



## CSRS SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR N°18-11

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> october 2011 (Norbert Behi Lecture Hall, CSRS, Km 17 Adiopodoumé), 01 : 00 pm

### **Theme: Factors determining the willingness to use malaria Rapid Diagnosis Test (RDTs) in rural area, central Côte d'Ivoire**

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#### **Abstract:**

Malaria is a parasitic infection which eradication is a challenge of the millennium ahead. It is endemic in all regions of Côte d'Ivoire in particular in rural areas where prevalence rates are very high, from 60 to 80% (Koudou, 2005). Bozi and Yoho, two villages located in the department of Bouaflé, and very close to irrigated rice field and vegetable garden plots, favourable to the emergence of malaria vector. Additionally, it was found a very high drug resistance level against malaria parasites. As many rural health centres, in the health centre covering both villages there is a lack of microscope and reagents for detecting malaria parasite after blood examination. Against these backgrounds, we found urgent to encourage the use of RDTs for detecting and treating on time all uncomplicated malaria cases. But we notice reluctance on the side of rural populations. The objectives of this study are (i) to analyze representations of people from the RDTs, (ii) to identify the attitudes of people facing the use of RDTs for detecting Malaria parasite and finally (iii) to identify cultural factors related to use of RDTs. This sociological study led to the use of participatory approaches including the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The study showed that the social logic behind the reluctance to use RDTs malaria is: education, social representation of malaria and HIV-AIDS, non-participation in meetings awareness, symbolic of blood, or the experiences recounted in relation to the use of blood. These results show that the failure to submit to the RDTs malaria threatens the epidemiological surveillance of the disease. It would be interesting to conduct awareness campaigns drawing on the unique social representations of the people. As perspective, we would like to extend this study to other rural communities in order to use this new tool in the fight against malaria as well as integrating it into the national plan for controlling malaria among rural populations.

#### **Keywords:**

Social representation- blood symbolism- RDTs