**TANZANIA FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY**



**WELCOMING REMARKS MADE BY MR. ADAM MITANGU FIMBO - ACTING DG - TFDA**

**AT THE REGIONAL TRAINING ON LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF RESIDUES OF PHARMACOLOGICALLY ACTIVE VETERINARY SUBSTANCES IN ANIMAL OFFAL**

**TFDA HQ OFFICES, MABIBO EXTERNAL, DAR ES SALAAM**

**3rd December 2018**

* Guest of Honor - Honorable Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
* TFDA Directors
* Dear Participants
* Media Representatives
* Ladies and Gentlemen

**Guest of Honor**

Let me first of all begin by thanking you for accepting our invitation to officiate this important training programme despite your busy schedule. The programme has been organized jointly by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and TFDA has accepted to host at its premises here in Dar es Salaam.

**Guest of Honor**

Before you are participants from around 22 African countries who have convened here for the purpose of being trained on matters related to analysis of veterinary drug residues present in food producing animals.

We welcome all of you at TFDA and in Tanzania in particular. For those whom this is their first time to visit this part of Africa, please find some time to explore the beauty of Dar es Salaam - our commercial city.

**Guest of Honor**

The use of veterinary drugs in food-producing animals has the potential to generate residues in animal derived products such as meat, milk, eggs and honey and this poses a health hazard to consumers.

There are many factors that can influence the occurrence of residues in animal products to embrace drug properties including their pharmacokinetic characteristics, physicochemical or biological processes of animals and their products. The most likely reasons for drug residues are due to improper drug usage and failure to observe or monitor the withdrawal periods.

And the major public health significances of drug residues are development of antimicrobial drug resistance and hypersensitivity reactions to consumers.

**Guest of Honor**

At TFDA we have been working tirelessly to monitor drug residues in food producing animals for some time now. A series of research activities have been conducted to determine the magnitude of the problem in our country.

A number of significant laboratory findings had demonstrated that some animal food products contain drug residues to include sulphonamides, aminoglycosides and antibacterials such as tetracycline, chloramphenicol and beta lactum antibiotics. These compounds are largely used in veterinary practice as most of our animals suffer from diseases which require administration of these drugs.

Since a number of veterinary medicines for veterinary use are limited, some farmers also use medicines intended for human consumption to treat animal diseases as part of extra label drug use.

These malpractices together with the use of medicines at levels in excess of recommended dosages needs to be regulated to halt the spread of drug residues in the food chain with dire consequences I have just mentioned.

**Guest of Honor**

Taking the current status quo into perspective and under the technical and financial support from the International Atomic Energy Agency this training programme you are about to open, has been organized.

The training will focus mainly on:

* Imparting knowledge and skills in laboratory investigations of residues of pharmacologically active veterinary substances used in animal production;
* Information and experience sharing on analysis of veterinary drug residues; and
* Demonstrating the latest nuclear technology in analysis of food products to detect drug residues.

As you have heard from the introduction of participants, most of them come from institutions that are dealing in one way or another with analysis of veterinary drug residues in animal offal.

Facilitators whom we are grateful for accepting to facilitate in this training, are food analysts from TFDA and NAFDAC representative.

We will be here for one week beginning today and I believe by the end of the week, participants will gain knowledge and skills on analysis of the residues I have been referring to using sophisticated equipment available within the TFDA laboratory.

**Guest of Honor**

Let me conclude my remarks by acknowledging the support from the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) when organizing this training. TAEC is like a conduit between the Tanzanian government and the IAEA on matters related to atomic energy. We say thank you.

**Guest of Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen**

With these few remarks, may I now take the opportunity to humbly welcome you for remarks and official declaration of opening of our training programme so that we can proceed.

**Thank you for your attention**

**END**