

## FOOD SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY WITH INNOVATIVE CATTLE BREEDING AND TSETSE CONTROL PROGRAMS



The Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) is making strides in enhancing beef production, food security, and public health through strategic initiatives: a cattle breeding program, fattening project and a tsetse fly control effort. These programs, centered at Isimba Prison Farm, align rehabilitation, agricultural innovation, and community welfare with Uganda's broader development goals.

UPS conducts an ambitious cattle breeding program to improve livestock quality and ensure a steady supply of high-quality beef. Featuring Boran-Brahman heifers prepared for artificial insemination and a Boran-Charolais cross bull, the initiative prioritizes superior genetics to produce meat-efficient, climate-resilient, fast-growing, and disease-resistant bulls for future generations.

Dr. Generous Betunga Behabura, Superintendent of Prisons, emphasized the program's focus on top-tier genetics: "By selecting animals with high meat yield and adaptability, we're building a sustainable model for livestock farming that supports both our operations and Uganda's food security goals."

The program employs synchronized cattle breeding to optimize livestock management, ensuring uniform calving, streamlined farm operations, and consistent beef output. Dr. Agnes Namukasa, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, highlighted its efficiency: "This innovative approach allows us to control the breeding process, resulting in healthier calves and superior beef quality. It's a commitment to sustainable farming."



Beyond livestock improvement, the initiative integrates rehabilitation by training staff and inmates in modern animal husbandry practices. This equips inmates with valuable skills, aligning with UPS's mission to support agricultural transformation while fostering personal development.

In parallel, UPS has rolled out an innovative tsetse fly control program at Isimba Prison Farm to combat African Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) and Nagana, diseases that threaten human health, livestock, and livelihoods across Uganda. Led by Dr. Alex Aheebwa, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, the initiative trains staff and inmates in tsetse control techniques and their public health implications.





High-quality tsetse traps, produced in UPS's prison industries workshops, are being deployed across prison farms to protect inmates, staff, and livestock. These traps will also be sold at affordable prices to nearby communities, reducing the tsetse fly burden in surrounding areas. "By integrating rehabilitation with public health innovation, we're protecting our farms and contributing to community wellbeing," Dr. Aheebwa noted.

The tsetse control program is set to expand across all prisons in Uganda's cattle corridor, combining skills development, agricultural protection, and public health advocacy. This holistic approach underscores UPS's role as a leader in sustainable development.

