



SADC LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (LTCM)

Gaborone, Botswana, 26 - 28 November, 2008

Resolutions

1. SADC LTC MEETINGS

- 1.1. Noting that not all SADC Member States (MS) attend meetings
- 1.2. Noting that there is also no feedback (lack of confirming attendance or sending an apology) from member states regarding attendance of meetings
- 1.3. Noting also that the SADC secretariat took a decision that all technical meetings should be held in Gaborone Botswana and that there is inadequate accommodation in Gaborone Botswana
- 1.4. Noting that the Livestock technical committee meetings are meant to share experiences, promote the livestock sector in member states and also it is monotonous for other countries to be going to same country all the time
- 1.5. Noting also that the LSU arrange meetings without any consultation with the host country and hence host country is being disadvantaged

The SADC LTC decided that:

- a) **The LSU should co-ordinate dates of all meetings including meetings for projects and sub-committees for 2009 and communicate that to all MS by end of December 2008**
- b) **All SADC LTC meetings including Sub-committee meetings should be publicised in the SADC website**
- c) **Member countries should confirm in advance attendance and apologies to the LSU**
- d) **MS should ensure that their nominees attend meetings and should sponsor them for attendance. In addition all members states are to ensure that members that attend the LTC are the same officers to ensure continuity and preserve institutional memory**
- e) **MS should advise the LTC/Secretariat on the new contacts, and the LSU should compile an induction file for any new staff or new MS, should there be a change in the LTC member details. This file should contain procedures in SADC, necessary information including record of decision of the LTC.**
- f) **The LSU should establish reasons for non-attendance from member states who are not in a position to attend meetings.**

- g) **The LSU should inform the SADC secretariat the concerns raised by member states on holding meetings in Gaborone recommendation made that LTC should rotate amongst member states.**
- h) **Draft minutes should be made available to each MS within one (1) week of the meeting (including MS not represented)**
- i) **Final minutes should be made available to MS within one(1) month of the meeting**
- j) **Final minutes to be published on the SADC LIMS portal (website) with a restricted access by secretariat**
- k) **The agenda for the LTC meetings to be discussed with the chairperson and documents for future meetings including agenda items should be distributed to MS at least one(1) month in advance**
- l) **The LSU should arrange meetings in consultation with the host country to ensure smooth arrangement of transport and other logistics.**
- m) **For sub-committee meetings, all Sub-Committees Chairpersons (& vice) are to ensure that all MS are invited to ALL their sub-committee meetings (through the proper official channels and dates of their meetings are submitted to the LSU by end of December 2008.**

2. Resolutions on the control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- **Considering that the SADC region is free from HPAI and that other TADs continue to affect Animal health and production and that there is a focus shift to other TADs although HPAI remains a real threat to the region.**
- **Considering that there are a number of international collaborating partners supporting different AI projects in the region,**
- **Considering the importance of surveillance for early detection of AI;**
- **Considering that SPINAP project is more of a strategy formulation and capacity building project;**
- **Noting the regional activities co-ordinated by the JTC through RAHC and funded by various donor organisations**

The LTC resolved that

- **Member states should harmonize and streamline these activities to avoid duplication and should encourage synergy to produce desired outputs**
- **Member states should remain vigilant and activate all structures and propose activities in their respective Avian Influenza national emergency preparedness plan.**
- **Member states were urged to use the available resources to strengthen surveillance of poultry diseases using novel approaches e.g. combining surveillance with Newcastle vaccinations.**
- **The implementation of the project should be based on respective national avian influenza preparedness plans and consider the need to build capacity in veterinary/human diagnostic laboratories and public health.**

3. Resolution on Animal Production Veldt and marketing Sub-Committee

- Noting the report of the Sub-committee presented especially with regard to the revised terms of reference
- Noting also that the vice chairperson of the sub-committee has not been appointed

The LTC resolved that

- **The terms of the sub-committee are beyond its mandate**
- **The sub-committee should review the terms of reference so as to be more focused on technical issues pertaining to livestock production and marketing.**
- **The terms of reference should also capture all emerging issues (for example climate change and bio-technology) which impact on production.**
- **The sub-committee should follow a standard reporting format already adopted by the LTC.**

4. Resolution on SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources

- **Noting the February 2008 resolution taken by LTC that South Africa will prepare the final regional report by end of July 2008, noting also that the meeting of national co-ordinators will take place in Pretoria to finalise the regional report and comment on the FAO terminal report and at that the second phase of the project will be updated for eventual submission to donors**
- **Noting also that according to the resolution of February 2008, RSA will also make available data base and reports of breed surveys and breed performances**

The LTC expressed concern on

- The unavailability of the report as promised by RSA and that data base accumulated could be lost
- The submission of the second phase of the project by livestock co-ordinating unit without finalising the report and consulting with LTC

The LTC resolved that

- **The livestock co-ordinating unit of the SADC secretariat should assist in compiling the technical terminal report and should convene a meeting to be attended by South Africa regional co-ordinating office, FAO and funders (UNDP) and chairperson of the LTC to resolve the compilation of the report before the end of January 2009.**
- **The LTC chair should work together with the livestock technical unit in recovering all project data and look into the possibility of linking that to PRINT.**

- **Progress report should be presented at the next LTC meeting to be held in April 2009.**

5. Resolution on Trans-frontier Conservation Areas

- Considering that the establishment of at least 13 TFCAs in the regions is a reality, and that some of these TFCAs will contain large numbers of both domestic and wild animals and this present a major interface between these two groups of animals,
- The TFCA ideal espouses free movement of wildlife within and between the TFCAs, and that the management of some of the TADs is based on movement restrictions of all susceptible animals between areas of different animal disease status
- Noting that there is therefore a conflict between the conservationists and animals disease authorities in the management of animal diseases
- Noting that the FANR recently organised a workshop on this issue at Kasane, Botswana and unfortunately the workshop was attended by one Chief Veterinary officer

The LTC resolves that

- **The livestock unit of the SADC secretariat should distribute the report and outputs of the Kasane meeting as soon as it becomes available and the SADC secretariat should present such a report to the LTC members at the April meeting for discussion.**

6. Resolution on regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products

- Considering that the LTC mandated the SADC secretariat to present the issues on BSE and FMD to the OIE regional commission for Africa during the OIE 76th General session in May 2008.
- Considering that the provision in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) provides sufficient latitude for the exports of beef
- Noting that some trading partners have a tendency of adopting additional standards which the LTC considers inappropriate

The LTC resolves that

- **A consolidated effort should be made to convince these trading partners to adopt the international OIE standard**
- **SADC secretariat should continue to echo these concerns to the OIE**

7. Resolution of Foot and Mouth Situation in the SADC Region

- Considering that the management of FMD in the Region is increasingly complicated in the light of biodiversity conservation and livestock based initiatives both of which aim at promoting rural development,

- Considering the epidemiology of FMD in the Region is virologically and epidemiologically complex particularly because of the involvement of wildlife,
- Present International standards (OIE TAHC chapter on FMD) are a limitation to trade of products derived from livestock and wildlife in the region,
- Noting that a precedent has already been established within the OIE for dissociation of animal disease status of livestock and wildlife population (e.g. HPAI, CSF, ASF)

The LTC resolves that:

- **The Africa Commission of the OIE be approached with a view to formulating an Africa position and this should be presented to the OIE**
- **Safe trade in various products derived from both wildlife and domestic animals can be promoted by changes in the current FMD Chapter in the TAHC,**
- **A formal recommendation should be made to the Africa commission during the planned meeting to be held in N'Djamena Chad in Feb 2009 and this should contain detailed proposals on how the dissociation of livestock and wildlife disease status could be introduced into the FMD Chapter of the TAHC. The FMD project experts should assist in formulating this proposal.**

8. Resolutions and Recommendations on LIMS

- Noting that the need for a reliable livestock information system was initiated by the LTC in 2001 and in view of the subsequent approval of the PRINT Livestock Project in 2003, it goes without saying that LIMS is owned and should be supported by Member States (MS)
- Recognising that LIMS has been developed to allow the management of all aspects of livestock information,
- Noting that training on LIMS has already started in most MC and that RSA will be approached for training next year (2009).
- Noting that the PRINT Livestock Project was designed to strengthen the human and technical capacity of the Livestock Unit (LU) of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate and enable the MS to take full responsibility, ownership and to ensure sustainability of the project,

The LTC resolved that

- **The Senior Programme Manager – Livestock and the Chairperson of the LTC should on behalf of the LTC meet with the SADC secretariat to discuss the recommendation by the LTC on the secondment of the current SADC PRINT technical staff (including the need for having an information manager) to the Livestock unit.**
- **The Senior Programme Manager – Livestock with the support of the chair should look mobilise the necessary financial resources to ensure sustainability of the project**

- **The PRINT should make contact with the authorities in South Africa to secure dates for training. [participation at this training should include DAAP, DVS, DAS (statistics), Marketing].**
- **MS should ensure that data collection and entry into LIMS modules at national level will start by end of January 2009**

9. Recommendation on Regional Agricultural policy framework (RAPF)

- Noting the May, 2004 Dar-es-Salaam Extra-Ordinary SADC Summit and Declaration which called for the implementation of a series of short and long term measures aimed at “strengthening sectoral cooperation between Member States
- Noting the SADC council of Minister’s November, 2007 Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, where Ministers confirmed the principle of economic policy harmonisation of which agriculture, including livestock, is one of them, in an effort to facilitate implementation of the resolutions of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration.
- Noting that with the technical support of the FAO, Harare Sub-Regional Office, the FANR Directorate of the SADC Secretariat has initiated the formulation of the SADC RAPF.
- Noting that the SADC PRINT project in November 2008 organised a workshop in Gaborone, Botswana with the participation of sub-committees to ensure contribution to the livestock component of the RAPF,

The LTC resolved that

- **The outcome of the November workshop on RAPF and inputs made should be presented to the LTC**
- **Member states should monitor progress on consultations of the livestock component to the Regional Agriculture Policy Framework**

10. Trans- boundary animal diseases (TAD’s)

- Noting the importance of an effective surveillance system for the control of priority TADs and risk management,
- Noting with concern the upsurge of rabies and re-emergence of Rift Valley Fever (RVF,) African swine Fever (ASF) PPR and rabies in the region
- Noting the need to support of the RAHC in Gaborone in terms of developing regional strategies and capacity for their management
- Noting with concern the lack of disease surveillance and non-compliance with agreed regional and international reporting obligations by some Member States..
- Recognising the importance of co-operation in the fight against TADS.
- Noting the concerns raised by members states on the selection of countries and diseases to be prioritised

LTC resolved that

- **MS should recognize seriously the threat posed by other neglected or emerging TADs such as RVF, ASF, PPR and Rabies and urge SADC secretariat and RAHC should address this threat as a matter of urgency.**
- **The Senior programme officer –Livestock should follow up with these member states to determine challenges facing MS and ensuring that such MS are assisted in overcoming these shortcomings**
- **The information on the concept of “one world – one health” in dealing with livestock diseases, wildlife diseases and zoonoses should be provided and discussed at next LTC meeting in order as to consider the concept and have an informed position on the concept.**
- **A specialized regional body, a Southern African Commission for the control of TAD’s (SACCT), to drive the agenda of formulating progressive and sustainable regional TADS control strategies should be set up.**
- **MS should make more effort to allocate resources (human and financial) to enable early detection, control and reporting to national and regional databases Livestock Information Management system (LIMS) and use the tools and expertise made available by SADC TADs Project and RAHC.**
- **Assistance must be provided to all MS who are experiencing problems**

11. Resolution on the Food safety- capacity building and residue control project (FSCBRC)

1. Noting that in April, 2008, LTC members were informed that the project “SADC Food Safety – Capacity Building on Residue Control” commenced its activities in April, 2008.
 - Noting the entry into force of the SADC Trade Protocol and the establishment of the SADC Free Trade Area
 - Noting that the current project focuses mainly on capacity building and residue control and that the project implemented by the FANR Directorate will provide guidelines for the development of regulatory frameworks for registration and quality control of livestock production products and veterinary drugs.
 - Noting that some member states do not have the full project document of the project
 - Raising concerns on lack of adequate processes for approval of projects and participation of member states on approval of projects
 - Considering the need to foster coordination between TIFI and livestock co-ordinating unit and the intention to establish committees to deal with SPS matters
 - Considering the other initiatives similar to the project like the initiatives of the OIE Dakar meeting and the SEARCH (Southern and Eastern African committee on ...),
 - Noting that Veterinary drugs registration are just one aspect of SPS, and that FSCBRC (Food safety capacity building and residue control) appears to have a wider mandate

The LTC resolved that

- **The full project document should be presented to the next LTC meeting and should be made available to the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee**
- **The Livestock Technical Committee should provide oversight on Livestock related SPS issues to FANR, and this role must be given greater recognition and reinforced.**
- **The Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee in partnership with the MS National coordination committees NCCs, required by the project document should provide expert input/guidance on the food safety project and monitor the implementation of the project and be presented at the next LTC meeting**
- **Those MS who have not established the NCC should ensure that national structures are established by end of January 2009.**
- **Through the FSCBRC and the Livestock Technical Committee, MS should share information on SPS issues and co-ordinate all matters related to that.**
- **The LSU in coordination with FSCBRC (Food safety capacity building and residue control) project addresses the recommendations of the DAKAR meeting and issues related to Veterinary Medicine registration should be considered as part of its activities.**

12. Resolution on the Sub-committee on Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety

- **Noting the report of the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-committee**
- **Considering the importance of animals in social and economic activities of about 70% of citizens in the SADC region, the increasing importance of food-borne diseases arising from foods of animal origin and trade, the impact of climate change in the re-emergence of some of these diseases and that more than 50% of human health problems arise from zoonotic diseases (sources WHO),**

The LTC resolved that

- **The Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee should monitor closely the re-emergence of some of the diseases and come up with strategies as to how they with these diseases at a regional levels**
- **On Rabies the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee should examine current intervention in the region and ensure that they come with a proposal to advise the LTC**
- **On food safety the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee should make an assessment of gaps and differences existing in MS**
- **The LTC following the presentation of the full project proposal should ensure that the project outputs strengthen the regional capacity legislation.**
- **The Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee together with the MS NCCs should be analyse the framework of the “One World - One Health” (OWOH)**

13. Resolution on participation of industry to SADC LTC meetings

- Noting the challenges facing MS in the management of outbreaks of animal diseases,
- Noting that there is a role to be played by the private sector especially with regard to information collation, management and dissemination, analysing international standards, lobbying with their trading partners, advocacy role
- Noting that the SADC secretariat has made a decision to involve the private sector at various level to improve socio-economic factors existing in MS
- Noting that the SADC secretariat has not come up with a proposal on the criteria for the participation of the private sector in SADC meetings
- Noting the lack of feedback from MS with regard to invitation of private sector to SADC LTC meetings

The LTC resolved that

- **MS should communicate to the livestock unit (Senior programme officer –Livestock) the private sector representatives to be invited to the LTC meetings.**
- **Industry representative to accompany the MS representatives (therefore not to attend alone). Thus they should form a national delegation**
- **Invitation for the private sector should be send out by SADC secretariat after receiving advice from member states on the relevance and purpose of their participation**
- **Considerations be given to have close sessions of the LTC meetings and in some sessions, industry should be observers. (one day should be enough for the interaction with private sector e.g morning sessions o discuss common issues and the afternoon thereof should focus on the recommendations.**
- **LTC Members to submit the list of possible participants from the private sector to SADC Secretariat by end of Jan 09.**

14. Resolution on PATTEC

- Noting the pres update report presented by the SADC secretariat on PATTEC
- Considering the proposal by Swaziland that RSA, Swaziland and Mozambique should also be included in the project.

LTC resolve that

- **A meeting to be convened by South Africa should be held amongst these three countries in order as to discuss the matter and agree on way forward**
- **MS should understand that PATTEC role is to coordinate the control and not to assist with funds. Each MS is expected to source their own funding.**

15. Resolution on the Sub-committee on Epidemiology and Informatics group

- Noting the report presented and the fact that Mozambique representative was appointed as vice chair
- Rabies remains the second most reported disease in Member Countries (MC)
- Noting the re-emergence of some of the animal diseases

The LTC resolved that

- **More effort should be made to ensure that there is availability of human Rabies and RVF vaccines in the region**
- **There is a need to intensify research on SAT 2**
- **The Epidemiology and Informatics group should appoint a task team which will work on the ToR for the appointment of a consultant who will conduct a risk analysis to support the SADC BSE status**
- **With regards to the control on rabies, that MS should come up with detailed reports on the situation of rabies in their countries and that the Epidemiology and Informatics group should assist with the process**

16. Resolution on the Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-committee

- Noting that the Laboratory capacity in the region is improving with a few BSL 3 laboratories.
- Progress has been made with the twinning programme.
- Noting that the AI reference laboratory – ARC-OVI is the only laboratory and the laboratory (ARC-OVI) have indicated that their priority is National samples and should there be an outbreak their capacity will not cope.

The LTC resolved that

- **The Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-committee should develop/harmonise a SADC AI Standard operating procedures**
- **Should work with other sub-committees to prioritise the work on rabies**
- **MS should implement the Quality Management System and appoint Quality Managers**
- **Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-committee should include parasitic diseases in the country reports**
- **In view of the fact that the twinning programme is a programme which ought to be approved at the Chief Veterinary officer level MS were encouraged to take advantage of the OIE twinning initiative and that with regard to reference laboratories the Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-committee should come up with recommendations on how this can be done and which diseases should be prioritised.**