



Small Scale Livestock Promotion Program SSLPP Notes



Draft SSLPP policy for Newcastle disease vaccination

Introduction

Village chickens constitute one of the most important sources of animal protein for rural consumers in Malawi. At the same time, Newcastle disease is one of the most important constraints to production in village chickens. The Small Scale Livestock Promotion Program strongly supports the establishment of sustainable systems for vaccination of village poultry against Newcastle disease.

In most cases, vaccination is done by government extension officers, SSLPP field staff, or trained community based vaccinators. The vaccine presently used by SSLPP is the I-2 Newcastle disease virus strain manufactured at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe. This vaccine has the advantage of being more stable than others when it is not under refrigeration. It is manufactured in Malawi at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe. Vaccination of chickens with this vaccine is recommended every four months.

This document has been written to clarify the policy of SSLPP regarding several important aspects of Newcastle disease vaccination programs, aspects of which have an important bearing on the sustainability of the programs in rural communities. The purpose of defining SSLPP's policy is to help ensure that access to and uptake of Newcastle disease vaccine remains available to smallholders in the long-term.

An over-riding consideration for this SSLPP policy is that the benefits of Newcastle disease vaccination accrue solely to the owner of the vaccinated birds. For the purposes of this document, any public benefits of Newcastle disease vaccination are regarded as negligible.

Roles and responsibilities

The following summarises the key people involved in Newcastle disease vaccination and the main responsibilities of each.

Level	Responsibilities
SSLPP staff and Government extension staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper storage of vaccine while it is under their care • Train trainers for community animal health workers and community based vaccinators • Ensure that vaccination programs are scheduled only for communities with a functional committee which can fulfil the responsibilities listed below • Plan, monitor and evaluate vaccination programs so that their effectiveness is understood and so that future programs can be improved. • Relevant data should include at least the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The estimated total population of chickens in the area - The target number of chickens which was intended to be vaccinated - The number of chickens actually vaccinated - The number of community animal health workers trained and available - The number of community animal health workers actually working on this campaign - The number of vials of vaccine used - The number of vials of vaccine left over - The total amount of money collected from owners - Any problems encountered during the vaccination program
Community level committees (Village committees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the entire community in question • Select candidate community based vaccinators for training; at least two per village and preferably including one woman • Oversee local administration of the vaccination program including when and where vaccination takes place • Control the collection of vaccination fees • Deposit the appropriate amount with SSLPP to ensure adequate vaccine is available for the next campaign; this should be done within one week after the current vaccination program • Determine how income from vaccination will be disbursed and what should be charged (see below on how to calculate the charge for vaccination)

Level	Responsibilities
Community based vaccinators Government field staff SSLPP field staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper storage of vaccine while it is under their care • Explain and promote ND vaccination in rural communities • Vaccinate birds • Refuse to vaccinate sick birds • Collect the vaccination fee • Collect basic data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of chickens vaccinated - The number of vials of vaccine used - The total amount of money collected from owners - The quantity of vaccine paid for in preparation for the next vaccination campaign - Any problems encountered during the vaccination program
Owners of village chickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend training/familiarisation sessions on vaccination • Present all eligible birds for vaccination • Not present sick birds for vaccination • Keep records to know which birds have been vaccinated • Pay the required fee at the time of vaccination

SSLPP and government extension staff

The extension officers employed by SSLPP and in the government agricultural services will be responsible for overall supervision of vaccination, ensuring that the vaccine is properly stored and available when required. They will be responsible for collection of basic data for monitoring the progress of each vaccination campaign. The information collected by each extension officer will be collated by the District Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer (DAHLDO). A copy will be provided to the local office of SSLPP.

Community based vaccinators

SSLPP has published guidelines for the selection of community animal health workers. Those guidelines also apply to community based vaccinators who should be prepared to assist the community on a voluntary basis with minimal reward. They should be willing to learn and adopt those skills and have a long term commitment in their work.

SSLPP will not pay any remuneration to community based vaccinators beyond the costs of training and small initial set-up support. Community based vaccinators should not be given any expectation of additional remuneration from SSLPP or any other funding agencies.

Community based vaccinators should collect basic data which will be collected and collated by the relevant extension staff.

The Community Level Committee (Village committee)

Village committees should be representative of the whole community, in particular including women. If the proportion of women in the community is close to half, the number of women on the committee should be close to half.

The number of members of the committee should not be less than five. It can be higher but should not be less.

Subsidisation of Vaccination

SSLPP supports the subsidisation of Newcastle disease vaccination programs only to the extent to which it is necessary for "kick-starting" a vaccination program. Programs should ultimately be self sustaining in the long term. Usually, subsidisation is restricted to the following areas:

- training programs associated with new vaccination campaigns
- meetings/field days for promotion of ND vaccination
- purchase of initial supplies of ND vaccine for the first "round" of vaccinations
- ordering and transport of vaccine from CVL to the field storage location
- operational costs of SSLPP field staff activities
- monitoring and evaluation activities

The charge for vaccination

SSLPP supports direct charging of participating farmers for the costs of vaccination. This charge should be collected at the time of vaccination, not before, and not after. Each village committee should decide how much will be charged for vaccination in their area, and what will be done with the proceeds. This can be done using a format similar to the example shown below. While the village committee will have a role in deciding how vaccination is undertaken at the local level, its decisions need to be consistent with long-term sustainability of the vaccination program.

To ensure sustainability, the funds recovered from charging farmers should be disbursed in an appropriate manner. The following is an example:

Item	Amount	Comments
Cost of vaccine for next vaccination round	K4.00 (Decided by SSLPP)	This should be set at a level so that new vials of vaccine can be purchased. This money will be deposited in SSLPP's drug fund to pay for vaccine for the next routine campaign. It should be deposited with SSLPP within one week after the current vaccination round. At the time of writing (July 2009) K4 is the minimum necessary to ensure replacement vaccine can be procured. This amount covers not only the price of vaccine but transport, storage, refrigeration and other logistical costs.
Incentive for community vaccinator	K4.00 (Decided by community)	This should be set at a level which ensures the vaccinator is given enough incentive to continue doing his/her job.
Community level committees (Village committees)	K2.00 (Decided by community)	This is an amount will be held in trust for the local community for support and development in areas decided by the committee. The money from this component should be saved in a bank account controlled by the village committee.
Total cost charged	K10.00	This is the sum of the individual components above. If this total is too high, farmers may be discouraged from vaccinating their birds.

Note: This is only an example. The exact amounts can be adjusted to suit the needs of individual communities. The total charge however, must be the sum of the parts.

Procurement of vaccine

Within one week after the vaccination campaign, each village community should make arrangements for the procurement of adequate vaccine to vaccinate their chickens in the next vaccination round. Each village committee will be required to pay SSLPP the prevailing charge for the quantity of vaccine they require. SSLPP will deposit the money required and issue each community with a voucher/receipt for each vial of vaccine paid for. SSLPP will then be able to order supplies of vaccine before the next vaccination round and this vaccine can be collected by the community on production of their vouchers/receipts.