

**Seminar on sound governance for Veterinary Services**  
Gaborone, Botswana, 16-18 January 2008

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Recommendation 1

**Sound Governance for Veterinary Services**

**CONSIDERING**

The impact of transboundary animal diseases on public health, the agricultural sector, trade and the livelihoods of small breeders worldwide,

The importance of strengthening Veterinary Services that comply with international standards, for ensuring efficient animal disease prevention and control, including those of wildlife.

The necessity to develop public-private partnerships in the prevention and control of animal diseases,

The need for countries to sustain their motivation in convincing Governments and donors to provide resources (financial and human) to Veterinary Services for the prevention and control of animal diseases,

The frequent emergence and re-emergence of serious international animal health crises,

The political support to be provided to initiatives, structures and mechanisms at international level such as the the Alive Platform, the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary animal diseases (GF-TADs) and its Regional Steering Committee for Africa, and the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) Platform managed by the FAO, OIE and the WHO,

The support to be provided by the international community in the prevention and control of animal diseases including zoonoses to African OIE Member Countries,

The EC/SADC Contribution Agreement to the OIE Sub-Regional Office on the Promotion of Regional Integration within the SADC countries Livestock Sector (PRINT Programme),

The necessity to upgrade veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the region,

The importance of regional networks as tools to improve surveillance, early detection and timely diagnosis, transparency of animal disease information, rapid response to outbreaks as well as the potential use of the network approach in providing data for studies related to socio-economic surveys applicable to livestock systems,

The importance of integrating in the global context the control of relevant animal health events as well as public health approaches and programmes regarding the control of zoonoses,

The role of livestock trade notably that carried out illegally and the importance of small livestock owners in the epidemiology of important transboundary animal diseases,

The importance of systems of compensation/providing incentives within the framework of compulsory sanitary stamping out of animals in order to optimise transparency in national zoo-sanitary situations,

The necessity to achieve the goal of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) to declare the world free from rinderpest in the near future,

The importance of climate change and globalisation of trade and movement of people on the emergence, re-emergence and spread of diseases,

The emergence and re-emergence of certain animal diseases such as Rift Valley fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever and the negative impact of these diseases on animal production, human health as well as on regional and global trade of livestock and livestock products,

The importance of animal health on food safety, poverty reduction, food security and animal welfare,

That legislation governing animal health activities and welfare are not up to date in several countries,

That a programme aimed at supporting Veterinary Services and Laboratories has been launched in the sub-Region by OIE/SADC with the support of the European Commission and the PRINT Programme,

That a Regional Animal Health Centre for Southern Africa will soon be launched by the OIE and FAO,

## **THE SEMINAR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE**

### **RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. National Veterinary Services (VS) be strengthened preferably after an evaluation made on a voluntary basis, using the OIE Tool for the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE- PVS Tool), in order to identify gaps and weaknesses related to international standards. The evaluation will be followed if necessary, by an improvement of the Veterinary Services with the support of Governments and donors. Identification of investment projects and training programmes will be made to ensure that VS are brought in conformity with OIE standards. The PVS evaluation will be made in full confidentiality until Government accept the release of the report;
2. For countries having urgent needs of Veterinarians or animal health technicians as identified by the evaluation, donors will be encouraged to provide urgently appropriate resources to fill the gaps identified by the PVS evaluation, e.g. by allowing recruitment of appropriate staff;
3. International organisations such as OIE and FAO as well as donors pursue and reinforce their support to programmes aimed at the prevention and control of major animal diseases;
4. Member Countries continue their commitment towards projects regarding the prevention and control of animal diseases and ensure that they are implemented according to agreed objectives and time frames set out;
5. The fundamental basis of disease surveillance be addressed on an holistic approach taking into account the social, economic and cultural context as well as the global changes taking place;
6. African swine fever, Rift Valley fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza and other priority epizootics be the basis of preparations of emergency plans in all Member Countries and that studies on preventive and control measures be intensified;

7. OIE Reference Laboratories, including those existing in Africa, engage in twinning arrangements with selected laboratories of the region under the aegis of the OIE, in order to provide and share expertise in the diagnosis and control of TADs;
8. Member Countries review the legislation and budgets with the support of donors if necessary in order to ensure a timely, fair and sustainable compensation to farmers complying with the legislation, who lose their animals as part of disease control measures resulting from stamping out policies;
9. The role of trade, especially that carried out illegally, on the epidemiology of diseases be better evaluated;
10. The public-private partnership develop further in order to create systems of animal health and food safety in which private veterinarians, livestock breeders, traders and other stakeholders are more closely involved;
11. Member Countries review progressively and monitor the upgrading of food processing plants especially those dealing with meat, milk and fish regarding the structure, hygiene and other practices including the application of Hazard Analysis for the Control of Critical Points (HACCP). Consideration should also be given to the enforcement of integrated residue control plan regarding feeds, live animals, pesticides and pharmaceuticals as well as the rendering system for by-products in accordance with international standards. Countries having difficulties to implement these activities would ask institutional support through the OIE and FAO;
12. Member Countries are encouraged to participate in the Continental conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal in March 2008 to discuss the need to improve their legislation on registration, control over the distribution of veterinary pharmaceutical and biological products (including products derived from genetically modified organisms) and ensure their compliance, in particular regarding their physicochemical properties and their conformity;
13. Member Countries review the creation, the organisation and functions of Veterinary Statutory Bodies including the involvement of the private veterinary sector in compliance with OIE standards;
14. Member countries review the system of veterinary border control regarding importation and transit of animals and animal products including procedures and facilities as well as sampling for laboratory testing;
15. Member Countries pursue their commitment towards the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) in their efforts to seek the global free rinderpest status in accordance with the new OIE Pathway with the support of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for Africa;
16. Member Countries implement all the activities in order to meet the objectives set out in the OIE/EC/SADC Programme as well as those to be decided in the framework of the OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Center for Southern Africa;
17. Member Countries review and update all relevant sanitary legislations in compliance with OIE international standards and guidelines.