

## Communication 42/2023

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### **Global Food Safety - BfR welcomes new ILRI Director**

Resistant bacteria on food and resulting human diseases are a pressing issue for science in times of global flows of goods. Since its foundation, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has been involved in numerous international cooperative projects to conduct joint research with institutions in other countries that are responsible for food safety and risk assessment and to promote the necessary transfer of knowledge. It is not only the importing countries that should benefit from this commitment, but also the countries in which the goods are produced, because food safety has a direct impact on the health of the local population. In sub-Saharan Africa, the BfR has been working for a long time with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) there to develop solution strategies to contain antibiotic resistance and food-borne zoonoses. A delegation led by the new ILRI Director General, Professor Dr Appolinaire Djikeng, met with the BfR President Professor Dr Dr Andreas Hensel in Berlin for their inaugural visit to discuss possibilities for future cooperation.

The BfR and the ILRI established their cooperation, which continues to this day, back in 2016. The ongoing exchange culminated in the project called "Boosting Uganda's Investments in Livestock Development" (BUILD) in 2019. The third-party funded project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with seven million euros and in which Freie Universität Berlin and the Friedrich Loeffler Institute are also involved, will be closed at the end of 2023. The objectives include strengthening veterinary systems, promoting agricultural research (animal husbandry), improving the safety and quality of animal products, and supporting global campaigns to combat animal diseases, taking into account the One Health approach, which describes the complex interrelationships between humans, animals, the environment and health and requires close cooperation between the professional groups involved in public health and veterinary services.

The BfR is involved in two work packages. One work package deals with antibiotic-resistant bacteria in chicken farming in Uganda. The aim is to investigate both the factors influencing resistance and the significance for the exposure of food to resistant bacteria. The aim is to develop a monitoring system for antibiotic use, resistance and food contamination with resistant bacteria in order to identify and reduce risks to human health. An essential aspect of this is to train the specialised personnel in Africa and to sustainably support the authorities in setting up the necessary structures.

Another work package focuses on improving the microbiological safety of animal food at the time of slaughter. About 70 % of food of animal origin in Uganda is sold on so-called informal markets. These markets are important for food security and the labour market. Here, too, local food control personnel are to be trained. For this purpose, methods in the laboratory are also tested for suitability and used accordingly.

The cooperation between the BfR and the ILRI will continue beyond the project.

**Further information on the BfR website on the subject of international cooperations**

Information on the BUILD project in Uganda:

[https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/boosting\\_ugandas\\_investments\\_in\\_livestock\\_development\\_\\_ilri\\_bmz\\_build\\_uganda\\_-261867.html](https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/boosting_ugandas_investments_in_livestock_development__ilri_bmz_build_uganda_-261867.html)

Overview of BfR's international collaborations:

## About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemicals and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

## Legal Notice

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