Stakeholder Workshop to consolidate the development of a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa (SF-PROCNADA)

Dakar, Senegal, 18-20 December 2013

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

A stakeholder consultation workshop to consolidate the development of a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa (SF-PROCNADA) was held at the hotel Ngor Diarama in Dakar, Senegal, from 18th to 20th December 2013. Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Diop, Executive Assistant to the Minister of Ministry of Livestock, Senegal, officially opened the workshop in the presence of Dr. Baba Soumare, Chief Animal Health Officer, AU-IBAR; Prof. Cheikh Ly, Regional Animal Production and Health Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa and Dr. Yacouba Samaké, Regional representative of OIE for Africa.

The meeting was attended by 26 participants from Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea/Conakry, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Chad, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Technical experts from AU-IBAR, FAO, IGAD, USDA-APHIS, CIRAD and EISMV also participated in the meeting.

The following were the objectives of the meeting:

- Review the criteria developed for the identification and selection of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa;
- Review and consolidate the key elements and components identified for the formulation of strategic framework for the progressive control of selected diseases.

After fruitful discussions conducted in a friendly atmosphere, the participants agreed on the following:

I. Review of the criteria for identification and selection of neglected animal diseases (NADs) in Africa

During this session, AU-IBAR introduced participants to the classification tool of animal diseases previously developed at a retreat that allowed initial formulation of the African strategy for the progressive control of neglected held from December 2nd to 6th, 2013 in
Naivasha, Kenya, whose main participants were animal health experts from AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and FAO-ECTAD for East Africa.

The presentation focused on the methodology used for the selection criteria for the classification of animal diseases for a better understanding and a greater contribution of the participants. The definition of neglected animal diseases was proposed, taking into account the African context and realities leading to the selection of 11 criteria.

Under the proposed definition for neglected diseases, participants found it necessary to adopt a more practical approach emphasizing diseases of significant socio-economic and public health impact on the various key players in the livestock sector but not receiving adequate allocation of resources for their control.

Thereafter, group work and plenary discussions allowed participants to revise and improve the content of the proposed tool. Given the importance of this topic, participants suggested continuing the process of reflection and improvement of the classification tool, taking into account other initiatives, tools, existing classifications and the African context.

For the selection of neglected animal diseases, it was agreed that the lists of diseases developed during group work be consolidated by AU-IBAR and circulated to the participants.

2. Review of the key elements and components identified for the formulation of the strategic framework for the progressive control of selected neglected animal diseases

The presentation of the proposal after the results of the workshop in Naivasha Kenya strategic framework (2nd to 6th December 2013), whose main objective was to establish a sustainable system of control for neglected diseases for the benefit of farmers and national economies, has highlighted the need for a framework of practical interventions to achieve sustainable control of neglected diseases.

Group work and discussions that followed allowed participants to harmonize their views on the content of the various components of the strategic framework. Proposed additional activities have enriched the initially proposed document.
Recommendations

Based on the outputs of three-day workshop, the following recommendations were made.

Considering:

1) the impact of neglected animal diseases (NADs) on food and nutrition security as well as on the livelihoods of farmers and other stakeholders in livestock sector;
2) the cross-border nature of NADs and the difficulties in controlling the movements of livestock;
3) the lack of clear epidemiological data on most NADs in Africa;
4) the need for improvement of livestock policy and animal health strategies and plans for domestic investment;
5) the strategic role of Regional Economic Communities and international agencies in harmonizing strategies, networking and resource mobilization;
6) the essential role of farmers and other stakeholders in the livestock sector in the planning and implementation of animal health policies;
7) the zoonotic aspect of NADs.

In order to strengthen the development of a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa, participants at the consultation workshop of stakeholders and partners recommended that:

AU-IBAR:

- Takes into account the control of NADs in the development of the current strategic plan;
- Supports Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Member States to conduct socio-economic and epidemiologic studies on NADs;
- Establishes an African initiative in the fight against the NADs in partnership with OIE and FAO in the framework of existing platforms (GF-TADs, RAHCs, IRCM);
- Seeks financial and technical support from Partners (FAO, OIE ...) to improve the assessment of losses associated NADS in monetary terms as a tool for influencing livestock policy and decision-making;
- Assists RECs to organize similar consultations to identify and select NADs for action at regional level.
Regional Economic Communities:

- Coordinate and harmonize national strategies for the control of NADs within strategic framework developed by AU-IBAR;
- Mobilize resources to support the Member States;
- Organize regional consultations with MS to discuss and identify the NADs.

Technical and Financial Partners:

- Provide support and collaborate with established institutions in the control of NADs in the spirit of the One health approach, principle of subsidiarity and comparative advantage;
- Support MS in the preparation of national communications policy and advocacy for the mobilization of resources for the control of NADs;
- Support initiatives to improve knowledge and management of NADs.

Member States:

- Develop clear frameworks for prioritization and investment in the control of NADs;
- Provide or allocate a substantial budget line that takes into account the status, studies on diseases and their impacts, communication and surveillance of NADs;
- Mobilize multi-sectoral stakeholder input and support for the control of neglected animal diseases as advocated by the one health approach.

3. Acknowledgments

Participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Senegal for the hospitality accorded to them.

They also expressed gratitude to AU-IBAR for organizing the workshop targeting a truly neglected important issue. They thanked technical partners from CIRAD, EISMV, FAO, IGAD, OIE and USDA-APHIS who contributed to the success of the event.

Dakar, 20th December, 2013
The participants

Group photo of participants