



Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture Dr Babagana (second from left) with other experts at the stakeholders meeting

EXPERTS DISCUSS ADVOCACY PLAN ON HUMAN AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS

The African Union Commission organised a meeting of stakeholders to discuss and adopt a 3-year Strategic Plan for advocacy on Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) from Monday 12 May to 14 May 2008, in Addis Ababa.

The plan was developed for implementation by the PATTEC Coordination Office with support from the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) within the framework of the MOU signed between the Commission and FIND on 25th January 2008.

The Strategic Plan is aimed at encouraging the development and implementation of national policies for the elimination of trypanosomiasis from affected countries. The Plan covers recommendations on effective ways of promoting the cause and purpose of the PATTEC Programme, mobilising resources for its execution and increasing surveillance and treatment of trypanosomiasis, backed by improved diagnostic technologies.

Through the PATTEC Coordination Office, the Commission works with the governments of tsetse-affected countries in Africa, seeking to generate awareness, inspire commitment and mobilise the support needed to engage and sustain the action necessary to eliminate the scourge of trypanosomiasis. Under the terms of the MOU, FIND will contribute funds and expertise in support of the activities of the PATTEC Coordination Office related to advocacy about trypanosomiasis. It is expected that the 3 - year cooperation programme between FIND and the Commission will serve to introduce other development partners to Africa's problem of trypanosomiasis, and help generate more support for activities in the PATTEC Initiative.

The more than 40 experts participating in the stakeholders meeting were drawn from AU member states affected by HAT as well as representatives from international organisations active in HAT control and related activities.