



REINFORCING VETERINARY GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA PROGRAMME

Draft COMMUNIQUE OF THE 8TH PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

VET-GOV

20th – 21st March 2017
Cairo, Egypt



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
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The eighth VET-GOV Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was held at Safir Hotel in Dukki, Cairo, Egypt, on 20th and 21st March 2017. It was attended by the Steering Committee Members, participants from **AU-IBAR, OIE, FAO, and RECs (COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and UMA)** and invited representatives from countries presenting updates on VET-GOV programme activities in **Kenya, Mauritius and Tunisia** (List of participants: Annex 1):

The meeting was officially opened by **Professor Mumtaz Shaheen** on behalf of HE **Professor Abdel Monieum Albanna**, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt following remarks from **Professor Ahmed El-Sawalhy**, the Director AU-IBAR representing the Commissioner of DREA, **Dr Yilma Makonnen**, representing the FAO, **Dr Samuel Wakhusama** representing the OIE, **Mr Timothy Wesonga**, EAC representative on behalf of the COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, UMA, and **Mr. Sebastian Trenner** representing the EU.

The 8th PSC Meeting deliberated on the following:

- Matters arising from the previous meeting;
- Consolidated Progress report and harmonized calendar of events (AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, RECs);
- Updates on OIE SVSDC+R Project
- Financial reports by the project partners;
- Updates on pilot activity on enhancing public veterinary services for improved animal health and veterinary public health in Tunisia;
- Updates on pilot activity on evaluation of basic veterinary care in Mauritius;
- Updates on OIE SVSDC+R Project in Kenya
- Project closure and way forward

Following fruitful deliberations and,

Considering the mandate of the PSC Meeting to provide strategic guidance to the Programme and oversee coherent implementation of the different contribution agreements;

Noting the progress made by the Programme after the 7th PSC Meeting held in Libreville, Gabon (April 2016);

Taking cognizance of the Programme implementation approaching its closure by August 2017;

Considering the need for achieving the project goals and demonstrating evidence of sustainability while planning for project closure and developing the way forward;

The PSC appreciates the efforts made by VET-GOV implementing partners and the significant progress made since the last meeting in Libreville, Gabon (April 2016).

The PSC endorsed the following:

- 1) The minutes of the 7th SCM
- 2) The progress on the implementation of the 7th SCM recommendations;
- 3) The technical consolidated progress report of the VETGOV Programme;
- 4) The technical and financial progress report of the OIE's SVSDC+R Project.
- 5) The financial reports presented by project partners of VETGOV (AU-IBAR and OIE);
- 6) The action plan on VET-GOV Project closure and way forward

The PSC agreed on the following recommendations:

- **VET-GOV Programme closure**
 - AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE RECs and MSs to kick-start the process of the programme closure documentation, evaluation and audit activities;
 - AU-IBAR to finalize the draft road map and action plan on activities phasing over and phasing out to be shared with partners and RECs and agree on implementation.

- **Sustaining support to Regional Farmers Organizations (RFO)**
 - AU-IBAR and partners to continue supporting Regional Farmers Organizations (RFO) for enhanced participation in the governance and operationalization of farmers organizations

- **Capacity building**
 - FAO – through the FAO/GHSA (Global Health Security Agenda) Project continue to provide support to measurably improve capacities of veterinary services in 14 countries principally addressing priority zoonotic diseases (PZDs)

- **IRCM and Regional Animal Health contingency plans**
 - Partners to build on work done within the frame work of IRCM to continue supporting OH initiative across the continent
 - FAO- Review and updating of integrated national preparedness and response (P&R) plans for endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases in the above specified countries using multi-sectoral OH approaches

- RECs to frame up a sustainability plan specific to their region and report on achievements and priority needs for continued interventions
- **Support to the operation of National and Regional Livestock Policy Hubs (N&RLPHs)**
 - Partners (AU-IBAR, FAO, RECs) to continue support to the LPH in each member state and focus on the anchorage of the LPH in appropriate ministry and relevant directorates for national ownership of NL-PHs;
 - FAO together with RECs to complete and report on pilot studies for review/assessment of the National Livestock Policy Hubs in selected countries, develop a plan to address the gaps.
 - FAO to support professional and civic societies to advocate for sound animal health policies and legislations
- **Animal health networks**
 - FAO to engage RECs and report on the sustainability of networks during the next steering committee meeting.
 - FAO- through FAO-GHSA projects provide technical and financial support to measurably improve epi- and lab capacities and networking
 - FAO/IGAD established joint secretariat to oversee and country level implementation and monitoring of progresses
- **The 9th PSCM**
 - The PSC proposes to hold the next steering committee meeting in 24-28 July 2017 in Rabat, Morocco, in the UMA region

Acknowledgement

The PSC Members thank the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the meeting and the assistance provided in the organization of the meeting, AU-IBAR and partners for the support extended during the preparation and conducting the meeting, and the European Union for funding the programme.

Done in Cairo, Egypt on 21st of March 2017