

SCRIPT INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE BURKINA FASO

(c) 2009, Ruud Elmendorp
Video Journalist Africa
<http://videojournalist.nl>
ruud.elmendorp@videojournalist.nl
alternate e-mail: ruudelmendorp@gmail.com
+254 736 746 312

PRESENTATION

6 million mosquito nets to prevent people from contracting malaria. That's what the government of Burkina Faso is preparing to buy for their estimated 15 million population. Malaria costs the life of an African child every thirty seconds, and world wide 247 millions of people are suffering from it, and yearly 1 million people die, mostly children in the developing world. The whole operation in the West African country will cost 30 million Dollars which is supplied by international donors. The landlocked country is coping with a high malaria infection rate, and the bed nets are supposed to be the last line of defence. But now it seems that the mosquitoes found a way to avoid the bednets, and start to bite and infect people again... They seem to have become resistant against the insecticides used to spray the bednets. With all the new nets coming, the Burkina Faso government is not waiting for things to happen. The government sent out field teams to analyze the resistance of their mosquitoes.

BETA LENGTH 1'52"

30 km away from the capital Ouagadougou there is a lot of malaria. especially among children. So the field team chose this riverbed to capture mosquito larvae for scrutiny.

QUOTE SAIDOU ADROGO, field researcher (French)
We keep them until they're mature, for testing in the insectarium.

At the lab the researchers found that at least half of these nightmares are resistant against insecticides used in mosquito nets. So they can comfortably wait on it until they can hit their victim.

QUOTE MUSSA GELBEOGOU, National Malaria Research Institute (French)
Many children can get malaria, and that can be their cause of death.

Malaria is a big killer in Burkina Faso with 15,000 death cases yearly.

SOUNDBITE OLD WOMEN SORTING OUT SEEDS

This 70-years old grand mother saw several grand children dying.

QUOTE TENKUMA NIKYEMA, from Bambara

This year there was a lot of malaria, especially small children suffered.

SOUNDBITE WALKING THROUGH COTTON FIELD

Insecticides are widely used in the cotton production.
Making the resistance endemic to Burkina Faso.
These chemicals wash into mosquitoes breeding places.
Making them resistant by nature.

SOUNDBITE FARMER WALKING THROUGH COTTON FIELD

This 37-years old cotton farmer, and father of 3...
says he has no choice then to use them.

QUOTE AMADOU KAORE, cotton farmer (French)

If the insecticide finishes other diseases come, and you will also have to treat those ones too.

The head of the malaria research programme in Burkina
says new insecticides are needed to curb the resistance.

QUOTE SODIOMON SIRIMA, Head of Malaria Research (French)

The battle against malaria with the current insecticides will be a battle with only little impact.

There seems to be some time left, because the 6 million bed nets
that are coming are treated with an insecticide of which the resistance is still little.