AU-IBAR launches the “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa” Programme

The Pan African Forum for Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC)

AU-IBAR’s contribution to the One Health Strategic Framework

A Standing Committee of AU Member States experts on animal health and food safety

Somali stakeholders articulate priorities for new livestock sector interventions

Trypanosomiasis – A neglected disease

AU-IBAR welcomes the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Africa Animal Resources Newsletter
**The Africa Animal Resources Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR’s mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union.

**AU-IBAR’s Vision:** An Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

**AU-IBAR’s Mission:** To provide leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa through supporting and empowering AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities.

---

**EDITORIAL**

Welcome to the Second Issue of the AU-IBAR “Africa Animal Resources Newsletter”.

The past quarter has seen AU-IBAR staff and its partners busy engaging in the implementation of no less than 22 projects, and preparing for another 7 projects in the areas of animal health, animal production and animal trade and marketing, including fisheries.

I am also proud to announce that the development of the new AU-IBAR website is in progress, with completion and launch due during the first quarter of next year. You shall of course be notified when the new website is operational.

After the closure of the Fisheries Discussion Groups (D-Groups), AU-IBAR has Launched a new D-Group on the One Health concept in October 2012. Those who wish to participate in discussion, kindly write to newsletter@au-ibar.org.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission, replacing outgoing Chairperson Dr. Jean Ping. On behalf of all AU-IBAR staff I wish her great success in leading the Commission in the four years to come.

Prof. A. El-Sawalhy
Director AU-IBAR
TABLE OF CONTENTS

4  AU-IBAR launches the “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa” Programme
5  The Pan African Forum for Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC)
6  AU-IBAR’s contribution to the One Health Strategic Framework
7  A Standing Committee of AU Member States experts on animal health and food safety
8  Somali stakeholders articulate priorities for new livestock sector interventions
10  Calendar of events
10  Did you know?
11  Trypanosomiasis – A neglected disease
12  AU-IBAR welcomes the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission
AU-IBAR launches the “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa” Programme

On 16 January 2012, the “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa” (VET-GOV) Programme was officially launched at the AU-IBAR premises in Nairobi, Kenya. The event coincided with AU-IBAR’s 60th Anniversary celebrations, and was attended by high profile visitors, such as the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, ministers from various African Union Member States (AU MS) and representatives from the donor community, notably the European Union.

Background

In sub-Saharan Africa livestock represents on average 30% of the agricultural gross domestic product (GDP), about 10% of the national GDP and up to 250 million poor depend on livestock for their income and livelihoods. Given its economic and nutritional importance for rural families, livestock is one of the drivers of poverty reduction and a means for improving food security and thus contributing towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

However the sector is seriously constrained by animal diseases and the lack of adequate investments to enhance its contribution to the development of the African continent, despite its great leverage potential. Over the past years the livestock sub-sector in Africa has been subjected to unfavourable government policies resulting from structural adjustment programmes. Moreover the sub-sector has been suffering from both public and private under-funding, poorly functioning institutional settings and hence weak implementation capacity of policies, regulations and standards.

About VET-GOV

VET-GOV is being implemented by AU-IBAR, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). AU-IBAR is the coordinating body, and the Programme is funded by the European Union to the amount of 30 million EUROS and by the African Union Commission (AUC) to the amount of 1.2 million EUROS. The Programme will last for five years with the objective to “improve the institutional environment at national and regional levels to provide effective and efficient animal health services in Africa”. The strategic focus of VET-GOV is to bring about change towards the establishment of adequate and affordable veterinary services at the national level and to strengthen regional institutions to play their coordinating, harmonising, support to countries and integration roles in line with the One Health (OH) concept. The OH concept is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment.

VET-GOV aims at three principal Results. Result 1 is to enhance knowledge and awareness for institutional change. Result 2 is to enhance institutional capacity for livestock policy formulation, animal health strategies and legislation, whereas result 3 is to enhance institutional capacity for the implementation of policies and enforcement of regulations.

VET-GOV Activities

Under Result Area 1 (to enhance knowledge and awareness for institutional change), VET-GOV will collate and document baseline data on livestock and related policies, animal health strategies and veterinary legislation to support knowledge creation and undertake evidence-based advocacy. One of the innovative approaches is to pilot some activities to support the interventions-part of the three Results of the programme: awareness, formulation and implementation capacity. Pilot activities will initially support initiatives towards generating knowledge for awareness creation and advocacy, while from year three the focus will shift towards institutional reform initiatives.

The livestock sector in Africa is seriously constrained by animal diseases and the lack of adequate investments to enhance its contribution to the development of the African continent, despite its great leverage potential.
Under Result Area 2 (to enhance institutional capacity for livestock policy formulation, animal health strategies and legislation), VET-GOV will build capacity of state and non-state actors for livestock policy and animal health strategy formulation and for the review and development of animal health legislation. VET-GOV will moreover provide guidance to Member States for the adoption of policies, strategies and legislation and/or their review and harmonisation, and support integration into the national processes, such as the national and regional expenditure frameworks and national investment plans.

Under Result Area 3 (to enhance institutional capacity for the implementation of policies and enforcement of regulations), VET-GOV will enhance Members States capacity for the timely collection, analysis and sharing of accurate sanitary information, strengthen disease prevention and control mechanisms at the national and regional levels and facilitate the participation of African countries in standard setting processes. VET-GOV will moreover enhance the capacities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU MS to assess compliance of veterinary services with OIE standards.

**Implementation Modalities**

AU-IBAR will be in charge of the overall coordination of the Programme and implement most activities, either directly or through the RECs. FAO will essentially sustain the regional animal health networks that play a key role in the harmonisation of national approaches and regional integration, and engage in policy analysis.

OIE will be responsible for enhancing the capacity of AU MS to assess compliance with OIE standards and for capacity building of AU MS in veterinary legislation. Moreover will OIE ensure the inter-operability between the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) and the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

For more information contact:
Dr. Baba Soumare
baba.soumare@au-ibar.org
or Dr. Baboucarr Jaw
baboucarr.jaw@au-ibar.org

**The Pan African Forum for Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC)**

**Background**

On a continental scale, Africa imports live animals and meat to the tune of some 2.4 billion USD per annum. At the same time however, export earnings from the same commodities only reaches some 693 million USD. The value of Africa’s total processed milk import reaches the amount of some 1.5 billion dollars per annum, whereas the continent only generates some 70 million USD in return from exporting the same product. In addition to this massive imbalance, Africa produces an impressive 1 million tons of hides and skins annually, but only manages to export one tenth of that amount.

Apart from Africa’s trade imbalance, the intra- and inter-regional trade of animal products is very limited, mostly due to infrastructural problems and informal tariff barriers.

In May 2010 the 8th Conference of Ministers, held in Entebbe, Uganda, requested AU-IBAR to establish a dedicated desk in support of intra-African trade in animal products through information sharing and on demand facilitation of contacts between commercial partners.

**Objectives of PAFLEC**

PAFLEC was established in 2010
with the financial support from the African Union, the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation, with the following objectives:

- To create awareness on trade issues and commonly identify measures to be taken
- To help develop partnerships and synergies between stakeholders at continental and regional levels
- To foster dialogue between exporting and importing countries
- To promote and increase visibility of African Livestock commodities
- To strengthen capacities of stakeholders in exporting countries

**Achievements to date**

To date the following achievements have been made:

- An identification and analysis of the main regional trade pathways is at an advanced staged of completion
- A draft Road map for the establishment of a PAFLEC forum has been established
- A PAFLEC Secretariat has been established in AU-IBAR, with the mandate to facilitate networking exchange of information between stakeholders, and managing the Continental Market Information System and Market knowledge sharing platform.

For more information contact: *Dr. Raphael Coly*
raphael.coly@au-ibar.org

**On a continental scale, Africa imports live animals and meat to the tune of some 2.4 billion USD per annum. At the same time however, export earnings from the same commodities only reaches some 693 million USD.**

**AU-IBAR’s contribution to the One Health Strategic Framework**

In 2003, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), caused by subtype Influenza A (H5N1), spread from the People’s Republic of China to Southeast Asia, and from there to the rest of Asia, Africa and Europe. The disease caused a high number of fatal human infections and massive economic losses, and the threat of a human pandemic triggered a concerted global reaction to control the disease.

**International call for action**

At the International Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi in December 2007, India, participants recommended that the international community draw on experiences with HPAI and develop a medium-term strategy to address emerging infectious diseases.

**The way forward**

PAFLEC is to implement studies to identify priorities and the way forward for supporting the priority trade pathways and strengthen stakeholder organizations. Meanwhile awareness raising and advocacy campaigns will be initiated with the objective to mobilize stakeholders.

Trainings and workshops will be organized with the aim to increase commercial skills and a market information sharing system will be set up to facilitate trade of livestock and animal products on the continent.

**SEND YOUR COMMENTS**

AU-IBAR welcomes your ideas, suggestions and comments. Kindly send them, before 15th January 2013, to: newsletter@au-ibar.org
diseases (EID). Following this recommendation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the UN System Influenza Coordinator (UNSIC) developed a strategic framework was developed under what is currently called the ‘One Health’ concept.

The Strategic Framework focuses on EID at the animal–human–ecosystems interface, where there is the potential for epidemics and pandemics that could result in wide ranging impacts at the country, regional and international levels.

The Strategic Framework is to build robust and well-governed public and animal health systems compliant with the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and OIE international standards, through the pursuit of long-term interventions and to prevent regional and international crises by controlling disease outbreaks through improved national and international emergency response capabilities. The Framework also aims at better addressing the concerns of the poor by shifting the focus from developed to developing economies, from potential to actual disease problems, and through a focus on the drivers of a broader range of locally important diseases. Other key elements of the Strategic Framework are the promotion of wide-ranging collaboration across sectors and disciplines and developing rational and targeted disease control programmes through the conduct of strategic research.

**A Standing Committee of AU Member States experts on animal health and food safety**

Sponsored by the African Union, the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation, AU-IBAR has established a Standing Committee of AU Members States experts on animal health and food safety in Africa.

The overall objective of the Committee is to reduce poverty and enhance food security on the continent, through greater access for agricultural products (including livestock and fisheries) from African countries to international markets.
More specifically, the Standing Committee is to facilitate effective participation of African countries in the activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Covention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) during the formulation of international standards on animal (terrestrial and aquatic) and plant health, and food safety.

Through the Standing Committee the AU Member States are to submit coordinated science-based comments to the OIE, and take coordinated positions on Codex standards reached at African experts meetings for submission to Codex committees. In addition will a Standards and Trade Secretariat be established in AU-IBAR.

Activities to reach the above include the organizing of technical meetings of African animal health experts to review OIE Terrestrial animal health and Aquatic animal health codes, as well as the organizing of technical meetings of African food safety experts to provide comments on selected specialized Codex committees and formulate coordinated positions for Member States. In addition the Standing Committee will support Member States to participate in Codex Committees meetings.

HPAI caused a high number of fatal human infections and massive economic losses, and the threat of a human pandemic triggered a concerted global reaction to control the disease.

The overall objective of the workshop was to identify options for technical interventions, partnerships and institutional arrangements for implementation of EC funded animal health and trade and marketing projects to support the Somali Livestock sector.

The specific objectives of the consultative workshop were:
- to share information on the current status of animal health and livestock trade and marketing situations in different geographical areas and identify on-going interventions that need to be reinforced and consolidated to ensure sustainability and impact.
- to identify gaps and agree on priority short-medium term interventions for inclusion in project proposals to be submitted to the EU Somalia Unit.
- to map out local, national, regional and international actors necessary for enhancing

For more information contact: Dr. Henry Wamwayi henry.wamwayi@au-ibar.org or Dr. Raphael Coly raphael.coly@au-ibar.org

Somali stakeholders articulate priorities for new livestock sector interventions

On 2 and 3 October 2012, an AU-IBAR team met with stakeholders in the Somali livestock sector, to discuss the modalities of two possible new interventions in Somalia, i.e. in animal health and livestock trade and marketing. The event took place in the Maansoor Hotel in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

The meeting brought together 47 livestock stakeholders from the public and private sectors in Somaliland and Central South Somalia. Other participants were from Terra Nuova, the Somali Animal Health Services Project (SAHSP), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), the European Union and AU-IBAR.

“Where do you wish to see the animal health services in the next five years?”
the performance of the Somali livestock sector.

The meeting was opened by the Minister for Livestock of Somaliland, the Hon. Dr. Abdi Aw Daahir. He commended AU-IBAR for involving his Ministry in the meeting. Giving an overview of the importance of livestock sector in Somaliland, the Minister said that the sector employs over 70% of the local population and contributes 60% to the GDP. He further said that 80% of total foreign currency comes from livestock and that the livestock’s main market is Saudi Arabia. Other countries are Yemen and Egypt.

“Where do you wish to see the animal health services in the next five years?”

Highlights of the meeting were the discussions evolving from the stakeholders group sessions, in which participants were asked the following two questions:
- Where do you wish to see the animal health services in the next five years and
- Identify the main problems that will prevent you from reaching this objective

Visions varied from an effective animal health service that enhances livestock production and trade, the improvement of animal health services delivery at the district levels, the improvement of laboratories, improving/strengthening ties with the existing importing countries, to the ability to access livestock and livestock products markets including chilled meat, skins, hides, offals horns and hooves.

However, the Somali stakeholders were also very vocal about the challenges the livestock sector in Somalia faces to reach these objectives. These varied from weak and inadequate animal health infrastructure, inadequate policies for the livestock sector, weak regulatory frameworks, recurrent droughts, poor compliance with international trade agreements, uncontrolled outbreaks of diseases to the lack of access to disease and livestock marketing information.

This session was followed by group presentations, in which the Somali participants identified interventions to address the challenges, and how these interventions should be prioritized. Proposed interventions varied from enhanced disease surveillance, increase awareness on disease reporting, support to the public sector to develop policies and regulatory frameworks for animal health services delivery, capacity building for animal health service providers, to the development of sustainable mechanisms for the implementation of animal health interventions.

The meetings concluded with the formulation of the following resolutions:
1. Identify mechanisms to ensure the continuity of ongoing disease surveillance, reporting and control activities
2. To develop appropriate strategic frameworks to guide the proposed and future interventions in animal health and livestock trade and marketing
3. Agencies implementing projects in Somalia should use the established official channels to communicate with the relevant Ministry authorities.
4. To enhance the capacity of the line Ministries to undertake the coordination and harmonizing roles
5. That dialogue between Somali authorities and livestock exporters on one hand and their counterparts in importing countries on the other hand be sustained.
6. That the capacity for public and private sector actors in trade negotiations be built to support negotiation on trade and standard setting and to
enhance their ability to enter into bilateral livestock trade agreements.

7. That priority animal health and livestock trade and marketing interventions identified during this stakeholder meeting be incorporated in project proposals to be submitted to the EC.

Both the AU-IBAR team and EU representatives were impressed with the enthusiasm and level of participation of the Somali stakeholders during the meetings, for which the latter were commended during the closing session.

For more information contact:
Dr. Henry Wamwayi
henry.wamwayi@au-ibar.org
or Dr. James Wabacha
jameswabacha@au-ibar.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Livestock are the principal source of income and resource for livelihood among pastoral populations in the Horn of Africa. These populations from Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti sell cattle, goats, sheep and camels for export to Saudi Arabia through the ports of Bosasso and Berbera in Puntland and Somaliland respectively and from the port of Djibouti.

The annual numbers of livestock exported from the three ports to Saudi Arabia in 2011 are impressive, i.e.:

- **Cattle:** 280,000
- **Camels:** 190,000

During the same year the number of sheep and goats exported from the three respective ports are as follows:

- **Berbera:** 2,700,000
- **Bosasso:** 1,000,000
- **Djibouti:** 150,000

*The above figures are approximates sourced from FSNAU and the Djibouti Ministry of Agriculture*
Trypanosomiasis – A neglected disease

Trypanosomiasis severely affects human and livestock health, limits land use thus causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the continent.

The impact of the disease extends over 36 countries and an estimated 10 million sq. km (a third of the continent) of land area.

AU-IBAR is at the forefront of reducing the impact of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses on livelihoods and public health in Africa. The prevention, control and eradication of the diseases are achieved through specific networks, platforms and projects within the framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) was established in the 1960s on the realization that the removal of tsetse and trypanosomiasis required an international organization that would serve as a vehicle of cooperation and implementation across national, regional and continental barriers. The ISCTRC is a statutory council of the African Union with its secretariat at AU-IBAR and is managed by an Executive Committee. It has continued to act as a platform for knowledge sharing and information dissemination on trypanosomiasis research and control.

Membership of the ISCTRC Council is drawn from Member States, representatives of all international organizations and institutions working in the field of tsetse and trypanosomiasis, institutes in Africa engaged in tsetse and trypanosomiasis, representatives of regional and multilateral projects in Africa, funding and development agencies, and members from other countries with observer status, where research on trypanosomiasis or related issues are carried out.

ISCTRC Achievements
The ISCTRC organises biennial scientific conferences to evaluate progress sustained since 1949. In 1999 the ISCTRC Executive Committee recommended to AU Member States and international organisations to consider trypanosomiasis as an emergency, which contributed to the establishment in 2001 of the Pan African Tsetse and trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC). Also in 1999, the European Union funded the regional five-year Farming In Tsetse Controlled Areas (FITCA) project. The project was implemented by AU-IBAR in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

For more information contact:
Dr. James Wabacha
james.wabacha@au-ibar.org
On 15 October 2012, the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, handed over duties to the new Chairperson H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma. It is the first time that the AUC is chaired by a woman.

Before her election as the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Zuma held various high level position in the South African Government: she was the Minister of Health from 1994 to 1999, Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1999 to 2009), and Minister of Home Affairs until her AUC election.

AU-IBAR would like to take this opportunity to wish Dr Zuma a most fruitful and successful chairmanship over the next four years.