



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

**SUPPORT PROGRAMME
TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLANS
FOR AVIAN AND HUMAN INFLUENZA**

SPINAP-AHI

**Inception workshop of SPINAP-AHI
in Southern Africa**

Proceedings

Gaborone / Botswana, 11—13 March 2008

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Foreword

The SPINAP is a three year program executed by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) with support of the European Commission. Its overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of the socio-economic impact of Avian Influenza and loss of human lives by assisting African ACP countries to prepare against AI outbreaks and control in poultry and human populations, and to prevent a possible human pandemic. The SPINAP's major thrust is to facilitate the implementation of INAPs.

During the SPINAP inception phase countries were informed of available funds, request were received from eligible countries and reviewed by a panel of expert. Therefore it was deemed necessary to organize an inception workshop before disbursing the fund to eligible countries in Southern African Region. The objectives of the inception workshop are:

- to share the lesson learned from the assessment of country applications received for funding by the PCU;
- to share the information on the status of the HPAI in different countries;
- to improve the understanding of different actors involved;
- to build network and discuss way to enhance the cooperation;
- to discuss communication strategies and identified gaps in countries' communication proposals and
- To lay out programme implementation modalities: operation, finance, M&E framework, proposal assessment procedures and lessons learned.

Key areas addressed by the workshop are:

- Aspects of Communications and Knowledge Management.
- Available tools and activities on HPAI.
- Time schedules, reimbursements and documentation.
- Epidemiological situation of HPAI in Africa.
- Program Harmonisation & Governance Mechanisms
- Country proposal

Guest speakers

No	Name/ position	Organization	Topic
1	Dr. S.Munstermann	FAO/ECTAD	FAO HPAI activities in Southern Africa
2	Dr. B.Mtei	OIE sub regional Representation	OIE HPAI activities in Southern Africa
3	Mr. Hulman Beedeenan	FNPAR-SADC Secretariat	HPAI activities by SADC
4	Dr.Caroline Akim	WHO	HPAI Prevention and Control, and Public Health Systems in South Africa

Workshop program

TIME	TOPICS	PRESENTER/ RESPONSIBLE
Day 1		
08:30– 09:30	REGISTRATION & OPENING SESSION MASTER OF CEREMONY: DR. ElZein Ali	
09:30 – 10:30	1. Welcoming Remarks	Dr. A. Elsayalhy, AU/IBAR
	2. Keynote addresses	Dr.A.Babagana AU/Director of Dept.Rural Eco. Agric.
	3. Official Opening Address	Hon. Minister for Agriculture, Botswana
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
	SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTION TO SPINAP & HPAI REGIONAL ACTIVITIES SESSION CHAIR: Dr. A.Babagana	
11:00 – 11:30	Introductions of participants and expectations	Dr. S. Muriuki
11.30 – 12.30	Overview of SPINAP	Dr. A. Elsayalhy
12.30 – 12.45	FAO HPAI activities in Southern Africa	Dr. S.Munstermann
12.45 – 13.00	Available tools and support on HPAI	Dr. JJ Delate
13:15 – 14:15	LUNCH BREAK	
	SESSION ONE Cont'd	
14.15 – 14.45	OIE HPAI activities in Southern Africa	Dr. B.Mtei
14.45 – 15.15	HPAI activities by SADC	SADC
12.15 – 12.30	HPAI Prevention and Control, and Public Health Systems in Africa	WHO
15:15 – 16:00	Plenary Discussions On Session 1.	Session Chair
15.15 – 15.30	COFFEE BREAK	
	SESSION 2 – SPINAP ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SESSION CHAIR: Mr. Hulman Beedeenan	
15.45– 16.15	SPINAP governance – Implementation arrangements, guidelines and templates	Dr. S. Muriuki
16.15 – 16.30	Presentation of fund allocation criteria	Dr. M. El-Helepi
16:30 – 17:00	General Discussions On Session 2	Dr. JJ Delate
	DAY 2: SESSION 3 CONT'D – Country Funding Requests SESSION CHAIR: JJ DELATE	
08.30 – 09.00	Recap of Day 1	Dr. ElZein Ali
09.00 – 13.00	Presentation of Country AI situation and Funding Requests (15 Mins including discussion)	National AI Coordinators

	Angola	NC
	Botswana	NC
	Equatorial guinea	NC
	Lesotho	NC
	COFFEE BREAK	
	Madagascar	NC
	Malawi	NC
	Mauritius	NC
	Mozambique	NC
	Nambia	NC
	Swaziland	NC
	Zambia	NC
	Zimbabwe	NC
	Sao Tome	
13.00 – 14.00	LUNCH BREAK	
	Session Chaired by Dr.M.Khalifa	
14.00 – 14.45	Presentation of funding proposals review criteria, observed trends (proposals) and lessons learned	Dr. S. Muriuki
14:45-16:00	One to One discussions between National Coordinators and PCU Teams	SPINAP Team
16.00 – 16.30	COFFEE BREAK	
	DAY 3: SESSION 4: Procedures, M&E, & Communications	
	SESSION CHAIR: DR.B.MTEI	
08.30 – 08.40	Recap of Day 2	Dr. ElZein Ali
08.40 – 9.45	Overview and discussion of SPINAP operating procedures; Financial procedures, time schedules/action plans, reporting, and budgets	Mr. H. Scholl
9.45 - 10.10	COFFEE BREAK	
10.10 – 10.30	Over view of the Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation procedures (including Q & A)	Mr. Alex Saelaert
10.30 – 12.15	Perspectives on Communication within SPINAP Needs Assessments	Mr. P. Corbe
12:15 – 12:45	Plenary Discussions	Session Chair
12.45 – 14.00	LUNCH BREAK	
	SESSION CHAIR: DR. B.Mtei	
14.00 – 15.00	Group Activity on HPAI Communication in Southern Africa	Mr. P. Corpè
	CLOSING SESSION	
15.00 – 15.20	Recommendations	Dr. ElZein Ali
15:20 – 15:35	Vote of thanks	Dr. Samuel Muriuki
15.35 – 16.00	Remarks	Representative of Ministry of Agric. -Botswana
16:00 – 16.15	Closing Remarks	Dr. Majdi Khalifa

List of invitees

International organizations:

- FAO.
- WHO.
- OIE.
- SADC.
- USAID.

Countries:

- Angola
- Botswana
- Equatorial Guinea
- Lesotho
- Namibia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Sao Tom
- Swaziland
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

1 Welcome and introduction

The Workshop started at 08h30 with the registration of delegates.

This was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Ahmed A. A. El Sawalhy, the Acting Director of AU-IBAR. He warmly welcomed all to the workshop specially those who travelled to Gaborone. Dr Ahmed emphasized that this workshop is an integral part of the global fight against the AH1.

He thanked the Government of Botswana and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Fanikiso for the assistance in the organisation; as well as the development partners, the EU and others for their sustained support.

He ended his address by giving the objectives of the workshop which were:

- To share the lesson learned from the assessment of country applications received for funding by the PCU;
- To share the information on the status of the HPAI in different countries;
- To improve the understanding of different actors involved;
- To build network and discuss way to enhance the cooperation;
- To discuss communication strategies and identified gaps in countries' communication proposals and
- To lay out programme implementation modalities: operation, finance, M&E framework, proposal assessment procedures and lessons learned.

After him, Dr Babagana Ahmadu Director of Agriculture and Rural Development and the AU Commission representative expressed, on behalf of the AU, his appreciation to the Government and the people of Botswana for the hospitality. He also thanked the EC for the trust vested in financing this project to the tune of €21.5 millions. He added that the HPAI is a threat to the African human population. The workshop will ensure that the application for funding from countries is successful. The SPINAP strong team in place is proof of this commitment. This project is not an end in itself but a foundation for future endeavours in this area in the fight of the HPAI.

To conclude the opening session, His Excellency, Dr Mike Chimbombi, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture took the floor to wish all a warm welcome to Botswana. "Africa faces many more challenges and diseases, but we are gather here

to kick start the SPINAP project, which is a product of a collaborative work. If we improve the collaboration between our countries, our success will be ensured. The EU and the industrialised world are giving us an opportunity to stand up, fight and win. SPINAP gives us an opportunity. With the appropriate support, environment we can make it happen.” He ended his address thanking the AU-IBAR for organising the workshop and the SPINAP Project which is a genuine initiative to strengthen national capacity and to prevent the spread and control HPAI, the threat we face. The success of this project is on us. AU-IBAR will provide the financial support, the appropriate environment to ensure that we make a success of the situation”

Round table introduction.

The participants introduced themselves ; name and surname; Department, Position and responsibilities, and expectations from the workshop. They were representatives from represent the following countries and organisation:

- Botswana
- Malawi
- Lesotho
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Madagascar
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Swaziland
- AU Headquarters
- AU Commission
- AU-IBAR
- FAO
- OIE
- SADC Secretariat
- WHO

2 Session I—Introduction of SPINAP and HPAI activities

The first Session on the Introduction of SPINAP and HPAI activities was chaired by Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, the Director for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union. He expressed his high expectations and enthusiasm, given the importance of the project he has decided to come on board and facilitate the rolling out process of the program so that there can be something concrete on the ground as soon as possible. “We should be able to assist countries to come up with Action Plans and those who are ready should have easy access to the fund” was he quoted as saying. The EU is having an eye on us on how we are going to use this fund.

Dr. Ahmed, Acting Director of AU-IBAR gave an overview of SPINAP programme. His presentation covered the epidemiology of HPAI in the continent, achievement of AU/IBAR and introduced SPINAP objectives, purpose, expected result, management and set up of SPINAP project.

Since the last crisis in 2003, there are 8 African countries that were infected: Nigeria, Egypt, Niger, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Cote d’Ivoire and Djibouti. By end 2007 3 other got infected: Ghana, Togo and Benin. This resulted in 44 human cases in Egypt, one case in Djibouti and one case in Nigeria. HPAI is under control in Africa but the disease is endemic in certain countries. However, the continent will remain under threat due to uncontrolled trade and movement of poultry, migratory birds, and low capacity of Veterinary Services and lack of trained human resources. Dr Ahmed gave a background about AU-IBAR which, he said, is a specialised technical office of the AU based in Nairobi. It was started in 1951 to organize the fight and control of Rinderpest and latter other transboundary animal diseases.

The AU-IBAR has a long list of achievements in the past years. For instance it provided financial assistance to 13 infected countries through the ADB project which amount for € 5.5 million and trained 80 personnel from 37 countries from both veterinary and medical laboratory under the Joint GTZ-AU-IBAR and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) project.

AU/IBAR has regional cooperation with FAO for technical support against HPAI in the African context and is a member of

Alive platform for Assessment of Financial needs and gaps. In the course of the fight against HPAI AU/IBAR It has partnership with OIE, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, Chinese and Thailand governments and the EC.

The objectives of SPINAP project as listed by Dr. Ahmed are:

- To reduce the socio-economic impact of HPAI in ACP countries,
- To reduce potential loss of human life,
- To strengthen national capacities and
- To prevent and control HPAI outbreak.

Dr Ahmed's presentation was followed by a presentation on FAO HPAI activities in Southern Africa by Suzanne Munstermann. In her presentation Suzanne highlighted FAO's support to SADC countries which is done at policy level, regional level, country level in addition to specific inputs. FAO had project in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique, it has provided equipment to most of the countries in the region including OVI in SA and contribute to regional preparedness through support of Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and other subcommittees (Lab., Epidemiology,). Upcoming project of FAO will cover Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The speaker emphasized that one of the initiatives to make the collaboration between international organisations more efficient was the formation of the Regional Animal Health Centres which is a coordination mechanism, with each partner maintaining its core activities and financial independence. In this regard, close collaboration and coordination are required to avoid duplication of efforts. Gaps need to be identified in the ensemble of financial and technical engagement. Support to fill these gaps can be solicited through the RAHC, despite the multiple memberships of certain countries to regional and economic communities.

From the ensuing Q&A session, the following were noted:

- The SPINAP covers human and animal health aspect; WHO was brought in early and the country themselves were requested to provide activities in human health, Since the activities are proposed by the countries the whole process depends on the level of coordination between the two countries and the countries themselves. Tanzania, for instance, has decided to split the fund 50/50.
- At this stage seems more focus at stopping the disease at its source in the poultry population without ignoring the public health side.
- The issue of donor coordination is very crucial. A mechanism should be devised to avoid duplication of efforts. Though an assessment with more or less similar mandate

was carried out by the world bank in certain countries in 2006, these countries have been asked again to request a rapid assessment.

Jean Jacques Delate gave an overview of the tools and activities to fight AI. He introduced his presentation saying "a sanitary crisis is like retirement; like it or not retirement time will come. Even if you prepare it will be difficult to adapt and despite preparation there will be something you did not pre-empt that will happen. Hence you just need to be in good shape and operational."

As far as AI is concerned, the AU-IBAR will be there to help. To this end, there are three types of tools which are available: technical, financial and institutional/legal. With the assistance of AU-IBAR countries can improve their preparedness to face the AI if ever it comes to the shore.

Therefore it is preferable to know:

- How to analyse the crisis and the potential responses;
- How and when to use these tools including PVS tools
- Your service in the administrative organisation of your country and the relationship with the private sector
- that rapid assessment provides reliable data necessary in time of crisis

Main points raised by the speaker included:

- Unless the means mechanism and measure to control and prevent introduction of HPAI are identified the disease can be introduced into the country.
- The economic consequence and cost of HPAI outbreak, its impact on trade, market access, human livelihood and public health should be quantified and highlighted to solicit the support of the different ministries, local partners and economic partners (private sector) that will be involved in case of a disease outbreak.
- Many initiatives e.g. USAID, EISME, Rapid assessment can be used to enhance preparedness.
- The rapid assessment is a grant from EU to alive managed by world bank and coordinated by FAO.
- A regional approach is a necessity, the system, policy and regulation in a certain country will affect the neighboring countries and the whole region.

- The potential route of introducing the disease should determine and measures are taken at country and regional level to prevent the introduction of the disease.
- Rapid assessment and PVS are tools that will help identify the gaps, limitation in policy, laws and coordination and needs for investment.
- Alive will not carry rapid assessment unless they receive a request from the country.
- Rapid assessment can be done within SPINAP but should be integrated within the country proposal.

Dr Bonaventure Mtei OIE sub-regional office in Southern Africa representative gave an outline of OIE role in HPAI control in the region. According to him (Dr Mtei), OIE encourage the countries in the region to benefit from the PVS tools. According to OIE standard the most effective strategy for dealing with notifiable AI is early detection, rapid and transparent notification and timely response including containment, management of poultry movement and humane stamping out if necessary and vaccination where appropriate. The long term vision of this strategy which OIE shares with FAO and AU-IBAR is to minimise the global threat of notifiable AI through prevention, progressive control, national, regional and global coordination, good governance and legislation, surveillance and elimination of the disease in poultry.

The SADC representative followed in the same steps. He stressed out that the fact that there was no AI outbreak is a chance for the SADC region to work more on preparedness and response plan as well as kick starting its implementation.

SADC regional preparedness plan aims at strengthen the capacities of the countries to implement their integrated national action plan, mobilize resources for its implementation, harmonization of policy and regulation of importation, adopt biosecurity measure, develop monitoring and evaluation tools, establish early warning system, effective surveillance and epidemiology And laboratory Network. He also indicated that guidelines for compensation policy in SADC region are in the pipeline.

He expressed his gratitude for this program and hoped that all countries will take advantage of the rapid assessment of Alive to identify needs and gaps in the national preparedness and response plans. "It is an opportunity SADC members should not miss and update their veterinary services."

Dr Caroline Akim from the WHO Botswana made a presentation on strategies for control and prevention of H5N1 HPAI in humans. She began her presentation by giving a background on HPAI and the implication on human health saying "the H5N1 strain has

caused the largest number of severe disease and death in humans. The WHO has defined 6 phases for increasing public health risk associated with the emergence of new influenza subtype that may pose a threat to humans, with specific actions for national authorities and outlines measures to be undertaken. As a matter of fact, the risk of human cases of HPAI in the Africa region remains high. Recognising this risk WR – WHO AFRO has set up a Regional Task force.

Strategies for prevention and control of HPAI as identified by WHO are:

- Establish an effective coordination between all sectors involved;
- Re-enforce communication, social mobilisation and health promotion;
- Reduce opportunity for human infections with H5N1;
- Establish/strengthen early warning systems;
- Build capacity to cope with the pandemic;
- Contain or delay spread at source;
- Enhance regional preparedness and response coordination capacity; strengthen national health systems to effectively deal with diseases of epidemic and/or pandemic potential;
- Operational research on human pandemic influenza.

In this regards, the WHO is leading the global efforts for preparedness and response to the threat posed by H5N1 strain of AI through various key actions. In collaboration with other partners, it (WHO) has put in place mechanisms to support countries to prepare themselves and control the pandemic.

The risk of human cases is high in the region because of wide distribution of backyard, limited information and weakness of surveillance. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed strategies is crucial on preventing and controlling the spread of HPAI in both poultry and humans.

Dr Samuel Muriuki stepped in with a presentation on Program harmonisation and Governance Mechanisms. Introducing his presentation, he reiterates that SPINAP is a unique program in which AU/IBAR brings a fresh strategy to SPINAP support eligible countries in the implementation of their national Integrated Plans and provides technical

and financial support for activities solely developed and prioritised by the countries themselves.

The successful implementation of SPINAP is expected to yield a lot of positive outcomes such as:

- enhanced capacity for prevention and control of HPAI at national level;
- enhanced information and communication for awareness creation;
- Greater coherence among nations and with global HPAI strategies.

To this end, a draft Manual of Procedures has been developed to guide program implementation and harmonise activities at different levels; ensure transparency in all processes and enforce compliance with contractual requirement (financial management, Procurement, Administration, Report and M&E). The manual will be complemented by MOU and a contract, specific indicators for monitoring and evaluation and specific financial and reporting system.

To conclude his presentation, Dr Muriuki reminded the participants that the application of templates and guidelines is a prerequisite for releasing the fund by the steering committee.

Dr Medhat El Helepi presentation was on the Fund Allocation Criteria. He gave an outline about the methodology used in the allocation of fund requirement for funding and the magnitude of the fund. The main points can be summarized as followed:

- Program Budget: €22.6m (€21.5 from EC);
- Program Fund: €18.1m;
- Eligible beneficiaries: 47 African ACP members;
- Implementation duration 18 months (at the national level);
- High expected outputs as follows:

This raised a challenge of how to distribute the fund to all 47 countries in an objective way. The distribution of the fund in an objective way was challenging therefore a scientific methodology endorsed by steering committee was adopted by AU/IBAR.

The factors taken into consideration upon allocation of the funds were:

- Per Capita Income
- Relative Importance of the Poultry Industry
- Level of the National Contribution to the Total Estimated Budget of the Implementation of the IAP
- Fund Availability
- Size of Backyard Reared Poultry
- AHI risk

Data about above parameters were obtained from FAO, ALIVE, World Bank, OIE and so on. The minimum allocation is €300 000.00 for none infected countries and €500 000.00 for any previously infected country.

The floor was opened for discussion which can be summarized as followed:

- Lessons learned from infected countries that the human cases are associated with human poultry interaction, quick judgement is not advisable more time and active surveillance is required before making declaration of freedom from the disease.
- The risk assessment should be carried by each country, however a regional assessment is needed to identify the weakest link where and how the disease can be introduced.
- SADC secretariat is developing guidelines for compensation policy and the members countries will be requested to adopt them, however no funds so far is available.
- Stamping out with compensation was initially approved by SADC countries; however, modified stamping out policy was adopted latter.
- Indicators for monitoring and evaluation include level of preparedness, presence of task force, frequency of meeting, funding mechanism and so on.
- Though some organization advocate life insurance scheme at least for commercial farming, no other institution can take care of compensation apart from state and the government.
- In the current of phase of the pandemic efforts are directed towards enhancing preparedness, training of the staff and awareness creation.

- The level of HPAI risk as one of the fund allocation criteria was based on the classification of the OIE.

3 Session II—Country funding requests

Participants from the following countries gave a presentation about their National Integrated, country proposal submitted to AU/IBAR for fund under SPINAP and required budget:

Botswana	Malawi	Swaziland
Lesotho	Mozambique	Zambia
Madagascar	Namibia	Zimbabwe

In their presentations countries representative identified at least one of the following pathway as a possible routes for introducing the disease into their countries:

- Importation of one day old chicks, poultry at point of laying, poultry farming inputs, breeding stock; most of one day old chicks are coming from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, but there are countries that imports from Brazil and Europe.
- Migratory birds for countries along the flyways.
- Across border trade, movement and illegal trade of live birds and poultry products.
- Persons returning from infected countries.

Other possible factors that could contribute to the increasing risk of HPAI identified by the participants were:

- In some countries e.g. Malawi behaviour such as eating dead birds and sleeping with birds in the same house.
- Open live birds markets.
- Veterinary services low staffing levels and poor capacity (labs, transport, equipment)

The main feature of surveillance system and preparedness in the countries presentation can be summarized as followed:

- Detection depends on passive surveillance in many countries, while other countries use active sero-surveillance for ND.
- Areas of high risk were identified based on perceived risk factors in a number of countries including Madagascar, Mozambique, Botswana,...

- Ostriches' farms are under special surveillance programs as export requirement.
- Safeguards taken include import control through permit system, border inspections in some countries. However, in some countries e.g. Malawi very few border posts were set and survey in high risk areas.
- Bio-security was addressed at least in one country through communication and awareness, however, no mechanism to regulate bio-security exist in most countries.
- Surveillance among wild bird population in a number of countries was conducted in collaboration with CIRAD in many countries in the region e.g. Madagascar, Malawi, and all result obtained so far were negative.

The activities proposed by the countries to be funded under SPINAP project includes:

- Capacity building of staff on diagnosis, prevention and control e.g. disease surveillance, investigation, diagnosis.
- Capacity building of veterinary service e.g. Equipment,
- Training of people who are not professional, extension agents and training in bio-security.
- Strengthening of survey network.
- Operational research work.
- Awareness creation and communication.

All countries expressed high expectations for the implementation of the SPINAP program and they can't wait to see the fund rolled out to support their National Integrated Programs.

Issues raised in the course of discussing the country presentation covered:

- Transportation of Specimens which is not allowed by certain airlines in some countries and in some case the delivery of specimens is delayed. To have an agreement with a regional airline to facilitate transportation may be an option another option is to try other courier.
- Sero-surveillance may not be a useful tool for early detection of HPAI and will pick low pathogenic Avian Influenza. Therefore, it is advisable to concentrate on antigen detection rather than the serology.

Dr Samuel Muriuki presented on the Assessment of Country Funding Application. He explained that this presentation was a prelude to the next step, the way the application is handled.

So far, 45 applications from eligible countries were received. And criteria were produced in the form of a check list to ensure that proposal assessment is based on common standard principles and thus reduce the level of subjectivity in the judgement. The criteria sought to achieve amongst others things the following:

- conformity with the SPINAP guidelines and templates;
- check coherence with global strategies and guidelines; SPINAP objectives and purposes; between proposed activities and budgets as well as
- Transparency and complementarity with the available HPAI support to name but the few.

In conclusion, Dr Muriuki re-assured the country representatives that the AU-IBAR wish is to fund all the 47 eligible countries and pleaded with them to assist in this regards.

At this junction, delegates were divided into two groups to discuss the outcome of the country request for fund review and assessment. They had an opportunity to discuss with the SPINAP/AU-IBAR team on one to one bases

Their discussions were based on issues in the Logical Framework and Logistic issues related to the MOU, Contract, etc. Below is the summary of the outcome of the group discussion.

Group 1 discussion

Countries in the group:

MALAWI	LESOTHO
BOTSWANA	MADAGASCAR
	AU/IBAR team

The group was looking at the assessment of the proposals submitted to SPINAP.

Documentation

The documentation in most of the proposals was as requested by SPINAP, however, a number of issues were observed:-

- The National Coordinator of SPINAP must be a person who can dedicate his/her time to implementing SPINAP programs.
- It was noted that some proposals had Director of Veterinary Services as National Coordinators. It was suggested that the Director of Veterinary Services must nominate a focal person who SPINAP can communicate with. SPINAP would take up this issue with all the Director of Veterinary Services.
- The review of INAP showed a sad situation with most logical framework having activities which overlapped and indicators which are not easily verifiable. It was suggested that countries must revisit the INAP during the implementation of SPINAP.

Technical section

The review of the technical proposal in the country requests lacked the following:-

- Poultry production data was scanty and if available was not up to date in most countries' proposal.
- Assessment methodology for the HPAI risk in requesting countries was lacking in the proposal.
 - 1) it was suggested that a risk analysis workshop be organized under the SPINAP.
 - 2) During rapid assessments mission requesting countries must ask for risk analysis capacity building.
- Legal documents or instrument which supported the setting up of the National Coordinating Teams for HPAI, although some countries did include the legal instruments used in livestock disease control.
- The mechanisms, for bio security was not well outlined in most proposals. (The group suggested inclusion of development of bio security policy as an activity in the proposal).

Financial section

It was noted that most financial proposals were weak in this aspect of the request and the group had the following observations:

- There was a general weakness in understanding the development of the smart indicator (measurable)/ results and outputs/activities;
- Lack of detailed activities and sub activities in most proposals. Guidelines on the financial proposal (template) will be issued.
- The group also observed that funding from other partners was not well illustrated and must be included in the proposal.

Information communication

The group discussed information communication at length with the following observations:-

- The logical framework for information communication was not well elaboration, most especially the measurement of the impact. eg. Spot survey.
- The development of the communication strategy could be included in implementation of SPINAP.
- Support from other partners on communication was not well detailed and countries were encouraged to incorporate that in their proposals.

Group 2 discussion

Countries in the Group

Mozambique

Zambia

Namibia

Zimbabwe

Swaziland

All countries to request rapid assessment from Alive to run parallel SPINAP otherwise the project will not take off as this assessment gives the indication of the country's capability to implement SPINAP. Mozambique and Madagascar have already been assessed and Lesotho is scheduled from 1st to 16th of April 2008

Implementation

1. A National Coordinator (NC) has to be identified in the department of Veterinary Services and is to be a veterinarian but does not have to be the chairperson of the task force. The National Coordinator is to run the program with the assistance of an

identified dedicated accounts officer. The NC should be a member of the task force or technical working group on Avian Influenza.

Within the application for funding there should be the declaration of the applicant and inclusion of the NC's curriculum vitae

2. Budgets should be quantified and activities to be related to Avian Influenza and they be broken down to sub activities in a logical frame/activity plan – Budget to be related to sub activities.

E.g. Training 50 farmers (Activity) - Conference cost
- DSA
- Transport
- Information package
- Facilitation

There is need for logical framework/cash flow projections/fund allocation/accounts – this enables one to produce timetables/reports/evaluation.

National Coordinator and Accounting Officer designate to work together. A regional training workshop will be run for both the national Coordinator and accounting officer. The National Coordinator is to attend and not a representative.

- SPINAP can not cover regional/international meetings AI task force meetings; study tours to neighbouring countries; staff costs (salaries); office rent and office operating costs.

3. There has been noted the absence of baseline information on poultry production in small scale and backyard flock (bio security, location and population).

- Compensation
- Control of disease
- Surveillance some demarcation
- Regulation of industry with the inventory of farms (import/export/movement control)

can then be implemented.

4. Passive surveillance – day to day surveillance is a government function not funded but capacity building of:

- laboratory
- improved communications
- office equipment.

Active surveillance – there is also need for a detail of activity taking note serology is not very beneficial for HPAI.

5. SPINAP will not fund translation of Portuguese documents to the two official languages of AU-IBAR, French/English.

Countries have to submit revised documents incorporating the comments and observations indicated by SPINAP committee by 31 March 2008.

- electronic
- 2 Hard copies (through DHL/FEDEX/Courier service)
- 2 CDs (through DHL/FEDEX/Courier service)

6. Observations and comments coming from SPINAP evaluation team were acknowledged and accepted after clarifications of above points.

4 Session III—Communications.

Hans Juergen Scholl made a presentation on SPINAP operating procedures and emphasized on the combination between times schedules and budget reimbursements and flow of documentation. “This is the heart of the project because without money nothing can be moved”.

He explained the purpose of the operating procedures which is:

- to provide clear information on how to handle the contract between the Contracting Agency and the Organisation;
- to prevent miss-interpretations when executing the project;
- to prepare clear rules for re-imbusement of funds and excellent accounting practice;
- to assist in the institutional capacity building to implement projects in an economic and efficient manner;
- to strengthen the national capacity to handle funds and provide transparent accounting;
- to prepare budget connected to logic framework with activities and sub-activities;
- To prepare cash flow projections in connection with time schedule.

He concluded his presentation by naming some of the things not included in the finance: motor vehicle, motor bike, satellite phones, cellphones; salaries, radio communications; but anything that is technical assistance related.

Nevertheless there is always room to talk when some thing is not going right. There is not one size fit all.

“Country coordinators/representatives should know that we are here to help 24 hours and not to point fingers despite the strict instructions we have.” This was the concluding statement from the SPINAP Team.

Alex Saelaert made a presentation on Monitoring & Evaluation. The outline of his presentation was trying to answer the following questions:

- Why M&E;

- What is it?
- How to monitor and evaluate?
- What are the challenges and findings as well as the next steps after the Monitoring & Evaluation?

M&E informs the decision-making of the SPINAP management and will contribute to a better SPINAP. The SPINAP Team has an ambition of making the SPINAP a stepping stone toward a better use of M&E because M&E is not a threat but an opportunity.

Finally, Pascal Corbe took the delegates through a journey on Communications. He explained what are communication and its areas, what the AU-IBAR wants to achieve. The communication here is not about visibility but managing the process, Modern communication is a two way information and management tools to constantly revise decisions.

Communication should also provide the information. In this regard, there is a Directory of AI stakeholders and their activities that will be published.

5 Recommendations and conclusion

At the end of all these presentations and much fuelled debates, in a friendly atmosphere, delegates agreed on the following recommendations:

- Close collaboration and coordination within the set-up of the RAHC and between international organizations is required in order to share knowledge and experience and avoid duplication and gaps in the efforts.
- A formal risk assessment based on OIE guidelines is required for each country as part of preparedness as a platform for a regional risk assessment.
- Rapid assessment is a very useful tool that enables countries in the region to identify their needs and gaps; therefore it is highly recommended.
- Consultation between SADC and regional airlines should be initiated to ensure timely delivery of specimens.
- SPINAP national coordinator should be a veterinarian and fully dedicated to that task.

The SPINAP Team will panel beat these recommendations and circulate them so that if there is something missing, it will be added.

Conclusion

In conclusion Dr Sam Muriuki thanked all delegates for their presence and mostly their active participation. This was the most attended workshop. The discussions have been very honest and this is the way to empower ourselves with the ability to clearly address the issues at hand. We look forward to feedback from countries and our partners.

Dr. Mokopasetso pronounced the vote of thanks on behalf of the the Director of the veterinary Service.

On behalf of the African Union and AU-IBAR, Dr Khalifa concluded the meeting, thanking Botswana for having accepted to host this inception workshop; country representative for the cooperation, international institutions for the support.

From there the workshop was closed.

6 Annex

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