

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

CARING FOR THE CARABAO



Villager with her carabao (cattle)

Dr Gavin Ramsay, School of Environment & Agriculture, will be further investigating the socio-economic impact of animal trypanosomiasis (Surra) in the Philippines.

Surra is a tropical disease similar to sleeping sickness that effects livestock. It is caused by a single-celled organism and transmitted by biting flies. Endemic throughout South East Asia, the disease affects the productivity of small family farms.

‘There is a lack of information both scientific and about the socio-economic impact of Surra in Mindanao’ Dr Ramsay said. ‘This information is important because it could be used to develop rational control programs to reduce the disease. The collection of socio-economic data will determine the costs of cattle mortality, loss of income, treatment and surveillance costs of an outbreak of Surra. In tandem with the identification of genetic markers, the priority is to then identify a safe and cost effective drug for treatment to stop the spread of Surra in the Philippines’.

For the people of Mindanao, this would mean an increase in household income and improvement in living standards of small farming families.

Future research will look at how villagers currently manage the problem within the economic constraints of their livelihoods.

Project Title: *Socio-economic impact of animal trypanosomiasis (Surra) in the Philippines* is funded through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Funding has been set at \$44,548.00.



Farmer group workshopping

Web Site:

<http://www.aciar.gov.au/web.nsf/doc/ACIA-62DLSU>

Contact details:
g.ramsay@uws.edu.au