SCIENTIFIC TERRORISM IN BURKINA FASO

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After the failed adventure of genetically modified cotton[1], a future programmed drama is underway in Burkina Faso. Indeed, under the fallacious pretext of helping to fight malaria, Burkina has become an open-air laboratory where populations are used as guinea pigs by the hazardous experience: we are talking about the genetic manipulation of mosquitoes under the leadership of the Target Malaria Project[2].

Genetically modified mosquito eggs were imported from the Imperial College of London to Burkina Faso in November 2016. The Burkina Faso Institute for Health Science Research (IRSS) is the project leader in Burkina[3].

This s project is a concentration of lies:

1-Problem of informed population consent.

In the work with the populations of the Bana and Souroukoudingan villages, the Target Malaria project used the fight against malaria as an argument to convince these populations to accept the experimental release in their villages of GM mosquitoes resulting from classical transgenesis (GM non- gene drive organism (GDO) mosquitoes) in 2019 (phase 1 of the project). There was no real free and informed consent but rather an abuse of the ignorance and illiteracy of local communities, the term GMO was never mentioned, nor explained.

2-Absence of clear experimental conception

According to the Target Malaria Project, "The purpose of the small-scale release is to collect scientific data on the longevity and dispersal of released mosquitoes, and it will serve also to strengthen the capacities and operational experience of our teams"[4]. The first release took place in July 2019; 6400 GM mosquitoes were released into the wild[5]. Up until now, no impact study of this release, and no risk assessment has been made, creating a situation which is contrary to the elementary ethics of medical experimentation.

3- Absence of correct population information

The TM project expects three phases of the project. The first two concern the releases of classical type GMO mosquitoes resulting from transgenesis (a genetic manipulation based on the transfer of genes between the very different species that do not normally cross in nature) and the third - the releases of GDO mosquitoes or GMOs resulting from a gene drive.

This third phase is scheduled for 2024, but the local communities know nothing about the health and ecological hazards of what will happen, they know nothing about the real nature of the experimentation that will take place in their villages.

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[1] "BT Cotton Failure Case Witnesses from India and Burkina Faso." *People's Assembly*, November 2, 2016. https://peoplesassembly.net/bt-cotton-failure-case-witnesses-from-india-and-burkina-faso/

[2] "Target Malaria," https://targetmalaria.org/

[3] McKemey, Andrew. "Virtual Tours of Target Malaria's Insectaries to Celebrate World Mosquito Day." *Target Malaria*, August 20, 2020. https://targetmalaria.org/virtual-tours-of-target-malarias-insectaries-to-celebrate-world-mosquito-day/

[4] Gakpo , Joseph Opoku. "African Scientists Confident GMO Mosquitoes Will Be Game Changer in Fight to Control Malaria." *Alliance for Science*. Last modified September 13, 2018. https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/blog/2018/09/african-scientists-confident-gmo-mosquitoes-will-game-changer-fight-control-malaria/

[5] "Civil Society Denounces the Release of GM Mosquitoes in Burkina Faso." *ETC Group*, July 2, 2019. https://www.etcgroup.org/content/civil-society-denounces-release-gm-mosquitoes-burkina-faso

Uncertain Project Impact

Gene drive is a new technology that causes the extermination of the entire species and it is this operation of extermination which is aimed at the *Anopheles gambiae* species which, according to Target Malaria, must be enabled to eliminate malaria. The populations are neither informed of the third phase of the project, nor of the technology of species extermination that will be used. Moreover, the *Anopheles gambiae* is not the only mosquito species that transmits malaria in Burkina Faso[6], there are others, such as *Anopheles arabiensis* and *Anopheles funestus*. The impact of the removal of one among several mosquito species is uncertain.

March against Target Malaria, Burkina Faso, 2019

Ethical violations

Target Malaria offers the inhabitants of the villages a small income under conditions qualified as the basic ethical violation - be paid for accepting to be bitten by mosquitoes is an absence of respect for indigenous people, which is contrary to the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association which governs medical research.

Since the announcement of the Target Malaria project, the civil society has mobilized to say NO to this dangerous project and is determined to remove it from Burkina Faso, as they had already done with Monsanto[7].

[6] Afrane, Y. A., Bonizzoni, M., & Yan, G. (2016). Secondary malaria vectors of sub-saharan africa: Threat to malaria elimination on the continent? *Current Topics in Malaria*. https://doi.org/10.5772/65359

[7] "The Retreat from Monsanto Bt Cotton in Burkina Faso." *Environmental Justice Atlas*. Last modified August 17, 2017. https://ejatlas.org/conflict/the-retreat-from-monsanto-bt-cotton-burkina-faso.