



AFRICAN UNION

**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

STANDARD METHODS AND PROCEDURES IN ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECT (SMP-AH)

***Workshop for Epidemio-surveillance and Laboratory
Experts***

*Kampala, Uganda
22nd - 25th October 2012*

Final Communiqué



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Introduction

The workshop for the epidemio-surveillance and Laboratory experts was held in Kampala, Uganda from 22nd - 25th, October 2012. The workshop was opened by the Ugandan Minister of State for Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon Bright Rwamirama.

The overall objective of the workshop was to consult the Heads of epidemiology and laboratories in the SMP-AH project area, on harmonisation of disease surveillance, control and laboratory testing procedures.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. To discuss harmonisation of trade-related TADs surveillance, epidemiology, and control in the project area;
2. To discuss harmonisation of laboratory testing procedures for the prioritised trade-related TADs;
3. To discuss strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and needs in disease surveillance, control and laboratory systems;
4. To strengthen regional surveillance, epidemiology and laboratory networks and;
5. To launch the Technical Working Group (TWG) to design SMP protocols for priority trade-related TADs.

The Plenary and group discussions covered the following issues:

- Surveillance and control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
- Preparedness for Rift Valley Fever (RVF)
- Status, needs and gaps for surveillance, epidemiology, disease control and laboratory systems
- Tools for regional collaboration, coordination and harmonisation of TADs surveillance and control. In particular participants discussed the following:
 - » SMP-AH Concept;
 - » Specifics on SMP-AH programme components
 - » The role of Regional Networks in the management of TADs and zoonoses
- Road map for the Technical working group
- SMP-AH Performance Measurement Plan

Considering:

- That TADs impact on livelihoods, food security and access to regional and international markets;
- That TADs are a shared concern for region;
- That Safe, stabilized trade leads to safe, stabilized livelihoods along the value chain;
- The need for coordinated and harmonised control of trade-related TADs;
- That the SMP-AH approach:
 - » Facilitates regionally coordinated disease epidemio-surveillance and control programs;
 - » Facilitates the ability to do surveillance and epidemio-surveillance that clearly determines outbreak areas;
 - » Clarifies laboratory procedures and testing of livestock trade sensitive diseases, to ensure OIE compliance for Health Certification and;
 - » Facilitates animal health information sharing among countries and trading partners by timely and consistent disease reporting for transparency and compliance with international animal health standards;
- That regional networks play a key role in prevention and control of TADs;
- That there is need for assessment of status, gaps and needs for, disease surveillance, control and laboratory testing procedures for 9 trade-sensitive diseases in order to inform investments to fill up the gaps in line with SMP-AH approach and;
- That AU-IBAR has developed the Animal Resource Information System (ARIS-2) that can be utilized by participating countries of SMP-AH project to manage information on disease surveillance and control at

both national and regional level.

We the participants of the meeting:

1. Recommend that the gaps and needs for diseases surveillance, control and laboratory systems as identified in the meeting form the basis for the SMP-AH capacity development;
2. Agree on the need to harmonise epidemio-surveillance, laboratory procedures and disease control and;
3. Recognise that the SMP-AH approach supports harmonisation of epidemio-surveillance, laboratory procedures and disease control.
4. Recommend the formation of a SMP-AH Technical working Group to develop the epidemio-surveillance, laboratory procedures and disease control components for each of the 9 diseases using the format adopted in the meeting. The following road map and working modalities are suggested:-
 - AU-IBAR and CVOs of participating countries to Identify members of the TWG;
 - Regional and international organizations (OIE, FAO, ILRI, AU-PANVAC, IGAD, AU-IBAR) should support in the development of the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMPs) for the 9 diseases;
 - The first meeting to initiate work on individual SMPs to be held in January 2013;
 - It is suggested that the TWG should develop SMPs using the syndromic approach, and the Somatitis-enteritis syndrome, in particular FMD and PPR, should be given priority. The draft SMP should be submitted to CVOs for validation and adoption once the TWG has completed.
5. Recommends that a workshop on Livestock Identification and Traceability (LIT) should be convened, to clearly identify the objectives and the appropriate methods/systems to support the implementation of the SMP-AH.

VOTE OF THANKS

- The participants of the SMP-AH meeting thank the Ugandan Government for hosting and facilitating the workshop;
- They also thank AU-IBAR and IGAD for organizing the workshop and;
- The participants also convey a gratitude to USAID for the financial and technical support.

Kampala, 25th October 2012

The participants