



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

**Gaborone, Botswana, 03 - 05 November, 2011**

### **RECORD**

1.0 The second Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) meeting for 2011 was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 03 to 05 November 2011 at the Grand Palm Hotel. Directors of Veterinary Services and Livestock Services from 12 Member States (Angola, DRC, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended the meeting which was chaired by Ms Bernadette Santana of Angola. The Chairpersons of the three Sub-Committees of the LTC also attended the meeting together with representatives of the World Animal Health Organisation (Gaborone), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (Harare), International Livestock Research Institute (Maputo), Southern African Centre for Infectious Diseases Surveillance (SACIDS, Tanzania), Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Teramo (IZS, Italy) and African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (Nairobi and Gaborone).

The outgoing Chair, Dr Milton Maseke of Namibia handed over the Chair of the LTC to Ms B. Santana of Angola after a brief statement on the achievements of the LTC during 2010/2011. The meeting was opened by the incoming Chair who thanked Dr Milton for very ably steering the activities of the LTC during his tenure. Ms Santana emphasised the importance of the LTC as a way to seek and agree on means to develop the livestock sector in the region so as to increase production and productivity. The proceedings of the meeting are recorded below:

### **2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) considered and adopted the programme (**SADC/LTCM/Nov, 11/1**) as presented by the FANR Directorate.

### **3.0 Review of Implementation of the Decisions of the LTC meeting of 10 to 12 May, 2011 (SADC/LTCM/May, 11/3)**

The meeting noted the implementation status of the decisions of the LTC of May, 2011 most of which have been reported during the present meeting as substantive items.

### **4.0 Report of the Epidemiology and Informatics Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee held its meeting jointly with the Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee in Johannesburg in July 2011 and came up with the following resolutions and recommendations:

1. After noting that Member States were not following a standard protocol on post vaccination monitoring, the EIS is now working on a harmonised FMD Post Vaccination Sero-Monitoring Protocol. Botswana will present the revised protocol for discussion and recommendation at the next EIS meeting to be held in Zimbabwe from 22 to 24 in November 2011.
2. Noting that most Member States lack capacity within vet departments to conduct audits of disease surveillance and control programmes, the Sub-Committee, therefore, recommended that the capacity be developed in this field by each Member State.

4.1 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the Sub-Committee and directed the Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the recommendations/resolutions

### **5.0 Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee held its meeting jointly with the EIS Sub-Committee in Johannesburg in July 2011 and came up with the following resolutions/recommendations to be considered by the LTC:

- SADC harmonized SOPs for laboratory diagnosis of FMD, Rabies and Avian Influenza have been validated through PT in SADC national laboratories and have already been recommended for routine use in all SADC national laboratories.
- The SC resolved to assist National Laboratories interested in ISO 17025 accreditation by developing the SADC QMS implementation plan and accreditation roadmap with budget estimates which have already been submitted to the SADC TADs project for funding.

- The SC resolved to request for financial support from AU-IBAR to finance PT & Test validation exercise for AI PCR SOP, a Biosafety/Biosecurity training workshop and sponsorship for SC meetings for the next 5 years.
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- The SC resolved to assist National Laboratories interested in ISO 17025 accreditation by developing the SADC QMS implementation plan and accreditation roadmap with budget estimates which have already been submitted to the SADC TADs project for funding.
- The SC resolved to request for financial support from AU-IBAR to finance PT & Test validation exercise for AI PCR SOP, a Biosafety/Biosecurity training workshop and sponsorship for SC meetings for the next 5 years.
- The SADC diagnostic sub-committee is recommending the harmonization of PPR laboratory test methods as part of the SC's efforts to harmonize all diagnostic protocols for TADS and zoonoses in the SADC region.
- The SC is recommending that SADC national Laboratories which do not have a functional Information Management System adopt the SILAB system after its adoption by LTC when Namibia presents the management system to the LTC.
- The SC recommends that Directorates of Veterinary Services of SADC Member States give material and financial support to their respective National Laboratories to implement the roadmap to ISO 17025 accreditation as presented by the QMS working group

5.1 The Sub-Committee also presented the outcomes of the OIE workshop on honeybee diseases held in June, 2011 and these are:

- Need to build diagnostic capacities for screening honeybee diseases (mainly parasitic and bacterial infections)
- African beekeepers encouraged not to use antibiotics to avoid resistance which is now a problem in Europe and the Americas
- SADC countries trading in honey & bee colony with Europe and the Americas to establish and validate tests to screen for European and American foulbrood

5.2 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the Sub-Committee and directed the Secretariat to assist in their implementation

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

6.1 LTC noted that the Chair of the Sub-Committee (Malawi, Mr Lipita) has been promoted and has informed the Secretariat that he could continue as Chair, but he would be willing to step down should it be necessary to do so. He also informed the Secretariat that in the absence of sponsorship by Member States or by donors, it becomes a challenge to have meetings of the Sub-Committee. The sponsorship challenge was reiterated by the Chair of the Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety Sub-Committee.

6.2 LTC also noted that a few members were of the opinion that meetings of the Sub-Committees depended very much on the dynamism of the Chair of each Sub-Committee, and not really on sponsorships.

6.3 LTC further noted that members recalled that the Chair of the Animal Production Sub-Committee was change in November 2010 as a result of the failure of the Sub-Committee to meet.

6.4 LTC urged SADC MS to sponsor the members of the Sub-Committee to attend the Sub-Committee's meetings as livestock production is important for the region.

6.5 LTC also urged SADC MS to nominate permanent members (and alternates) of the Sub-Committee.

6.6 LTC directed SADC Secretariat to liaise with Mr Lipita of Malawi as to whether or not he will be able to continue chairing the Sub-Committee.

6.7 LTC directed the Chair to hold electronic meetings when physical meetings cannot be held so that issues regarding animal production can be debated at meetings of the LTC

## **7.0 Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety Sub-Committee**

7.1 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was unable to meet due to financial constraint (sponsorship). However, following up on the decisions of the Sub-Committee which met in Lesotho from 05 to 07 of October 2010, one activity was carried out with the technical and financial assistance of the FAO.

7.2 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was assisted by FAO to commission a study on "To produce a report on differences of national legislative frameworks, organisational and institutional set up of meat inspection"

7.3 LTC noted that the report of the above study is now available and has been distributed to members of the Sub-Committee. The report will be

discussed at a meeting of the Sub-Committee scheduled from 08 to 10 November 2011.

7.4 LTC took note of the recommendations of the study which are yet to be discussed by the Sub-Committee and urged the latter to implement the other activities already recommended.

## **8.0 Outline of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region**

8.1 LTC noted that the Secretariat had developed the “Outlines of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region” which give an account of the constraints which are still impeding growth in the livestock sector. The document was approved by LTC at its meeting of May, 2011.

8.2 LTC also noted that during the May 2011 meeting, the groups on Animal Health and Animal Production came up with the following suggestions:

Animal Health:

- A comprehensive strategy should be designed for 10 years and implemented in the SADC region.
- Take into consideration the following components in developing the strategy: (1) Fisheries, (2) Animal Welfare, (3) Wildlife, (4) Veterinary Auxilliaries, (5) SPS/Food Safety and (5) capacity building.
- Prioritise animal diseases and look at possibilities to expand on the on-going activities of the SADC TADs project

Animal Production:

- Farm Animal Genetic Resources, including animal breeding and phases 1 and 2 of the SADC/UNDP/FAO FAnGR project
- Small ruminants and marketing
- Monogastrics, pigs and poultry
- Dairy development
- Rangeland management and feed resources development
- Cross cutting issues such as technology development and information dissemination, value addition, capacity building, gender and climate change and sustainability of the environment.

Both groups suggested consultants should be hired to develop detailed proposals in consultation with the Secretariat and the LTC.

8.3 LTC further noted that the Secretariat is working to develop the strategies which will be submitted to the LTC for its meeting of April, 2012.

8.4 LTC directed the Secretariat to finalise the proposals for the future programmes for livestock development by March 2012 with more focus on interventions which will enable the region to increase livestock production and productivity, and indicate sources of funding for the programmes.

## **9.0 Livestock Information and Management System (LIMS)**

9.1 LTC noted that the publication of the 2010 edition of the Animal Health Yearbook has again been delayed due to late submission of data from Member States. However, the Secretariat is taking appropriate measures to publish the 2010 edition within this quarter. In the meantime quarterly reports on animal health have been produced and mailed to Member States.

9.2 LTC also noted that the Secretariat has been working with the LIMS developers to address all the bugs in the system. Training for LIMS Focal Points and officers of Central Statistics Offices of Member States was organised from 17 to 21 October, 2011 to introduce the new version of LIMS and its compatibility with the Digital Pen Technology. The Secretariat is also considering the upgrading of LIMS to a new platform so that it can handle more data.

9.3 LTC further noted that Member States are still not providing data on animal production, livestock marketing and trade as well as the other modules of animal health. It is important to have all regional data on livestock in order to formulate policies and strategies in livestock development.

9.4 LTC urged all Member States to:

1.0 install and use the new version of LIMS (version 2.0.6) at both sub national and national levels.

2.0 Send, on time, all livestock data, including information on animal production, livestock marketing and trade to the Secretariat in the LIMS format as requested during the recent training.

3.0 revive LIMS national committees, and

4.0 directed the Secretariat to complete interoperability with the Digital Pen Technology and to look at options to use the system for further data analysis in animal health and production

## **10.0 The Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD Control**

10.1 LTC noted that during its May 2011 meeting, the Secretariat invited Member States to adopt the principles and applications of the PCP-FMD and informed that the SADC TADs project was following the same principles in its activities which are being implemented in the five participating Member States.

10.2 LTC also requested Member States to report on how far they have been able to progress with regard to the PCP and the control of FMD.

10.3 LTC urged Member States to follow the PCP pathway for control of FMD and to update OIE as per the provision in the newly introduced item in the FMD chapter of the Code Commission

10.4 LTC noted the availability of the purified vaccine in the region which can be used as a tool in the PCP.

10.5 LTC urged the BVI to kindly revisit the price of FMD vaccine (purified and conventional) in order for it to be affordable to Member States

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

11.1 LTC recalled that the Livestock Unit, with the collaboration of the SADC TADs project, had started working on the details of the proposed establishment of the SACCT and its financial sustainability. The Legal Unit of the Secretariat would also be consulted and a full report would be submitted to the FANR Directorate and shared with the LTC members before the LTC meeting of November, 2011.

11.2 LTC noted that the Livestock Unit and the SADC TADs project are still working on the financial sustainability of the SACCT and that it would need to consult the SADC Legal Unit before submitting the proposal to the FANR Directorate and the LTC members. The exercise is expected to be completed before April, 2012.

11.3 LTC directed the Livestock Unit of the Secretariat to work out the financial sustainability of the SACCT and to propose mechanisms for its establishment within the next six months.

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

12.1 LTC recalled that the SADC TADs project fielded a consultancy in February/March 2011 as decided by its meeting of April 2010, to determine the modalities of utilisation of the Emergency Fund. The report is yet to be endorsed by the Bank and the Secretariat, but Member States were to send their comments to the Secretariat by 15 June, 2011. LTC was informed that to-date only Namibia and Swaziland have submitted comments to the Secretariat.

12.2 LTC urged Member States to study the report and to submit comments to the Secretariat by 15th November, 2011 at latest, after which it will be understood that they agree with the recommendations in the report.

12.3 LTC directed the Livestock Unit to propose to the secretariat the modalities of operationalising the fund by March 2012.

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

13.1 LTC noted that AU-IBAR and the FANR Directorate of the SADC Secretariat held an IRCM planning meeting in Gaborone from 17 to 19 August, 2011 to review the recommendations contained in the SADC Report of the IRCM. An implementation plan formulation team, comprising of the FANR Directorate, the SADC TADs project and representatives of human health and wildlife, has been constituted to formulate the plan for submission to AU-IBAR and the SADC Secretariat.

13.2 LTC recalled that the IRCM will assist the region in 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.

13.3 LTC urged the Secretariat and AU-IBAR to finalise the formulation of the implementation plan of the IRCM in January 2012 so that activities can start soon after confirmation of availability of funds by AU-IBAR.

### **14.0 SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources (FAnGR)**

14.1 LTC noted that the Secretariat is still developing the second phase of the SADC FAnGR project. Consultations with the FAO Regional Office, Harare and FAO Headquarters are being done.

14.2 LTC further noted that the Secretariat, after completing the project, will circulate the draft to the National Coordinators for comments before submission to the LTC for approval, after which the Secretariat can seek funding from donors.

14.3 LTC directed the Secretariat to formulate by March 2012 a community based regional project proposal for the conservation, utilisation and management of FAnGR, including cryo-preservation.

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

15.1 LTC noted that the FANR Directorate continues to develop the Regional Agricultural Policy which is presently in its second phase. A draft RAP Policy Statement has been developed following the Policy Seminar which was held in May 2011. The draft statement is presently being discussed at the FANR Directorate before consultations with Member States.

15.2 LTC noted progress in the development of the RAP, and directed the Secretariat to ensure that issues related to livestock are adequately addressed.

15.3 LTC urged MS to provide comments on the synthesis report distributed during the LTC Meeting.

## **16.0 Regional and International Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products**

16.1 LTC recalled that at its meeting of May, 2011, it took note of the recommendations of the study on BSE which are as follows:

- Awarding greater weight to enforcement and auditing of feed bans and less to surveillance (together with up-dated guidelines for the former), and
- Introduction of more practical surveillance standards that are realistic for countries where extensive cattle production systems predominate.

The study also recommended that the Sub-Committee on Epidemiology and Informatics could develop proposals with regard to the second recommendation.

16.2 LTC noted that the Secretariat, through the OIE Delegate of South Africa, requested the 79<sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE to consider SADC Member States in the category of “Countries classified as having negligible risks of BSE” on account of the fact that the region has not had any case of BSE. The Delegate was informed that SADC countries could request for “Historical Freedom” from the disease. However, it seems that the Terrestrial Animal Health Code does not have provision for historical freedom in the BSE chapter.

16.3 LTC also noted that “A study to improve market access for competitive production of animal products derived from SADC countries” has been commissioned by the Secretariat to look at the possibilities of implementing the Commodity-Based Trade (CBT) concept for livestock products in the region. The Consultant presented the recommendations of the study during the course of the LTC meeting.

16.4 LTC further noted, through a presentation by the Meat Board of Namibia, as to how the CBT concept could benefit the livestock farmers of

the region through increased possibilities for regional and international trade in livestock products.

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

16.6 LTC directed the Secretariat to promote CBT and to support the implementation of pilot projects in selected MS as an advocacy of the CBT concept.

16.7 LTC directed the Secretariat to circulate the guidelines on CBT implementation as discussed during the meeting

## 17.0 Priorities for Livestock Research in the Region

17.1 LTC noted that there is very little research and uptake of technology in livestock issues, especially regarding animal production, in the region and recommends 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

17.2 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. 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

17.3 LTC directed the Secretariat to participate and propose research topics in livestock, in consultation with Member States, for implementation by CCARDESA.

## **18.0 Exit Strategy for the SADC TADs Project**

18.1 LTC recalled that during its meeting of May, 2011, it was informed that the SADC TADs project underwent a mid-term review by the African Development Bank in October, 2010. As the project is scheduled to close in December, 2012 the Bank had recommended the development of an exit strategy for the project by the Secretariat. A draft strategy has now been developed and was presented to the Regional Project Steering Committee meeting which was held in Maputo from 21 to 23 September, 2011. The five participating Member States (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) have been requested to send their comments to the Regional Office by the end of October, 2011 on the draft.

18.2 LTC noted that most of the activities of the project form part of the regular programmes of the Veterinary Departments of the Member States.

18.3 LTC noted that the Secretariat, through the SADC TADs project, has developed a strategy for the eradication of Pestes des Petits Ruminants (PPR) during the next 10 years.

18.4 LTC directed the Secretariat to circulate the draft strategy to the members of the LTC and urged all Member States to provide comments by end December 2011, after which the draft will be finalised for implementation

## **19.0 System Information for Laboratory**

19.1 LTC noted that during the joint meeting of the EIS and Vet Lab Sub-Committees held in Johannesburg in July 2011, the delegate from Namibia informed that the Central Veterinary Laboratory of Namibia has been using the System Information for Laboratory (SILAB) developed by the Institute Zooprofietico Sperimentale di Teranno (IZS) Italy, and that the benefits of the system can be demonstrated to the members of the LTC during the November meeting.

19.2 LTC also noted the advantages of the SILAB system as presented by the delegate attending the meeting, and was also informed that Botswana has requested the IZS to install the system at the Botswana Central Veterinary Laboratory. Botswana reported that the SILAB system seems to be giving satisfactory results in terms of assisting to follow up all the activities of the laboratory.

19.3 LTC further noted that LIMS were to develop a module for veterinary laboratories, but due to time constraint this could not materialise during the lifetime of the PRINT project. LTC members enquired whether SILAB could be interoperable with LIMS.

19.4 LTC again noted that the interoperability with LIMS can be developed and that Zambia and Zimbabwe are also interested to try the SILAB system. Namibia was ready to show to the other Member States the practicality of the system and invited those interested to visit Namibia to see the system in operation.

19.5 LTC urged Member States to have bilateral collaboration with Namibia and IZS (Italy) in order to understand better the advantages which SILAB can offer to facilitate information sharing among veterinary laboratories in the region.

## **19.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting has been fixed for April, 2012. The dates will be announced in due time.