



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

**Gaborone, Botswana**

**28 – 30 April, 2009**

### **1. SADC Livestock Technical Committee (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 at meetings
- 1.3. Noting also that the SADC Secretariat took a decision that all technical meetings should be held in Gaborone, Botswana
- 1.4. Noting that the LTC meetings are meant to share experiences, promote the livestock sector in Member States
- 1.5. Noting also that the Livestock Unit (LU) arranges meetings with the consultation of the host country and hence the host country has the opportunity to showcase its efforts in livestock development

#### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) **The LU should co-ordinate dates of all meetings including meetings for projects and sub-committees for the rest of 2009 and communicate that to all MS by end of June 2009**
- b) **All SADC LTC meetings including Sub-committee meetings should be publicised in the SADC LIMS website**
- c) **Member States should confirm, in advance, attendance and apologies to the LU**
- d) **MS should ensure that their nominees attend meetings and should sponsor them for attendance. In addition all Members States are to ensure that Officers 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 LU 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 records of decisions/resolutions of the LTC.**
- f) **The LU should establish reasons for non-attendance from Member States who are not in a position to attend meetings.**

- g) The LU should inform the SADC Secretariat the concerns raised by Member States on holding meetings in Gaborone. The members of the LTC recommend that LTC meetings should rotate amongst Member States.**
- h) Draft minutes should be made available to each Member State within one (1) week of the meeting (including to those not represented)**
- i) Final minutes should be made available to Member States within one(1) month of the meeting**
- j) Final minutes to be published on the SADC LIMS portal (website) with a restricted access by Member States and the 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 Member States at least one(1) month in advance**
- l) The LU 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-Committee Chairpersons (& vice) are to ensure that all Member States are invited to ALL their sub-committee meetings (through the proper official channels) and dates of their meetings are submitted to the LU by end of May 2009.**

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

- 2.1 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
- 2.2 Considering that there are a number of international collaborating partners supporting different AI projects in the region
- 2.3 Considering the importance of surveillance for early detection of AI
- 2.4 Considering that the SPINAP project is more of a strategy formulation and capacity building project
- 2.5 Noting that regional activities are co-ordinated by the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) through the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC), and funded by various donor organisations
- 2.6 Noting that the JTC could not meet after July, 2008 due to lack of sponsorship

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) Member States should harmonize and streamline these activities to avoid duplication and should encourage synergy to produce desired outputs**
- b) Member states should remain vigilant and activate all structures and propose activities in their respective Avian Influenza national emergency preparedness plan**
- c) Member states were urged to use the available resources to strengthen surveillance of poultry diseases using novel approaches e.g. combining surveillance with Newcastle Disease vaccinations**
- d) 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**
- e) The LU and the RAHC work together to source funding to finance a meeting of the JTC**

### **3. Resolution on Animal Production Veldt and Marketing (APVM) Sub-Committee**

3.1 Noting that the APVM Sub-Committee had challenges in holding its annual meetings due to sponsorship and coordination with of Member States, and that the Sub-Committee was unable to hold a meeting before the LTC meeting

3.2 Noting the revised Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee to be as follows:

- To promote collaboration and **interaction of all stakeholders** among Member States and between the public and private sectors in matters related to livestock production
- To advise on development of national and **regional preparedness and response plans** on issues such as climatic change, market disruptions and other **vulnerability assessments**
- To advise on establishment of **effective commodity based committees / forum** at national and regional levels, to encourage active participation in the **international initiatives**
- To adopt and implement the **SADC Livestock Information Management Systems (LIMS)** and particularly the component on APVM
- To **advise the LTC** of SADC on risk assessments, and on livestock and livestock products produced and traded or to be traded in the SADC region

The LTC resolved that:

- a) The Sub-Committee should be renamed as the Sub-Committee on “Animal Production, Veldt, Marketing and Genetic Resources (APVM&GR)**
- b) That there should be representation and commitment by Member States to attend meetings**
- c) That Zambia should chair the Sub-Committee until confirmation by Member States**
- d) That the Sub-Committee should coordinate development of bankable projects under the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources**
- e) That the Sub-Committee should meet before the end of July 2009 and Member States should meet the costs. The meeting should include cooperating partners**
- f) Member States should submit their comments to the current Chairperson on the revised ToR of the Sub-Committee by end of May 2009**
- g) That the Sub-Committee should coordinate feeding of data on animal production, livestock marketing and trade to LIMS to enable the production of the SADC Animal Production Yearbook, in collaboration with PRINT, by the end of 2009**
- h) Livestock research should form part of the agenda of the Sub-Committee**

### **4. Resolution on SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources**

4.1 Noting that the SADC project on farm animal genetic resources (FAnGR) may not have been closed by the FAO because of the non-submission of the Final Technical Report

4.2 Noting also that there could be a possibility for Nordic countries to fund a project on animal genetic resources in the region

The LTC resolved that:

- a) The LU should assist in compiling the Technical Terminal Report with the collaboration of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) of the Republic of South Africa by the end of September, 2009**

- b) The LU will work together with the DoA to recover all project data and to look into the possibility of linking that to LIMS by the end of August, 2009**
- c) The LU to source funds to convene a meeting of the National Coordinators to discuss on the way forward**
- d) The members of the LTC should give their comments to the LU about the concept note by 15 May, 2009**
- e) A tripartite meeting of SADC/FANR, FAO and UNDP be convened to finalise outstanding matters and to chart the way forward before the end of June, 2009.**

## **5. Resolution on Trans-frontier Conservation Areas**

- 5.1 Considering that the establishment of at least 13 TFCAs in the region is a reality, and that some of these TFCAs will contain large numbers of both domestic and wild animals and this presents a major interface between these two groups of animals,
- 5.2 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
- 5.3 Noting that there is therefore a conflict between the conservationists and animals disease authorities in the management of animal diseases
- 5.4 Noting that the FANR had organised a workshop on this issue in Kasane, Botswana from 11 to 14 November, 2008
- 5.5 Noting the presentation of the SADC FMD project on the conclusions of the Kasane workshop

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) The conclusions of the workshop be endorsed.**
- b) The commodity based trade (CBT) provides potential for reconciling the conflict between TFCA development & commercialization of livestock production**
- c) That attempts to persuade the OIE to enable 'de-linking' the status of wildlife populations with respect to SAT-serotype FMD from those of domestic livestock should be initiated**

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

- 6.1 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 76<sup>th</sup> General session in May 2008
- 6.2 Considering that the provision in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) provides sufficient latitude for the exports of beef
- 6.3 Noting that some trading partners have a tendency of adopting additional standards which the LTC considers inappropriate

### **The LTC resolved that:**

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

## **7. Resolution on Foot and Mouth Disease situation in the SADC Region**

- 7.1 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,
- 7.2 Considering the epidemiology of FMD in the Region is virologically and epidemiologically complex particularly because of the involvement of wildlife,
- 7.3 Present International standards (OIE TAHC chapter on FMD) are a limitation to trade of products derived from livestock and wildlife in the region,
- 7.4 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)
- 7.5 Noting that a proposal was made to the Regional Commission for Africa at its meeting in N'Djamena, Chad in February, 2009 containing detailed proposals on how the dissociation of livestock and wildlife disease status could be introduced into the FMD chapter of the TAHC as drafted by the SADC FMD project

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) The Africa Commission of the OIE be approached with a view to formulating an Africa position and this should be presented to the OIE**
- b) 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,**
- c) It has endorsed the proposals submitted by the Chair of the LTC to the Regional Commission for Africa for consideration by the latter. The LTC was informed that the proposals will be submitted to the OIE Scientific Commission for consideration.**

## **8. Resolutions and Recommendations on LIMS**

- 8.1 Noting that the need for a reliable livestock information management (LIMS) 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
- 8.2 Recognising that LIMS has been developed to allow the management of all aspects of livestock information,
- 8.3 Noting that training on LIMS has already started in most Member States and that the Republic of South Africa has been approached for training in 2009
- 8.4 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 Member States to take full responsibility, ownership and to ensure sustainability of the project,

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) Under present SADC procedure for the recruitment of staff, it will not be possible to second PRINT technical staff to the Livestock Unit of the FANR Directorate, as informed by the Senior Programme Manager (Livestock)**
- b) The relevant departments in South Africa should undergo LIMS training, and that dates already proposed by PRINT should be confirmed**
- c) Member States should ensure that livestock data collection and entry into LIMS modules at national level will start by end of January 2009**

## **9. Resolutions on the Regional Agricultural Policy Framework (RAPF)**

- 9.1 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”
- 9.2 Noting the SADC Council of Ministers’ meeting of November, 2007 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
- 9.3 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
- 9.4 Noting that the SADC PRINT project organised a workshop in Gaborone, Botswana in November 2008, with the participation of Sub-Committees to ensure contribution to the livestock component of the RAPF
- 9.5 Following the presentation on the development of the RAPF

### **The LTC resolved that:**

**Member states should monitor progress on consultations of the livestock component of the Regional Agriculture Policy Framework**

## **10. Resolutions on Trans- boundary animal diseases (TAD's)**

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

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) **Member States 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 address this threat as a matter of urgency.**
- b) **The Senior Programme Manager, Livestock should follow up with these Member States to determine challenges facing them and ensure that they are assisted in overcoming challenges**
- c) **A specialized regional body, such as the Southern African Commission for the control of TAD's (SACCT), to drive the agenda of formulating progressive and sustainable regional TADS control strategies, be set up.**
- d) **MS should make more effort to allocate resources (human and financial) to enable early detection, control and reporting to national and regional databases such as the LIMS and use the tools and expertise made available by SADC TADS Project and RAHC.**

## **11. Resolution on the Food Safety- Capacity Building and Residue Control project (FSCBRC)**

- 11.1 Noting that there are synergies between the mandates of the Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety (VPH&FS) Sub-Committee of the LTC and the FSCBRC project with regard to processed products of animal origin
- 11.2 Noting the importance of livestock and the commitment of SADC to promote intra-regional trade which relies increasingly on compliance with food safety standards in the context of sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) annex to the SADC Trade Protocol

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) The FSCBRC project should deal with issues raised by the VPH&FS Sub-Committee and which involve food safety of products of animal origin, through the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) and the Regional SADC SPS Committee**
- b) The FSCBRC project will make available to the LTC and the Regional SADC SPS Committee the findings of the national SPS workshop, including gap analysis and reports of other activities**
- c) At the SADC level there should be the Regional SPS Committee and Sub-Committees dealing Plant Protection, Animal Health and Food Safety**
- d) There is equitable representation of veterinary aspects of food safety in the Regional SPS Committee**
- e) Member States should establish their NCCs and change accordingly their SPS Control Structure in order to guarantee the sustainability of the system once the FSCBRC project is phased out. Member States are also urged to include all stakeholders along the food chain in the NCCs and to define a legal framework for their inclusion**

## **12. Resolution on the Sub-Committee on Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety**

- 12.1 Noting that the Sub-Committee did not meet before the LTC
- 12.2 Noting the rising incidence of dog rabies in the region and the high risk it poses to the human population, particularly children
- 12.3 Noting the broad mandate of the VPH&FS Sub-Committee which encompasses zoonoses, food-borne illness and other hazards linked to the consumption of foods of animal origin
- 12.4 Noting the importance of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) in food controls by the food industry

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) The VPH&FS Sub-Committee should, in collaboration with the other Sub-Committees of the LTC and other key stakeholders, develop clear strategies for the prevention and control of rabies**

- b) The VPH&FS Sub-Committee and the NCCs should deal with the analysis of the One World-One Health framework and advise the LTC on the relevant application of the concept to animal health and food safety**
- c) The Sub-Committee should collect data on all diseases of public health importance and prioritise the list with suggested solutions for submission to the LTC**
- d) The Sub-Committee, together with the APVM Sub-Committee should ensure that the food safety issues are adequately covered in the “farm to fork” concept of food safety**
- e) The food industry should be encouraged to adopt HACCP systems in the food safety procedures**

### **13. Resolution on the Sub-Committee on Epidemiology and Informatics**

- 13.1 Noting that the development of LIMS is meeting the requirements of the LTC for a reliable livestock information system, and desirous of the need to streamline the reporting obligations of Member States to international organisations**
- 13.2 Noting the difficulties of Member States to fulfil the stringent requirements of the OIE regarding BSE, and the need for a regional study on new developments and alternative approaches**

#### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) OIE be approached to make available the structure of the off-line module of WAHIS to allow the direct transfer of data from LIMS to WAHIS**
- b) Member States should adopt LIMS and report using a gated approach initially on LIMS modules for which data is available by completing and sending the Exel template prepared for this purpose and gradually increasing the number of modules and shifting to sending files generated from the national LIMS database**
- c) The TADs project takes over the management of LIMS as a bridging measure before the establishment of the information management unit in FANR**
- d) The Sub-Committee takes the lead in drafting the terms of reference for a BSE regional study to explore alternative methods of assessing the region’s BSE status and recommend approaches for pursuing the OIE guidelines to obtain certification for minimum risk of BSE**
- e) The FSCBRC project considers allocating funds for consultant/s to undertake the BSE study**



## **14 Resolution on Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)**

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

### **LTC resolved that:**

- a) 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**
- b) Member States should understand that PATTEC's role is to coordinate the control and not to assist with funds. Each Member State is expected to source its own funding**

## **15 Resolution of the Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-committee**

- 15.1 Noting the need to improve communication and visibility of the Sub-Committee
- 15.2 Noting that SADC veterinary laboratories are lagging behind in the implementation of the quality control system
- 15.3 Noting that more than 50% of the budgets of most SPINAP national projects is for diagnostics capacity building
- 15.4 Noting that there is a gradual decrease of sample submissions to SADC Veterinary laboratories
- 15.5 Taking cognisance of the report of the expert consultancy on the selection of a second service laboratory for AI in the region

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) The activities of the Sub-Committee and more information on the diagnostic outputs of each laboratory should be added to the Sub-Committee website, LABNET**
- b) The rabies diagnostic requirements are captured in the rabies proposal (IZS&FAO) and that the mandate of the Sub-Committee Working Group on AI is broadened to include harmonisation of Standard Operating Procedures for rabies. All Heads of laboratories should forward their inputs regarding the proposal**
- c) All Heads of SADC Veterinary laboratories should include issues of biosafety and biosecurity in their reports to the Sub-Committee meetings**
- d) The selection of the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory as the second regional service laboratory for AI and possibly other TADs is endorsed for submission to the forthcoming meeting of Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security to be held in South Africa on 21 May, 2009. Ministers will be invited to consider and approve the selection**

## **16 Resolutions on the SADC FMD Project**

- 16.1 Noting that the SADC FMD project has been instrumental in raising concern on the apparent failure of the FMD vaccine
- 16.2 Noting that the project has assisted in seeking compatibility between TFCAs and animal disease control in the TFCAs by proposing the concept of Commodity based trade
- 16.3 Noting that the project has trained veterinary personnel of Member States in the control and management of FMD, especially regarding serological monitoring for FMD vaccine
- 16.4 Noting that the project has produced papers to assist SADC to take issues related to beef export from the region to the OIE Scientific Commission through the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
- 16.5 Noting that the European Commission has decided to close the project before its implementation period of 4 years

### **The LTC resolved that:**

- a) **The SADC FMD project has achieved significant progress in addressing issues of FMD control in the region**
- b) **It is unfortunate that the European Commission has decided to close the project prematurely based on the report of the Mid Term Report which was not accepted by the SADC Secretariat**
- c) **A letter signed by the Chair of the LTC, be sent to the Executive Secretary expressing the disappointment of the members of the LTC on this premature closure**
- d) **The project ensures that the activities programmed up to the end of November, 2009 be implemented**
- e) **The European Commission favourably considers a follow up proposal to assist the region in increasing its capacity to develop market access for inter, intra regional and international trade for livestock products**

## **17. Resolutions on the SADC Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) Project**

- 17.1 Noting that the project is designed to contribute to improved food security and promotion of wealth creation, and enhanced rural livelihoods by progressively controlling TADs of regional strategic importance (FMD and CBPP).
- 17.2 Noting that the project will also enhance the regional capacity for preparedness against the spread of TADs
- 17.3 Noting that the project will enhance livestock as a tradable and consumable commodity through assured animal health, more specifically, through improved capacity for detection, identification, monitoring and surveillance of TADs in the region.
- 17.4 Noting that the project will develop, along with the consultation of other projects and cooperating partners, a long term strategy for the control of TADs

**The LTC Resolved that:**

- a) There is satisfactory progress in the implementation of the project**
- b) The project should also deal with emerging TADs**
- c) The terms of reference of the proposed Southern African Commission for the Control of TADs (SACCT) as proposed by the project should be commented upon by the members of the LTC**
- d) There should be close collaboration between the project and the Sub-Committees of the LTC in implementing the different components of the project**

#### **18 Resolutions on the OIE PVS Tool**

- 18.1 Noting that the OIE PVS Tool allows for both internal and external evaluation of Veterinary Services
- 18.2 Noting that the PVS instrument is more than a diagnostic tool as it promotes a process continuous awareness and improvements
- 18.3 Noting that the PVS-based Gap Analysis is regarded as the treatment phase and for which an instrument has been developed

**The LTC has resolved that:**

- a) The OIE PVS Tools be distributed by the OIE Delegates of SADC Member States as widely as possible to managers of the various sections of their Veterinary Services**
- b) Angola and Botswana should speed up their in-country consultations and request for the PVS assessments**
- c) The SADC Member States in which PVS evaluations have been conducted, to officially request OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions**