



## **SADC LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (LTCM)**

**Gaborone, Botswana, 27 - 29 April, 2010**

### **Records**

#### **1.0 Attendance and Opening**

The Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) was attended by representatives of all Member States (except those of Mauritius and Lesotho). Madagascar was not invited to participate in the LTC

Representatives of International Cooperating Partners such as the OIE, FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI, PATTEC, University of Pretoria and the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) also attended the LTC meeting.

The Chair, Dr J.M. Olenga Yuma of the Democratic Republic of Congo welcomed the delegates and outlined a few of the activities of the LTC during 2009. .

The LTC meeting of April, 2010 was officially opened by Mr. B. Masilo, the Director of the Department of Animal Production of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Botswana, who represented the acting Permanent Secretary. In his opening speech the Director outlined the importance of livestock in regional food security and stressed on the necessity to increase regional trade in livestock and to strive to remove technical barriers to trade in the sector.

#### **2.0 Adoption of the Agenda**

The Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) adopted the draft Programme (SADC/LTCM/Apr, 10/1) as presented by the FANR Directorate.

#### **3.0 Adoption of the Records of the LTC of November, 2009**

The LTC adopted the records of the meeting held in Gaborone from 04 to 06 November, 2009 (**SADC/LTCM/Nov, 09/2**)

#### **4.0 SADC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) on Avian Influenza**

The LTC noted that efforts were made by the FAO, through the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC), and the Secretariat to source funding for a meeting of the JTC, as directed by the LTC at its meeting in November, 2009. USAID and WHO were contacted, and a response is still awaited.

LTC also noted that the SPINAP programme is progressing satisfactorily in the region. During the second Regional Implementation Review workshop held in Lesotho in March, 2010, the participating Member States took note of the very satisfactory implementation by the SADC Member States of the SPINAP programme.

LTC further noted that the consultant's report on the regional communication strategy for HPAI was circulated to Member States.

4.1 LTC urged SADC Member States to continue meeting at National Task Force level in order to take immediate actions should there be an outbreak

4.2 LTC commended Member States for successfully implementing the SPINAP programme.

#### **5.0 Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism for HPAI and other TADs**

LTC noted that AU-IBAR is proposing an Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses with the aim to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities (RECs) to coordinate and harmonise actions implemented by Member States through capacity building and institutionalisation of coordination procedures and practices. The IRCM will initially focus on a very limited number of TADs and zoonoses (AHI and few emerging and re-emerging zoonoses prioritised by RECs), with the medium term objective of expanding its scope to all TADs and zoonoses. The IRCM will also be instrumental in promoting the "One World One Health" concept at national, regional and continental levels.

LTC also noted that AU-IBAR has commissioned consultancies on the proposed IRCM and a workshop was held from 23 to 24 April, 2010 in Gaborone to present the findings of the consultancies.

LTC noted the recommendations of the workshop held on 23 and 24 April, 2010, with reference to the phased approach leading to the formulation of a costed action plan for five years to strengthen coordination of control of TADs and zoonoses between SADC and its Member States.

5.1 LTC urged the Secretariat to collaborate with the initiative of AU-IBAR in the development of the IRCM and to participate in the continental workshop

scheduled for October, 2010 to validate the results of the development phases.

## **6.0 Digital Pen Technology (DPT)**

LTC will recall that the DPT was developed by the FAO for the collection of primary field data including animal health data. Within the SADC TADs project FAO, housed at the Regional Animal Health Centre in Gaborone, has been contracted to provide training to selected Member States participating in the project.

LTC noted that the PRINT project has made all arrangement to establish interoperability between DPT and LIMS and that this exercise is now complete. However, there seems to be a few details that need to be addressed with the LIMS developers before full interoperability is achieved. The African Development Bank financed SADC TADs project is using the DPT to collect animal health data in participating Member States to be sent to LIMS. Training of personnel in participating Member States by the FAO has been undertaken in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. Training of personnel in Angola and Mozambique will take place in May and June, 2010.

LTC was informed that issues relating to interoperability between DPT and LIMS have largely been resolved.

6.1 LTC directed the TADs project and the Livestock Unit to ensure that there is interoperability between LIMS and other information systems in Member States, and that the scheduled trainings in Angola and Mozambique are undertaken.

6.2 LTC urged MS to widen the scope of livestock data captured by the DPT and other mobile technologies.

## **7.0 SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources**

LTC noted that the final report of the SADC FAnGR project has been edited and circulated to members of the LTC. The Secretariat would like to receive comments from members so as to finalise the report for submission to FAO.

LTC also noted that efforts made by the Livestock Unit to recover project data and other relevant information which can show achievements of the project have so far not been successful, as the ex-Regional Project Coordinator has not been available.

LTC further noted that the phase 2 of the project will be revised and circulated to the National Coordinators for comments before submission to the LTC for approval, after which the Secretariat can seek funding from donors.

7.1 LTC adopted the Terminal Report as submitted by the Secretariat and directed the latter to submit it to the Director FANR for onward transmission to the FAO.

7.2 LTC urged the Republic of South Africa to assist in the recovery of project data and other relevant information in order to document achievements of the project

7.3 The Secretariat to finalise the second phase and seek funding for its implementation.

## 8.0 Regional and International Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products

Members of the LTC mandated the SADC Secretariat to present the following issues in trade in livestock and livestock products to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa during the OIE 78<sup>th</sup> General Session in May, 2010:

- **The necessity for extremely costly and logistically difficult surveillance to be conducted when a satisfactory risk assessment has shown that the risk of BSE being present in a country is negligible (e.g. through the use of the Geographical BSE Risk (GBR) assessment method) (South African to present)**
- **Commodity based trade should not be promoted as an alternative to application of rigorous disease control strategies such as fencing, vaccinations, movement control, etc., but rather as a possible entry point for communities and industry in endemic areas with competent surveillance systems into the export market**

LTC:

8.1 Urged MS to increase inter-regional trade in livestock and livestock products, and agree on compliance with norms and standards on a bilateral basis.

8.2 Urged MS to propose qualified experts to participate in OIE ad-hoc bodies

8.3 Requested AU-IBAR to ask OIE that when developing the principle of compartmentalisation in various disease chapters, to give consideration for FMD free compartments with vaccination

8.4 Urged trading partners to accept the importation of bone-in meat from countries that have recognised OIE FMD free zones in accordance with OIE standards.

8.5 Urged South Africa to submit the above to AU-IBAR on behalf of the LTC in the absence of the SADC Secretariat at the AU-IBAR Kampala meeting to be held during the second week of May, 2010.

## **9.0 Emergency disease fund for the control of TADs**

LTC noted that Member States have realised that management of TADs in the region is increasingly complicated in the light of biodiversity conservation and livestock based initiatives both of which aim at promoting rural development

LTC further noted that the TADs project has an emergency disease fund for the control of TADs which can be accessed by Member States in emergency situations. However, the modalities for accessing this emergency fund are yet to be worked out by the TADs project which will commission a consultancy to that effect.

LTC advised Member States to establish a National Emergency Fund in order to control any outbreak of TADs while the details of the regional emergency fund are determined.

**LTC:**

9.1 Encouraged MS to set up NATIONAL emergency funds for TADs outbreaks, especially FMD

9.2 MS who may have limitations in coping with emergency situations can apply for assistance from the TADs project "emergency fund" at the appropriate time. This assistance will be in the form of an advance which the MS will have to reimburse so that other MS can be assisted. The "Emergency Fund" will, therefore, serve as a revolving fund to be accessed by MS.

9.3 Directed the SADC TADs project to take steps to determine the modalities of use of the Emergency Fund before the next LTC meeting of November, 2010.

## **10.0 Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)**

LTC noted that at its meeting in November, 2009, the PATTEC Coordinator requested the Secretariat to consider the following:

- a) The establishment of a regional PATTEC coordination office at the SADC Secretariat
- b) The creation of a SADC fund to finance PATTEC activities in SADC
- c) Endorsing common policy to make the SADC region a T&T free zone
- d) SADC Secretariat, working in collaboration with PATTEC, to define modalities for a) and b) and to report back at the next LTC meeting in April 2010

LTC was informed by the PATTEC Coordinator that consultations with SADC Member States (Malawi) have been initiated to sensitise them to contribute to the long term control of Trypanosomosis. Presently the PATTEC programme is being executed under the general coordination of the African Union Commission.

LTC appreciated the need to develop an enduring mechanism through which SADC MS engaged in the implementation of the PATTEC programme can receive support, and recommends that the proposal to create a Regional Fund for PATTEC be brought to the attention of the SADC Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security at their next meeting for consideration...

10.1 LTC urged the Secretariat and the PATTEC Coordinator to work out the details of the decisions taken in November, 2009 and to provide background information required for consideration by the Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security at their forthcoming meeting..

## **11.0 Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)**

The LTC would recall that at its meetings of April and November, 2009, it resolved that Member States should ensure that livestock data collection and entry into LIMS modules at national level must start as from January, 2009. LIMS applications have been installed in all Member States and the required training has been provided.

LTC recalled that a request to Member States to second officers to the FANR Directorate to assist in maintaining LIMS was not considered.

The Secretariat had also submitted a request to have two positions within the Capacity Building for Regional Integration project, funded by the European Union, in order to maintain the different information systems, including LIMS, within the FANR Directorate until their eventual linkage with AIMS. Those two positions have now been advertised.

LIMS has been developed to allow the management of all aspects of livestock information and is owned by Member States.

As recommended by the LTC, the SADC TADs project has taken over the management of LIMS pending the appointment of appropriate staff at the FANR Directorate.

LTC was informed that the Animal Health Yearbook for 2009 will be published, latest by May 2010 by the SADC TADs project,

11.1 LTC urged Member States to supply livestock information (numbers, animal production, animal health, and marketing and trade data) timely to the Secretariat so that reports are generated and disseminated.

## **12.0 National Coordinating Committees for SPS and Harmonisation of Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products**

At its meeting in November, 2009 LTC noted that it is essential to evaluate the current situation and specificity of veterinary products distribution and use in the region, take cognisance of the legislations regarding registration and control of veterinary medicinal products and propose recommendations for the future harmonisation of the regulation, control and registration of pesticides and veterinary drugs in the region.

LTC noted that the Food Safety project has commissioned a consultancy to provide guidelines for the development of regulatory frameworks for registration and quality control of livestock protection products and veterinary drugs

LTC was informed that todate eight countries have established NCCs and that the other countries are in the process of establishing them. LTC noted that delay in the formation of NCCs is delaying the establishment of the Regional Coordination Committee.

LTC further noted that the NCCs are biased towards food safety\_ and there is less emphasis on SPS issues. LTC advised to speed up implementation of the SPS annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade, including formation of Regional SPS committee.

12.1 LTC urged that the other countries should establish the NCCs in consultation with their Ministries of Trade as quickly as possible and to submit the names of the members to the SADC Secretariat.

12.2 LTC urged the Food Safety project to submit the guidelines for the registration of veterinary drugs and medicine to the FANR Directorate before the November, 2010 meeting of the LTC.

## **13.0 Southern African Commission for the Control of TADs (SACCT)**

LTC noted that with the technical assistance of FAO a consultancy mission was fielded to guide the Secretariat on the establishment of the SACCT. The report submitted by the consultants was discussed at the November, 2009 meeting of the LTC which directed the SADC TADs project to organise a meeting of the CVOs in January, 2010 in order to give the latter more time to consider the possible establishment of the SACCT. The CVOs were expected to give their comments by 31 December, 2009.

LTC noted that no comments were received by the due date, but for reasons beyond the control of the Secretariat, the meeting could not be organised before 26 April, 2010.

LTC noted the recommendations of the SACCT meeting held on 26 April, 2010.

LTC adopted the report of the consultants with the following amendments and recommendations:

1. Establish a multi TADs Commission under the FANR with all the 15 DVS/CVO from SADC Member States being Commissioners.
2. The meeting agreed that in the proposed structure of the SACCT the functions of Executive committee could be shared by the SADC Member States, Commission, Secretariat and the Technical Committee and therefore the Executive Committee should be removed or omitted from the presented structure
3. The meeting decided that the TADS should be prioritized (by The commissioners)after having drawn up a list in order to address TADS of strategic importance especially with regard to public health, regional and international trade.
4. The meeting recommended that, as an interim measure towards the establishment of the SACCT, the SADC TADs Project should serve as interim SACCT Secretariat that will also work out the modalities for the utilization of the emergency fund as a preamble to establish the SACCT.
5. The SADC Secretariat and the TADs project to consult Cooperating partners as FAO, OIE, AU-IBAR and develop modalities through which these Cooperating partners can participate/assist in the setting up, implementation and sustainability of SACCT.
6. The meeting proposed that the animal disease Emergency fund under the SADC TADs Project will serve as a revolving fund to assist member states in managing emergency situations of TADs.
7. The meeting agreed that the long term sustainability of the SACCT will be worked out in parallel during the interim period within the shortest time possible.
8. The meeting recommended that the SADC Secretariat and SADC TADS Project should consult the legal unit of SADC regarding the legal framework for the establishment of the SACCT to deal with long term control of TADs.
9. Following legal advice the permanent hosting of the Commission's secretariat can be decided by the LTC to be ratified by the SADC Secretariat
10. Research will be one among a range of innovation and knowledge creation strategies for decision support by the Technical Committee.

#### **14.0 Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP)**

LTC would recall that the FANR Directorate initiated the formulation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) in July, 2008 with the technical support of the FAO, Harare Sub-Regional Office.

LTC noted that based on validated national reports, a draft synthesis document on emerging policy issues have been prepared, and for the livestock sub-sector these include the following, amongst others:

- Animal genetic resources;
- Feed and nutrition;
- Rangelands and rangeland management;
- Cultivated pastures;
- Animal diseases, especially TADs and animal health management;

LTC noted that the FANR Directorate organised a consultation workshop on 22 and 23 April, 2010, involving the Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Agriculture of Member States, farmers associations and ICPs to have their opinion on the RAP synthesis report. The synthesis report is now anchored on three pillars, namely:

1. Production, productivity and Competitiveness
2. Trade and Markets, and
3. Financing and Investments.

LTC was informed that the workshop came up with an outline of a road map for the RAP which will start with the development of a policy statement, followed by specialised thematic studies, architecture of the RAP and detailed implementation plan, including costs. The RAP policy statement will be developed by December, 2010..

14.1 LTC urged Member States to participate fully in the development of the RAP through the consultative processes of the SADC Secretariat.

## **15.0 The Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Sub-Committee**

LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was able to meet in March, 2010, but still has challenges regarding attendance of members and sponsorship for future meetings..

LTC further noted that the Sub-Committee has considered the propositions of the LTC made at its meeting held in November, 2009, in that the Sub-Committee should prioritise diseases of zoonotic importance in the region and look at the way the food industry is adopting the concept of HACCP in the food chain.

LTC considered and endorsed the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee as presented by the Chair:

### **Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)**

- HACCP principles should be adopted by the food industry businesses.
- Develop capacity in HACCP principles in the food industry.

- The industry needs to comply with food safety standards appropriately regulated.

### **Control of Rabies**

- Treat rabies as a regional problem and harmonise prevention and control strategies.
- Develop standardised guidelines for the surveillance of rabies both in humans and animals.
- There is inadequate and unreliable surveillance data on rabies, and therefore the need to collect reliable data
- Promote collaboration among stakeholders in the control of rabies which needs to be considered a public good.

15.1 LTC urged Member States to sponsor their participants to attend the meetings of the Sub-Committee as veterinary public health and food safety issues are very important for human and animal health.

## **16.0 The Epidemiology and Informatics Sub-Committee**

LTC noted that during 2009, FAO provided financial and technical assistance to at least one meeting of the Sub-Committee. As per the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, the TADs project has taken over some of the activities of LIMS as an interim measure until the recruitment of appropriate staff by the FANR Directorate to man LIMS and ultimately AIMS.

LTC also noted that the Sub-Committee has almost completed the TORs of the BSE study to be financed by the Food Safety project. The TORs will be submitted to the project for finalisation and commissioning within the present Programme Estimate.

LTC endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Committee as presented by its Chair:

- Adopt the Strategy for rabies control consolidated by Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia
- Discuss this strategy in a joint meeting with the Lab Sub-Committee to harmonize rabies control in the region.
- Set up a group comprising Lesotho & Tanzania to work on the Animal Health Yearbook.
- Outstanding reports for 2009 in animal health must be submitted to SADC TADs by March 15, 2010.

- Harmonize protocol for post vaccination sero-monitoring of FMD which will require additional input from MS.
- Explore areas of future collaboration with EMPRESS-I for value addition to LIMS.
- The SADC TADs project has taken over, as an interim measure, some of the operations of LIMS, but the SADC Secretariat needs to have a sustainable mechanism for the long term management of LIMS.

16.1 LTC urged MS and the Sub-Committee to come up with an agreed strategy for the control of rabies in the region and to submit animal health data on time to enable the publication of the Animal Health Yearbook.

## **17.0 The Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee**

LTC noted the technical and financial assistance provided by the FAO-ECTAD office of the Regional Animal Health Centre for the meetings of the Sub-Committee.

LTC also noted that the Botswana National Veterinary laboratory has already started testing for Avian Influenza (AI) for the region after being officially designated as the second service laboratory for AI, and that in future it will extend this service to other TADs as directed by the LTC at its meeting of November, 2009.

LTC recommended that rabies diagnostic requirements be captured in the rabies proposal (IZS&FAO) and that the mandate of the Working Group on AI be broadened to include harmonisation of Standard Operating Procedures for rabies. LTC requested all heads of laboratories to forward their inputs regarding the proposal to the Sub-Committee.

LTC noted that at its meeting in November, 2009, it recommended a systematic approach to combine diagnosis and surveillance as done for AI to be extended to other TADs.

LTC endorsed the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee as presented by the Chair:

- After successful implementation of AI Field Simulation Exercises in Zambia, it is being recommended that MS carry out field simulation exercises for AI to test their INAPs for response in case of an AI outbreak or in handling potential threats of other emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- SADC Diagnostic laboratories should develop RVF (Rift Valley Fever) diagnostic capacities considering the increased threat of spread of the disease in SADC countries. MS are again being encouraged to fully

participate in the FMD capacity building and PVM projects, currently initiated and funded by FAO.

- SADC LTC and its development partners like FAO, AU-IBAR etc should facilitate full participation of national laboratory experts in the development, documentation, planning and implementation of national and regional projects to ensure that both components of a disease surveillance system are addressed in the project implementation process.
- Considering intensive support given by FAO-ECTAD and AU-IBAR SPINAP projects in financing activities of the SC's AI-WG and training of technical staff, it is recommended that 2 publications of training impact assessment and on activities and achievements of the AI-WG be documented for future reference and use in efforts to improve the SADC laboratory diagnostic process.
- Although SADC is free from HPAI (H5N1), Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) strains have been detected in some SADC countries. National laboratories should establish capacities to screen for LPAI strains as-well, in addition to capacities built to screen for HPAI strains (H5, H7 & H9).
- The Quality Management Working Group to develop a proposal on the introduction and implementation of Management Systems based on ISO 17025 in SADC national laboratories and submit to potential development partners, especially to the SADC-TADs project for funding. It is hoped that the SADC LTC and SADC-TADs project will accept and fund this project.

17.1 LTC thanked the FAO-ECTAD office for the financial and technical assistance provided to the Sub-Committee, and directed the latter to implement the recommendations which have been endorsed.

## **18.0 The Animal Production, Veld, Marketing and Genetic Resources Sub-Committee**

LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was able to meet in Lesotho in March, 2010 as directed by LTC at its meeting in November, 2009, with sponsorship from ILRI.

At its meeting in November, 2009 LTC recommended that livestock research should form part of the agenda of the Sub-Committee which should also coordinate feeding of data on animal production, livestock marketing and trade into LIMS to enable the production of the SADC Animal Production Yearbook.

LTC noted that the Sub-Committee met in Lesotho in March, 2010 with sponsorship from ILRI and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of

Lesotho. The Sub-Committee confirmed Zambia as its Chair who presented the following recommendations, endorsed by the LTC:

- Member States must submit the first set of animal production and marketing data to SADC Secretariat by the 9th April 2010 in LIMS format. Subsequently, the data has to be submitted on a quarterly basis and on time.
- SADC Secretariat will write to the Permanent/Principal Secretaries of all Member States for reappointment of National Coordinators for farm animal genetic resources and their alternates
- The Sub-Committee shall develop proposals on FAnGR for financing under the Global Plan of Action.
- Concept notes for research work on the following will be developed:
  - The genetic improvement of small ruminant's productivity by Malawi.
  - Climate change and its impacts on livestock production and development by Lesotho.
  - Markets access and value chain analysis in small ruminant production by Zimbabwe

18.1 LTC urged Member States to appoint a Senior Animal Production Officer to be responsible for data supply for animal production, marketing and trade in LIMS format to the Secretariat.

18.2 LTC urged the Member States responsible to develop the concept notes on the research proposals to submit them to the Chair of the Sub-Committee by the end of May, 2010

## **19.0 OIE PVS Tool**

LTC noted that Member States would have preferred to be informed in advance of the appointment of the members of the team that would carry out the PVS assessment, and that they should be given the opportunity to comment on the composition of the team.

LTC also noted the concerns of the Member States regarding the elements of bias which could be inherent in the development of the gap analysis.

LTC further noted the comments from the OIE Sub-Regional Representation to the effect that Member States, through their OIE Delegate, have the opportunity to comment on the PVS team proposed by the OIE as well as to bring in any suggestion which could assist to improve the PVS tool.

19.1 LTC urged Member States to take full advantage of the PVS tool to evaluate their Veterinary Services and use the report of the assessment to invest in improving the services.

## **20.0 International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**

LTC noted that there is very little research and uptake of technology in livestock issues, especially regarding animal production, in the region and recommended that Member States participate in ILRI's Key Global Livestock Agenda Issues, which are:

- Market value chains to enhance access to market for smallholder farmers
- Intensification of mixed crop livestock production systems
- Vulnerability and sustainability in pastoral systems
- Facing the challenges of emerging diseases in the changing livestock systems
- Understanding climate change at global and continental level in order to better support livestock based adaptation to the impacts

LTC also noted that climate change will impact on livestock with regard to feeds, heat stress, water availability, diseases and livestock systems. On the other hand livestock seems to be contributing to global warming, methane production and rangeland degradation.

ILRI recommended that the responses to climate change can be by adaptation and mitigation:

### **Adaptation to Climate Change**

- Consider adaptation as risk management
- Internalization of climate change into policies
- Consider climate change scenarios in research programmes (along with other drivers of change)

### **Mitigation**

- Improve crop and grazing land management to increase carbon storage
- Improve rice cultivation techniques and livestock and manure management to reduce methane emissions
- Improve nitrogen fertilizer application techniques
- Improve productivity per animal

## **21.0 The Botswana Vaccine Institute, BVI (Gaborone)**

LTC noted the elements of FMD control as presented by the BVI and the developments in its FMD vaccine project.

- Current vaccines have to be used in view of prevailing endemic setting and to be managed properly
- Ensure appropriate vaccines are used and administered as per manufacturer's recommendations
- Maintain active surveillance at all times
- Carry out post vaccination sero-monitoring (PVM) and use homologous antigens.
- Extend PVM to surveillance
- Improve communications between the BVI, Veterinary Services and the farmers through joint meetings, workshops and seminars.

LTC also noted that a workshop hosted at the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory in March, 2009 came up with the following recommendations:

- Adoption of the World Reference Laboratories protocol for the Liquid Phase Blocking Elisa as the SADC Regional standard.
- Continuous technical support to regional laboratories involved in PVM to be provided by Regional Reference Laboratories.
- Production, validation & distribution of a panel of control bovine anti-sera (SAT1, SAT2 & SAT3 and control negative), for use in testing associated with PVM in the SADC Region

LTC further noted the progress achieved in the BVI FMD project which will be completed in 2010 with the validation of process equipment and the production of purified antigens. LTC was also informed that the BVI is taking all steps to satisfy the requirements of Member States for vaccines.

LTC further noted that the BVI concluded its presentation with the following:

- Current vaccines have to be used in view of prevailing endemic setting & managed properly
- BVI continues to investigate the adaptation of new SAT 2 isolate into vaccine strain to:
- Ensure appropriate vaccines are used
- Update BVI vaccine strains
- BVI FMD project completion at end of 2010: (DIVA and >3 PD50 payload)
- Implementation of antigen banks for emergency supply will be possible (CONTRACTS)
- BVI supports the SADC initiative to promote market access in line with CBT concept

## **22.0 SADC Issues for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE**

Members of the LTC agreed that the following issues should be brought to the attention of the 78<sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE in May, 2010 for decisions:

**Animal Welfare:** The OIE has proposed to replace "Guidelines" by "Standards" which will then become mandatory for Member States to comply. Member States would prefer to retain "Guidelines" for reasons of flexibility.

**Animal Diseases:** OIE has proposed to delete "Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome" (PRRS) of pigs from the list of diseases, freedom from which livestock and livestock products exporting countries are required to certify to importing countries. Member States are not agreeable to this deletion as they would not like to get the disease through importations.

**Trade in livestock and Livestock Products:** The OIE be requested to consider zones and compartments free from FMD with vaccination for trading purposes.

**Freedom from BSE for Exporting Countries:** At present Member States are required to carry out surveillance and tests to prove freedom from BSE for export of beef. Surveillance combined with tests makes it expensive for Member States who are exporting beef.

**Election of the OIE Director General:** During the 78<sup>th</sup> General Session the election of the Director General will take place. Members of the LTC, most of whom are country Delegates to the OIE, agreed to support Dr Vallat (only candidate) for the position, with the agreement of their respective Government.

Member States proposed that in future the region should groom a candidate for the post of Director General.

**23.0 Next meeting** was fixed from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010