



SADC/LTCM/May, 11/3

Recommendations and Resolutions of the LTC following its meeting held in Gaborone from 03 to 05 November 2010

The SADC LTC discussed issues presented and made the following recommendations and resolutions:

Recommendations

Considering the importance of data and implementation of surveillance in developing strategies and policies and noting a decline in report submission:

1. The LTC acknowledged the progress made in conducting surveillance of FMD in wild buffaloes and livestock at the wildlife – livestock interface in Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. The LTC recommended that information gathered from these studies should be disseminated to all SADC Member States to enable them understand better the strains of FMD viruses circulating in buffaloes and cattle with a view to help countries to develop FMD control strategies.
2. The LTC noted an increase in the number of diseases/conditions affecting aquatic and bee species in the region. However, as the SADC region does not have sufficient experts on aquatic and bee diseases, the latter go unreported and cause big economic loss to the region. The LTC recommended that Member States should invest in building capacity by training personnel to address the challenges facing aquatic and bee species. The Secretariat will work with the OIE to assist member States.
3. The LTC recognised the need to develop sanitary standards on traditional food (dried fish and dry products of animal origin like Kapenta, Mopane worms etc. Legislations in various countries on food standards are different so that there is a need to investigate possibilities of harmonising these standards. The LTC recommended that the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety (VPH&FS) Sub-Committee should take up this assignment.

Resolutions:

The SADC LTC discussed the issues presented and made the following resolutions:

1. Despite numerous efforts to encourage the Animal Production, Veld, Marketing and Animal Genetic Resources Sub-Committee to carry out its mandate, the LTC noted, with disappointment, the failure of the Sub-Committee to perform up to the LTC's expectations. The LTC resolved to dissolve the Sub-Committee and appointed Malawi (in the person of Mr. W.G. Lipita) to Chair the Sub-

Committee and requested Member States to appoint energetic and enthusiastic people to serve as members of the Sub-Committee. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was scheduled to take place in the last week of November or 1st week of December, 2010. The SADC TADs Project will facilitate the 1st meeting of the Sub-Committee.

2. The Ministries responsible for livestock development (in collaboration with wildlife health experts, livestock keepers/ farmers and processors and associated industries) in Member States should;
 - a. Adhere to the agreed principle of collecting and submitting animal health data timely.
 - b. Start using the Abattoir and Animal Production modules in LIMS. The LTC resolved that countries should start using the Animal Production module of LIMS and that feeding data into the system should start as from January 2011.
3. Recommendations of the VPH & FS Sub-Committee meeting held in Lesotho in October, 2010 should be circulated to members of the LTC for their input. In the mean time the VPH& FS should progress with other issues in their work plan as scheduled.
4. The LTC recognised the OIE resolution number 26 of the 77th General Session regarding animal welfare issues and acknowledges the recommendation which requires countries to nominate **National Focal Points** for animal welfare. The LTC urged those countries, which have not nominated national focal point persons, to do so. The Focal Points should spearhead the development and implementation of national strategies and participate in the development of the regional strategy and its implementation.
5. LTC noted the FAO request for voluntary data submission on animal production. The LTC urged countries to take up the request to provide animal production and budget data to the FAO Sub Regional Office in Harare in order to allow them refine the study and come up with more meaningful inferences that will help the region.
6. LTC took note of the study conducted by Dr Gavin Thomson on BSE. The LTC received and examined the preliminary results of the study and urged Member States to study the report and liaise with the Secretariat and the consultant if they have any comments. The LTC noted the offer of the Food Safety project to commit more funds to expand the scope of the study. The LTC further urged Member States to take measures to minimise the risk of BSE in the region.
7. The LTC acknowledged the support from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to SADC and Member States and expressed the wish for this collaboration within and across sectors to continue. The LTC encouraged Member States to take full ownership of the achievements attained from implementing programmes/project supported by ICPs.
8. The LTC noted cases where import/export permits in use do not match the conditions for certification of import/export of animals and animal products. The LTC urged Member States to refocus on the integrity of certification while ensuring that certification rules are not used as barriers to trade in animal and animal related products.
9. The LTC noted the concerns of the Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, at their meeting held in Namibia from 02/11 – 05/11, 2010, on the declining performance of the livestock sector which has led to SADC being a net importer of livestock and livestock products, despite the vast animal resources and potential of the sector to contribute to regional food security and agricultural development.

The LTC agreed to analyse the factors which are leading to the poor performance of the livestock sector and develop strategies and programmes to increase livestock production so that it contributes to improved food security and helps to reduce imports of livestock and livestock products. To this effect, the LTC will hold an extra ordinary meeting from 26/01 – 28/01, 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana as directed by the Ministers.

10. The LTC noted that previously meetings were held once per year. The frequency of meetings was increased to twice per year due to the following reasons:
 - a. The issues and problems facing the livestock sector, especially with respect to animal disease control and livestock production, could not be dealt with in a three day meeting. Moreover, one meeting per year was considered a long gap to follow up progress.
 - b. The April meeting is usually devoted to prepare for the OIE General Session and to submit the concerns of the region to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and to AU-IBAR. The latter presents the Africa position on relevant matters to the OIE, each year, at the General Session in May.
 - c. The November meeting reviews progress in the livestock sector, discusses the reports and recommendations of the Sub-Committees and ensures that recommendations and resolutions of the LTC are implemented as required.

The LTC considers that two meetings per year provide the committee an opportunity to discuss, plan and harmonise interventions that focus on improving the contribution of livestock to livelihoods and economies of Member States. The LTC requests the SADC Secretariat to kindly reconsider the holding of two LTC meetings per year in order to monitor progress in the livestock sector. The next LTC meeting is scheduled to take place in the 2nd week of April, 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana.

11.02.11
FANR Directorate