



## SSLPP Policy for Newcastle Disease Vaccination<sup>1</sup>

### 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 trained community based vaccinators, government extension officers, or SSLPP field staff. 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 SSLPP policy, 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"><li>• Collect data and record the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The estimated total population of chickens in the area</li><li>- The target number of chickens intended to be vaccinated</li><li>- The number of chickens actually vaccinated</li><li>- The number of community based vaccinators trained and working on this campaign</li><li>- The number of vials of vaccine used</li><li>- The number of vials of vaccine left over</li><li>- The total amount of money collected from owners</li><li>- Any problems encountered during the vaccination program</li></ul></li><li>• Ensure proper storage of vaccine while it is under their care</li><li>• Train trainers for community based vaccinators</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> This document was last updated: 10 October 2012

Level	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that vaccination programs are scheduled only for communities with a functional committee which can fulfil the responsibilities listed below</li> <li>• Plan, monitor and evaluate vaccination programs so that their effectiveness is understood and so that future programs can be improved.</li> </ul>
Community level committees (Village development committees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent the entire community in question</li> <li>• Select candidate community based vaccinators for training; preferably two per village including one woman</li> <li>• Oversee local administration of the vaccination program including when and where vaccination takes place</li> <li>• Make representations to front-line extension staff on any issues of concern.</li> </ul>
Community based vaccinators Chitopa associations Government field staff SLLP field staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase/procure vaccine</li> <li>• Ensure proper storage of vaccine while it is under their care</li> <li>• Explain and promote ND vaccination in rural communities</li> <li>• Resolve problems or disputes</li> <li>• Vaccinate birds</li> <li>• Refuse to vaccinate sick birds</li> <li>• Collect the vaccination fee</li> <li>• Collect basic data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of chickens vaccinated</li> <li>- The number of vials of vaccine used</li> <li>- The total amount of money collected from owners</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Owners of village chickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend training/familiarisation sessions on vaccination</li> <li>• Present all eligible birds for vaccination</li> <li>• Not present sick birds for vaccination</li> <li>• Know which of their chickens have been vaccinated and when</li> <li>• Pay the required fee at the time of vaccination</li> </ul>

## **SLLP and government extension staff**

The extension officers employed by SLLP 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 SLLP.

## **Community based vaccinators and their "Chitopa associations"**

Community based vaccinators 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. Community based vaccinators should collect basic data which will be collected and collated by the relevant extension staff. SLLP has published guidelines for the selection of community animal health

workers or community based vaccinators. **SLLP 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 SLLP or any other funding agencies.

Community based vaccinators from each discrete area are encouraged to form a "**Chitopa Association**" for that area for the purposes of collective action. The function of such a group may include procurement of vaccine, discussion of problems, and liaison with other institutions on issues of importance.

## **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.

While the village committee will have a role in deciding how vaccination is undertaken at the local level, its decisions should always be consistent with long-term sustainability of the vaccination program.

## **Subsidisation of Vaccination**

SLLP supports the subsidisation of Newcastle disease vaccination programs **only** to the extent to which it is necessary for "kick-starting" a vaccination program. Vaccination 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 SLLP field staff activities
- monitoring and evaluation activities

## **The charge for vaccination**

SLLP 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. At the time of this revision, the charge recommended by SLLP is K15 per chicken. This applies to all ages and sizes, day-olds to adult.

## **Procurement of vaccine**

To ensure sustainability, the funds recovered from charging farmers should be used to purchase vaccine for the next round of vaccination. It is the responsibility of the community based vaccinator or vaccinator to ensure that sufficient funds are available for purchase of new vaccine. Where there is a failure to do so, the community level committee should take up the issue with the appropriate individual or agency.