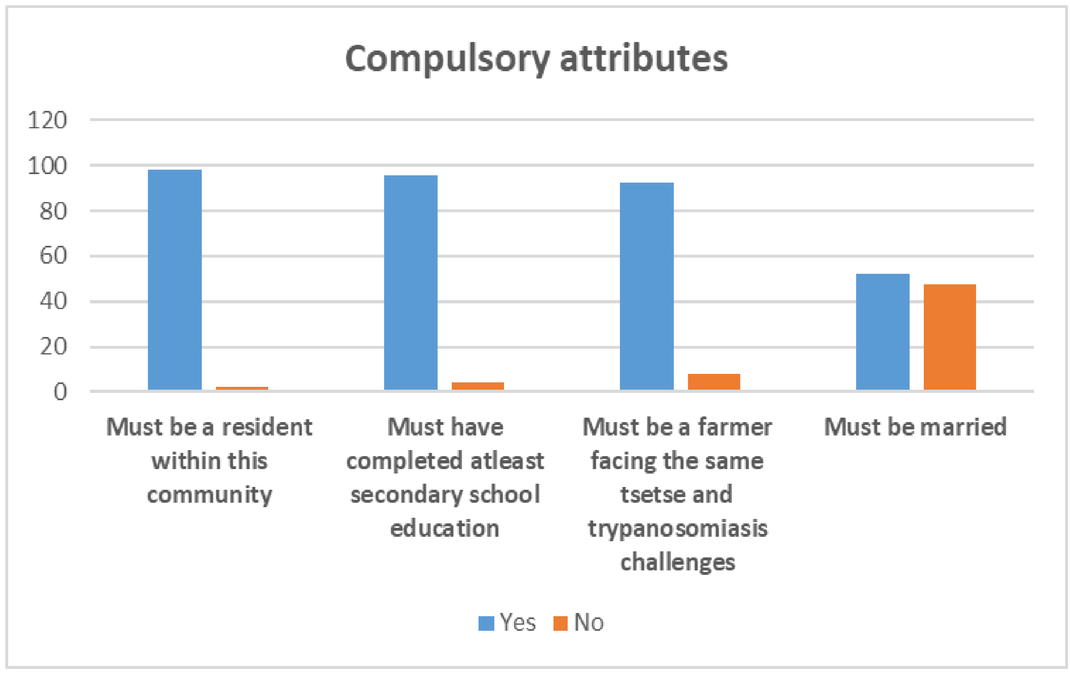

Figure 3: Compulsory attributes for a CORP

- Table 1 reveals that farmers prefer to work with CORPs who are below 50 years. This is because relatively younger CORPs are energetic, reliable any time they are needed and can cover longer distances regardless of the terrain.
- Further being CORP who is male and influential in the society is more preferred.
- Results also show that farmers would prefer a CORP whom they were involved in recruitment and trained by the international organizations such as ICIPE over county government. This is attributed to the ongoing efforts by such organizations in helping farmers to manage tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

Table 1: Estimates of the RPL Model (standard errors in parenthesis)

Attributes	Coefficients
Young	4.515 (0.618)***
Old	3.253 (0.606)***
Female	-0.197(0.115)*
Influential in community	1.024 (0.133)***
Community involved in recruitment	1.315 (0.157)***
Trained by international organizations (ICIPE)	3.374 (1.176)***
Trained by County government	0.541(0.146)***

***, **, * ==> Significance at 1%, 5%, 10% respectively

Conclusions & policy implications

- The findings reveal that successful and sustainable integration of CORPs in trypanosomiasis control practices and programs is dependent on the farmers' preferences.
- There is need to integrate CORPs into trypanosomiasis control programs based on the identified preferred attributes.

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Reference

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