



Press Release

AU-IBAR heightens '*Leadership and Functional Competencies for Quality Veterinary Services*' for Chief Veterinary Officers

Dakar, Senegal November 11th, 2019

AU-IBAR is supporting an initiative on re-profiling of the veterinary profession, designing and rolling out of a Day 100 competencies curriculum for newly appointed Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) to serve their role in implementing their strategic, administrative and technical solutions to animal production/ health problems and to address the attendant challenges of the role. A workshop seeking to address the challenge facing animal health system and services in the majority of African countries and providing a possible direction that the veterinary profession might take to meet the challenge associated to a functional veterinary profession is being held in Dakar, Senegal from 11-15 November, 2019.

The workshop on the review and validation for re-profiling of veterinary profession is being held under the theme: '*Leadership and Functional Competencies for Quality Veterinary Services*'. The workshop falls under the Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa (Live2Africa), a European Union funded programme with the overall mandate to strengthen systemic capacity of continental, regional and national animal sector stakeholders.

According to the findings of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) evaluations studies, Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) and GAP analysis carried out in the recent years, the performance of the veterinary sector in sub-Saharan Africa over the past years has faced the major burden of responsibility in seeking and applying technical solutions within the domain of institutional, financial, infrastructural and human resource environments.

The necessity of veterinary professionals to influence change in the policy environments they work in calls for veterinary services to set high visions, consonant with the great unexploited potential of the livestock sector and the manpower resources of Africa. These skills are particularly critical for new incoming Chief Veterinary Officers.

It is salutary to note that senior members of the profession are saying that veterinary science, particularly in developing countries, is no longer just a matter of animal health and food hygiene, that it was several years ago. Rather, veterinarians are being increasingly urged to take account of economic factors which argues for more cooperation, leadership and, eventually, an optimal use of resources.

Through the Guiding Group, AU-IBAR has initiated the development of a Training Package (Day 100 Competencies for CVOs) with 8 modules for newly appointed CVOs. The modules aim at developing competencies needed by CVOs to serve their role and to address the attendant challenges and opportunities. The workshop therefore seeks to address the issue from the perspective of veterinarians

being able to make their profession more manageable and more active in the changing political, economic and social environment in Africa. Specifically, the workshop will aim to review and validate the identified key competencies to improve and strengthen the quality and performance of the Veterinary Sector in Africa in the context of the prevailing institutional, financial, infrastructural and human resource capacities in Africa. The participants will also use the Workshop to review and validate the Day 100 competencies for the Chief Veterinary Officers and enhance networking and information sharing.

The attendees of the Workshop include over 170 participants comprising; members of Africa Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V), members of Africa Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (2VSB), Chief Veterinary Officers from Africa Union Member States (CVOs), members of the African Platform on Animal Welfare (APAW), members of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), members of the Guiding Group (GG), AUC technical offices (AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC), private sector, Livestock Stakeholders Associations among other key stakeholders in the sector.

The expected outputs of the Workshop include; competencies to improve and strengthen the quality and the performance of the Veterinary Sector in Africa discussed and agreed; Day100 competencies for Chief Veterinary Officers discussed and agreed, and networking and information sharing among the animal health and welfare professionals enhanced.

The proposed process of re-profiling the veterinary profession and Day 100 competencies for CVOs workshop is being informed by several continental guidelines and standards including Agenda 2063, the AU-IBAR Strategy (2018-2023), the Animal Health Strategy for Africa, and the Livestock Development Strategy the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) and the Agricultural Education and Skills Improvement Framework (AESIF) 2015-2025.

A notable contribution of this initiative goes towards AESIF's vision to transform Africa's Agriculture Education and Training (AET) to order leverage the quality and quantity of skilled workforce required for the advancement of agricultural growth.

Additionally, this initiative advances the implementation of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa, 2015-2035 (LiDeSA) which aims at transforming the sector to deliver on its potential for contributing to economic growth and development targets as espoused in Agenda 2063, Malabo Declaration/CAADP and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop programme comprises four sessions: An opening session, as the first session that provides the workshop introduction and an official opening by the Minister of Livestock. Session two provides background information through an overview of the Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) as it relates to Veterinarians and CVOs; and the Africa Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V) Africa Association of Veterinary statutory Bodies (2A-VSB): Rational, Process and previous recommendations. The third session provides case study presentations on 'Veterinary Education in Africa', with a focus on Supply, Services and Demand perspectives. The fourth session on Re-profiling of veterinary profession and Day 100 Competencies for CVOs is devoted to group work and discussions on the Day 100 Competencies. The workshop is expected to end with a consolidated document consolidated by the Guiding Group, and a communique by the participants.

Going forward, the mode of delivery of the 100 Day Competencies training will comprise a blended learning approach that include a range of activities and benchmarking with countries, laboratories,

vaccine centers, marketing outlets, face to face meetings, online delivery and a visit (where feasible to AU-IBAR).

The re-profiling strategy provides a framework for delivering a sustainable animal health system in Africa that meets World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other relevant global standards and also provides a common vision and goals for the African continent for the improvement of animal health delivery systems.

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Note for Editor:

About AU-IBAR

The African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) mandated to play a pivotal role in coordinating and supporting the development and utilization of Animal Resources (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) as sources of nutrition and food security and to contribute to wellbeing, economic development and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union. www.au-ibar.org

About Live2Africa

AU-IBAR in partnership with European Union (EU) developed the Sustainable Development of Livestock Programme (Live2Africa) to provide a shared vision on livestock development in Africa. The initiative to strengthen the veterinary education is being implemented under Live2Africa to support a continental platform on veterinary education establishments in order to enhance the quality of both the public and private veterinary service delivery.

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