

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Asmara (Eritrea) 26 February – 1 March 2007

Recommendation No. 1: Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa

Recommendation No. 2: Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

Animal diseases continue to be a serious impediment to social and economic progress in most countries in Africa and the situation is likely to worsen if timely appropriate steps are not taken,

There is a need for the establishment of an early detection and rapid response system that is capable of detecting disease outbreaks and containing them before they spread,

An effective epidemio-surveillance system provides information for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating animal health intervention programmes.

Implementation of epidemio-surveillance systems face many constraints and impediments in Africa,

The Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and Pan African Programme for Control of Epizootics (PACE), contributed significantly in laying foundations for effective epidemio-surveillance systems in a number of African countries which benefited largely from the two projects,

The OIE Fourth Strategic Plan (2006 – 2010) emphasises the importance of capacity building including an effective epidemio-surveillance system as an essential tool in disease control,

The data and evidence collected and analysed to draw any conclusions should be reliable enough for the results to be acceptable to both the managers of Monitoring and Surveillance System (MOSS) and the assessors,

Partnership between the public and private sector in permanent relation with Veterinary Statutory Bodies in conducting epidemio-surveillance is more than ever important because of the recent changes in the administrative structure in many developing countries,

The financial and logistical support provided by the regional (e.g AU-IBAR), international organisations (e.g FAO) and donors to African countries for strengthening the networks of their epidemiosurveillance system, upgrading their Veterinary Services and research institutes and improving their capacities is recognised and highly appreciated,

The risk of lack of coordination and harmonisation efforts among Member Countries in animal health with the phasing out of PACE (for Western, Central and Eastern Africa), partly due to inadequate communication from Member Countries,

The lack of coordination in some countries among all stakeholders including the public health services, information and communication sectors, private sector (*including industry*) and livestock owners,

Livestock owners are generally the first sentinels to detect animal diseases and that para-professionals represent key relay agents,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE continue to collaborate with other international and regional organisations to assist African countries in improving capacity building through training.
2. OIE request its Collaborating Centres in Epidemiology to provide training and other forms of technical assistance to Member Countries of the region;
3. Veterinary Services of Member Countries supported by the OIE Regional Commission, appeal to their governments to consider the necessity of supporting epidemiosurveillance system as a essential tool in disease control also capable of demonstrating significant returns on investment. Governments should consider the necessity of ensuring sustainable material and financial resources and of providing appropriate number of skilled personnel for this purpose.
4. Veterinary Services of Member Countries including Veterinary Statutory Bodies improve partnership with livestock owners and other stakeholders to conduct proper epidemiosurveillance. Special attention should be given to training notably to livestock owners in participatory epidemiology, to professionals or para-professionals and to private veterinarians who control their activities. Stakeholders dealing with wildlife should also be involved.
5. Veterinary Services of Member Countries develop ways and means and utilise the available technical knowledge to ensure compliance of epidemiosurveillance systems with OIE international guidelines and recommendations.
6. Compliance of Veterinary services with OIE standards on quality and evaluation using the PVS tool be regarded as an essential objective for efficient epidemio-surveillance systems.
7. Member Countries should focus on increasing regular coordination and harmonisation efforts among themselves (border harmonisation meetings at bilateral and regional level, development of internet connection) and should provide timely feed back on information requested by OIE. The Sub-Regional or regional solidarity among neighbouring countries could provide a solution to the temporary lack of expertise or material in some individual countries that decide to implement a national surveillance programme. The support of the FAO to Regional and Sub-regional networks will be useful in this context.
8. The Veterinary Services to undertake continuous coordination among all stakeholders including the human health services, information and communication services, wildlife services, the private sector and livestock owners.

9. Epidemiosurveillance networks and official diagnostic laboratories be strongly linked and supported by effective quality systems.
10. Regional organisations and donors take into account the necessity of extending epidemiosurveillance networks to the whole African continent while continuing to allocate the necessary resources for their development and sustainability.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of
veterinary medicinal products in Africa**

CONSIDERING

That the uncontrolled movement of veterinary medicinal products poses a major threat to animal and public health, and the environment,

That there is a proliferation of poor quality or counterfeit veterinary medicinal products in the African region,

The major economical implications linked to the quality and safety of veterinary medicinal products for the development of livestock production in Africa,

The importance of regional cooperation in the registration and quality control and usage of veterinary medicinal products, particularly in view of the limited capacities of certain individual countries,

The commitment of the Regional Economic Communities (REC), engaged in processes of economic integration and of pooling of resources,

The existence of international standards regulating the quality assurance, registration and usage of veterinary medicinal products,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION

1. Continue to upgrade their veterinary pharmaceutical legislation (with particular reference to registration and quality control), by drawing up specific texts on veterinary medicinal products and by encompassing it within a regional perspective.
2. Promote networking among laboratories and authorities responsible for the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products within a regional context.
3. Develop institutional, administrative and financial mechanisms for increasing the effectiveness of the process of quality control starting from good manufacturing practices to the sale and usage of those products under the supervision of the authority responsible for veterinary medicinal products.
4. Involve users including breeder associations and veterinarians as well as supplier laboratories recognised by regional bodies in the effort to help regulate the market for veterinary medicinal products.

B. THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

1. Embark on reforms with a view to regionally harmonise regulations on veterinary medicinal products in their respective area and enhance their cooperation in that field.
2. Request the OIE to organise with the support of AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and the regional economic communities concerned, a regional conference on veterinary medicinal products in Africa and their impact on animal and public health, and the environment.

C. THE OIE, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Support the REC in conducting feasibility studies in order to achieve a regional harmonisation of legislation in their respective areas.
2. Help the REC to initiate technical audits of laboratories responsible for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, in order to network the laboratories.
3. Increase the effectiveness of regional veterinary pharmaceutical regulations by providing technical and administrative support to the region and by encouraging the development of human resources
4. Develop guidelines and tools to enable OIE Member Countries to more successfully organise, manage and implement mechanisms for registration and quality assurance, and to effectively enforce their regulations.
5. Help the countries to reinforce their inspection service and quality control mechanism and to develop strategies to combat counterfeiting of veterinary medicinal products.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007)