



14th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa

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- Recommendation No. 1: The role of para-veterinarians and community based animal health workers in the delivery of veterinary services in Africa
- Recommendation No. 2: Antimicrobial resistance
- Recommendation No. 3: OIE categorisation of animal diseases
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Recommendation No. 1

**The role of para-veterinarians and community based animal health workers
in the delivery of veterinary services in Africa**

CONSIDERING

The need to improve in a sustainable manner the quality of disease surveillance, the control of epizootic diseases and the provision of other animal health needs, in particular in remote areas,

That registered public and private veterinarians are unable to cover all the animal health needs of a country,

The roles that para-veterinarians (animal health assistants with formal training) and/or community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) can play in the overall animal health delivery systems,

The limited ecological and geographical coverage of the case studies on the impact of CBAHWs presented at the meeting,

The absence or insufficiency of regulatory frameworks for animal health assistants and/or CBAHWs in many countries,

The need for more substantive discussion at the national level on the most appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks for each category of animal health service providers,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Under the co-ordination of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and if possible OAU/IBAR, more case studies on the impact and sustainability of CBAHWs and animal health assistants be conducted in different ecological zones and in different production systems according to the demand of national veterinary authorities.
2. Veterinary authorities initiate or continue national debates on the legislation, policy and organisation of veterinary services with a view to defining and accommodating the different categories of animal health service providers in order to improve sanitary coverage.
3. A further discussion on animal health assistants and CBAHWs be included at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa based in particular on the results of new case studies.
4. The OIE and, if need be, the OAU/IBAR, assist in the above mentioned initiatives, including the adaptation of legislation and the finalisation of quality criteria for veterinary services.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001)

Recommendation No. 2

Antimicrobial resistance

CONSIDERING

That there is a need to preserve therapeutic efficacy of antimicrobials and prolong their use in both animals and humans,

The fact that the use of antimicrobial drugs in humans and animals, and particularly poultry, can select for resistant bacterial populations, which may decrease the efficacy of these drugs,

That the impact of antimicrobial resistant bacteria on human health has become an important international concern, including the possible role that food of animal origin may play in the transmission of resistant strains to humans,

That microbiological methods for the identification and susceptibility testing of bacteria, and residue detection have to be standardised and harmonised in order to generate reliable and comparable data,

That some developed countries have taken or envisage taking measures to prohibit the use of certain antimicrobial substances in animals, and that this may have a negative impact on trade of animals and animal products from countries continuing the use of these substances,

That only very limited scientific information is available on resistance in animal bacteria and their negative impact on human health in countries world-wide,

That the great majority of countries world-wide does not

- know the quantities of antimicrobials commercialised and used in animal livestock production
- have official resistance monitoring systems available for animal and human bacteria, nor residue detection systems for animal products,

That although most countries have microbiological laboratories for testing bacteria, some laboratories do not implement quality assurance and are not officially accredited,

That a large number of countries has limited financial resources at its disposal and that priorities have to be established for veterinary and human public health problems on the basis of an appropriate risk analysis,

That Member Countries in Africa have identified several constraints to the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs,

The responsibility of the Office International des Epizooties in informing governments of the existence and evolution of animal and zoonotic diseases, of measures to be taken for their control in international trade, and of guidelines on methodology to avoid bacterial resistance,

The outcome of the work of the OIE Ad hoc group on Antimicrobial Resistance,

That the importance of the issue justifies continuous follow-up,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA RECOMMENDS THAT

1. MEMBER COUNTRIES

Actively encourage and participate in the dissemination of information relating to the emergence of resistance and its potential negative impact on animal and human health.

Promote the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine by:

- implementing the recommendations made by the OIE in this domain,
- having an efficient registration procedure of veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials,
- ensuring adequate representation of the veterinary profession with regard to the registration of veterinary medicinal products,
- having at national or regional level an operational laboratory capable of controlling the quality of veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials and the presence of residues in feed and animal products,
- having an efficient control of imported veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials in order to seize any counterfeit or substandard products,
- administering veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials to animals under the control of veterinarians.

Direct efforts towards the establishment of an officially recognised interest group that includes State Veterinary Services whose terms of reference should include the coordination of a national antimicrobial-resistance management programme. Such a programme should include:

- the implementation of guidelines (from internationally recognised sources or compiled by local professional groups) for the prudent use of antimicrobials, in order to avoid resistance and the presence of residues in animal products,
- the implementation of a permanent antimicrobial resistance monitoring programme,
- the coordination of the collection of data on the quantity of antimicrobial drugs used.

2. THE OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES

Provide, if necessary, technical assistance to OIE Member Countries, if need be with the help of its Collaborating Centres for Veterinary Medicinal Products by:

- organising conferences on antimicrobial resistance in order to disseminate information on the situation in other Member Countries and to improve awareness of the adverse effects of resistant bacteria to animal and human health as a result of an inappropriate use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine,
- promoting the implementation of the decreed recommendations for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals,
- assisting, if needed, in the methodology for the execution of a specific risk analysis in certain Member Countries, in respect to the impact on human and animal health of resistant animal bacteria associated with the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine. This assistance would be of particular importance when a country envisages taking national measures for the containment of antimicrobial resistance in animal and zoonotic bacteria,

Encourage the OIE's Reference Laboratories to assist, where necessary, OIE Member Countries in setting up microbiological laboratories, and if need be, to ensure that they implement a quality assurance scheme and participate in external proficiency testing, particularly with regard to antimicrobial sensitivity testing.

3. The next Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa examines the progress of the issue of antimicrobial resistance and monitoring of residues.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001)

Recommendation No. 3

OIE categorisation of animal diseases

CONSIDERING

That one of the main objectives of the OIE is to collect and redistribute information on the occurrence of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases world-wide and the ways and means of controlling them,

That the current OIE categorisation of lists A and B has not been reviewed recently and therefore shows certain inconsistencies,

The need to concentrate on the speed of spread of a disease, its zoonotic and economic importance and link this to the reporting procedures,

The need to categorise new emerging diseases and to re-categorise other diseases, which have assumed greater or less epidemiological, zoonotic and economic importance,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE envisage revising the current categorisation of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases by a classification of diseases into one list but with two new categories:
 - animal diseases that require immediate notification (within 24 hours) due to their economic zoonotic and epidemiological significance;
 - animal diseases of periodic notification, at least annually or more often if necessary.
2. The inclusion of any animal disease in the category of immediate notification be based solely on the characteristics mentioned in point 1 and in particular on its potential for dangerous and widespread dissemination (directly or through vectors).
3. The OIE in the short term update and also review, in relation to the diseases listed, the chapters in the OIE *International Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code* on the lines indicated in 1 above.
4. The OIE continue to develop and strengthen its disease databases and provide access to its Member Countries to enable them to obtain up to date and quality information on the animal health status world-wide.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001)

Recommendation No. 4

Rift Valley fever

CONSIDERING

The importance of livestock trade to the countries in the Horn of Africa with the neighbouring Middle East countries,

The awareness of the zoonotic importance of Rift Valley fever,

The recognition that the prevailing climatic conditions over the last two years have not been favourable for the spread of Rift Valley fever,

That the majority of countries have developed the capacity for surveillance of Rift Valley fever (active disease search and serosurveillance),

That the contribution of international organisations, such as the OAU/IBAR, OIE, FAO, IGAD, in evaluating the Rift Valley fever situation in the Horn of Africa, has been recognised,

The request made by the countries of the Horn of Africa,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Judicious actions be undertaken rapidly with a view to re-evaluating the epidemiological situation of Rift Valley fever in the Horn of Africa under the auspices of the OIE.
2. The OIE/FAO/IBAR jointly organise a meeting with the countries of the Horn of Africa, in order to confirm the absence of Rift Valley fever in the region.
3. A joint mission of countries concerned be organised to the Middle East countries, in order to ensure that the exporting countries are in full compliance with the OIE animal health regulations.
4. The OIE and FAO take the lead in establishing a regular consultative meeting between the importing and exporting countries in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.
5. Surveillance and control programmes for Rift Valley fever be implemented, or if need be strengthened, in the other Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa with the support of the above mentioned organisations.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001)