

Rats and Human Health in Africa: A Workshop on Rodent-borne Diseases and the RatZooMan Research Project

4-5 May 2006, The Pestana Kruger Lodge, Malelane,
Mpumalanga Province, Republic of South Africa



3rd May Arrival of Delegates

19:30 *Opening dinner*

4th May

07:00 *Breakfast*

08:00 Welcome and Introductions

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

08:10 Welcome by Guest of Honour

Dr Lucille Blumberg, Deputy Director and Head of Epidemiology and Outbreak Unit, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, RSA

08:25 Overview and objectives of workshop

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

Introductory Session

Lorraine Arntzen, Session Chair

08:35 The Ratzooman project

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

08:55 Rats and disease

Prof Dr Herwig Leirs, University of Antwerp, Belgium and Danish Pest Infestation Laboratory, Denmark

09:15 Leptospirosis

Dr Rudy Hartskeerl, Head of WHO Leptospirosis Reference Unit, KIT Biomedical Research, Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands

09:30 Toxoplasmosis

Dr Ricardo Thompson, Research Director, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Mozambique

09:45 Plague

Dr John Freaun, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, RSA

10:00 Discussion

Understanding rats and disease problems

Frikkie Kirsten, Session Chair

10:10 Lassa Fever: spatial and temporal risk linked with rodent ecology and human behaviour in Guinea, West Africa

Dr Elizabeth Fichet-Calvet, Paris Natural History Museum, France

10:30 Rodents, salmonella and food borne pathogens

Dr Alan Buckle, University of Reading, UK

- 10:50 *Coffee*
- 11:20 **Intestinal parasites of rats from Durban, South Africa, and implications for human health**
Prof Chris Appleton, School of Biological & Conservation Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- 11:40 **GIS and climate modeling for zoonotic disease risk in North America**
Dr Russell Ensore, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Infectious Diseases, Division of Vector Borne Infectious Diseases, USA
- 12:00 **The agriculture/health divide - leptospirosis, typhus, and angiostrongyliasis in Southeast Asia**
Dr Grant Singleton, International Rice Research Institute, The Philippines
- 12:20 *Discussion*
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- Ratzooman and human disease in southern Africa**
Rudy Hartskeerl, Session Chair
- 13:20 **Understanding human behaviour and the transmission of rodent-borne diseases**
Dr Monica Janowski, Social Anthropologist, Natural Resources Institute, UK
- 13:40 **The ratzooman GIS**
Dr Ricardo Thompson, Research Director, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Mozambique
- 14:00 **Surveying for rodent disease in a squatter camp, Cato Crest, Durban**
Dr Peter Taylor, Curator of Mammals, Durban Natural Science Museum, RSA
- 14:20 **Rodent ecology across rural, peri-urban and urban habitats**
Prof Dr Herwig Leirs, University of Antwerp, Belgium and Danish Pest Infestation Laboratory, Denmark
- 14:40 **Rodents and human disease in Mozambique**
Dr Rassul Nala, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Mozambique
- 14:55 **Rodents and human disease in Zimbabwe**
Dr Godfrey Chikwenhere, Principal Scientist, Plant Protection Research Institute, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 15:10 **Rodents and human disease in Tanzania**
Prof Dr Robert Machang'u, Director of Pest Management Centre, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
- 15:25 **Rodents and human disease in South Africa**
Mrs Lorraine Arntzen, Special Bacterial Pathogens Reference Unit, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, RSA
- 15:40 *Discussion*
- 15:50 *Tea*
- 16:00 *Game drives or further discussion*
- 18:00 *Bar open*
- 19:30 *Dinner*
Entertainment provided by Aubrey Silinyana

5th May

07:00 *Breakfast*

How can we reduce the rodent disease burden?

Martha Mpisaunga, Session Chair

08:00 Rodent control strategies in a changing city: Making rodent disease surveillance succeed with communities and government

Guy Redman, Director, Durban Natural Science Museum, RSA and Mel Hayter, Deputy Manager, Communicable Disease Unit, eThekweni Municipality, RSA

08:20 Predicting disease through mathematical models

Dr John Holt, Natural Resources Institute, UK and Dr Stephen Davis, University of Antwerp, Belgium

08:40 The practicalities of rodent control in managing disease

Adrian Meyer, The Acheta Partnership, UK

09:00 Policy recommendations for reducing rodent diseases

Jens Lodal, Danish Pest Infestation Laboratory, Denmark

09:20 Putting policies into practice

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK and Martha Mpisaunga, Syngenta, Zimbabwe

09:40 Discussion

10:00 Formulation of key constraints

Malcolm Iles, Economist, Natural Resources Institute, UK

10:10 Involving stakeholders in setting the agenda

Malcolm Iles, Economist, Natural Resources Institute, UK

11:10 *Coffee*

11:40 Prioritising key constraints related to rodent disease management

Malcolm Iles, Economist, Natural Resources Institute, UK

13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 Discussion

14:45 Development of common statement

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

15:15 Where do we go from here?

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

15:30 Closing

Dr Steven Belmain, Ratzooman Technical Coordinator, Natural Resources Institute, UK

15:45 *Tea*

16:00 *Game drives or further discussion*

18:00 *Bar open*

19:30 *Dinner*

Entertainment provided by Swazi dancers

6th May

07:00 *Breakfast*

Delegate departure