



AFRICAN UNION/INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (AU/IBAR)

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR AVIAN
AND HUMAN INFLUENZA (SPINAP-AHI)

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COORDINATION
WORKSHOP**

SPINAP-AHI EAST AFRICAN REGION

**13th-15th August, 2008
Africana Hotel,**

Kampala



SPINAP-AHI E.A REGION TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
ATELIER TECHNIQUE REGIONAL DU SPINAP POUR LAFRIQUE DELI EST
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ACRONYMS

AI	Avian Influenza
AU-IBAR	African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAHWs	Community Animal Health Workers
CVL	Central Veterinary Laboratory
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AU Commission
DVS	Director of Veterinary Services
EC	European Community
EAC	East African Community
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GTZ	Germany Organization for Technical Cooperation
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
INAP	Integrated National Action Plan
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
NC	National Coordinator
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
PACE	Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics
PANVAC	Pan African Vaccine Centre
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PVS	Public Veterinary Service
RAHCs	Regional Animal Health Centers
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AU
SAHSP	Somali Animal Health Services Project
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPINAP-AHI	Support Program to the Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza
TADs	Trans-boundary Animal Diseases
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TFG	Transitional Federal Government of Somalia
USAID	United States Agency for International; Development

Summary Report of the workshop

1. Introduction

The African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) through SPINA-AHI organized and held a Regional Technical Workshop 13-15th August 2008 in Kampala, Uganda in close collaboration with the Regional Economic communities which brought technical experts and SPINAP National Coordinators together to discuss pertinent HPAI issues relevant to the successful implementation of the programme. The workshops is scheduled to coincide with the time of signing funding agreements with countries to ensure they have clear understanding on the best way to utilize the funds.

2. Opening ceremony

The workshop began with opening speeches under the chairmanship of Dr. Samuel Muriuki, the SPINAP Coordinator. The chairman welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves. The workshop agenda (annex 1) was adopted before start of the workshop proper.

Opening remarks were made by H.E. Engineer Hillary Onek, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Mr. Seruyange, Uganda EC Delegation, Representative and Dr. Ahmed El Sawalhy, The Ag. Director, AU-IBAR.

2.1 Official Opening by H.E. Mme Rhoda Tunisiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission

The official opening of the workshop was performed by H.E. Mme Rhoda Tunisiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission. The Commissioner informed the participants that Africa must get ready to deal with HPAI in a conclusive and sustainable manner to stem further spread and prevent the establishment of the virus on the continent. The African Union Commission, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal resources had taken serious steps to support member states to establish mechanisms for early detection and emergency response to HPAI outbreaks. H.E urged the participants to focus not only on HPAI but the management of other TADs as well. The Commissioner acknowledged the EC through their representative in Uganda for this show of friendship for Africa and confidence in the AUC and AU-IBAR. Thanks were also due to the ACP secretariat who are key players in the SPINAP program.

H.E The Commissioner emphasized that the three day workshop launched is intended to prepare countries in this region for the implementation of SPINAP. H.E urged the participants to stick to the approved actions and to familiarize with the contents and requirements of the financing contract so as to ensure accountability and compliance in the use of funds and wished successful deliberations.

2.2 Speech by H.E. Engineer Hillary Onek, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

The Hon. Minister stated that livestock husbandry in Uganda is a more viable entry point to poverty alleviation and has a high potential for the economic development of the country although the livestock sub-sector is still faced with a number of limiting factors, notably the presence of epidemic animal diseases and tsetse infestation in parts of the country. The Minister said although Uganda is currently free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, the disease is still a real threat. Hon. Minister expressed his highest appreciation of the good work AU-IBAR has done and continues to do in improving animal health and welfare in Africa.

2.3 Speech by Mr. Seruyange, Uganda EC Delegation Representative

The Uganda EC Delegation Representative, Mr. Seruyange, commissioner –Livestock and Agriculture in his opening speech welcomed the SPINAP workshop participants and assured on behalf of the EC for continuous support.

He also informed that besides support through the SPINAP project, Uganda has received USD 200, 000,000 from global support bank. He encouraged all member countries to look for additional support through AU/IBAR. He said the EC appreciates the goodwill done under PACE, leading to the creation of a structure that caters for TBDs.

2.4 Speech by Dr. Ahmed El Sawalhy, The Ag. Director,AU-IBAR

The Ag. Director of AU-IBAR stated that A U-IBAR carries out its activities in close coordination with the regional Economic Communities and is actively exploring mechanisms of working through the RECs in the execution of its mandate. Additionally, it mobilizes resources from different sources to support its activities. He said AU-IBAR is a strategic institution for the coordination of technical and development agenda on the African continent. Regional Economic Communities, Countries, technical organizations and donors alike should make use of its strategic mandate and political clout to harmonize investments in the livestock sector. Concerning SPINAP AU-IBAR has developed a demand led approach to the provision of financial and technical support through SPINAP. He emphasized that the speed with which the SPINAP team can process applications for funding depends a lot on inputs and feedback from the countries. He thanked the key development partner in the SPINAP program, the EC for the financial and technical support that it has extended to the ACP member states through AU-IBAR.

2.5 Adoption of Programme and introduction of participants

The SPINAP Coordinator conducted an introduction of participants and took the participants through the programme. The programme was proposed and adopted, followed by presentations.

2.6 Objectives of workshop and expected outputs

2.6.1 Objectives of workshop

The objectives of the workshop were outlined as follows:

The overall aim of the technical workshops is to improve regional coordination of INAPs¹ implementation by bringing the key actors together to share ideas and knowledge, and harmonize understanding and application of HPAI strategies at national and regional levels.

The specific objectives are:

- i. Generate common understanding and practical application of key HPAI prevention and control strategies on regional and national basis
- ii. To discuss areas of importance in the control and prevention of HPAI as well as the practical difficulties that may influence national preparedness and early detection.
- iii. Equip the national coordinators with theoretical and practical technical knowledge, lessons learned and best practice necessary to ensure smooth implementation of SPINAP project

¹ or emergency preparedness plans

- iv. Provide opportunities for improved cross-border sharing and coordination in the management of HPAI and other important trans-boundary diseases
- v. Provide opportunities to analyze available technical knowledge on the prevention and control of AI and identify critical gaps that need to be addressed at national and regional levels.

2.6.2 Workshop Themes and Topics

1. Safe Poultry Production and Policies
2. HPAI epidemiology and surveillance in poultry, wild life and human populations, early detection etc
3. Laboratory capacity building and diagnosis
4. Emergency preparedness and response
5. HPAI communication
6. HPAI Training and human capacity development

2.6.3 Introductions of participants and expectations

Self introduction of Workshop participants took place prior to plenary presentations and deliberations

3. Highlights from workshop plenary presentations and deliberations Dr. Nesru Hussein

3.1 Progress of SPINAP-AHI in the Eastern Africa region

The overall objective of SPINAP is to reduce socio-economic impact of Avian Influenza (AI) and the potential loss of Human Lives by assisting African ACP countries to prepare for its prevention and control. The project purpose is to strengthen national capacity to prevent and control AI outbreaks. The program provides technical and financial support to enable eligible countries to establish mechanisms for emergency preparedness.

Country funding requests are assessed. Feedback, reports and results are repeatedly communicated to countries for action. Four countries proposals are signed so far (Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania & Seychelles), and one proposal is in signing process (Kenya). Four other countries are assisted finalize their funding proposals (Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros & Djibouti) right after the Technical workshop. The first team building and planning session of SPINAP project was held in Nairobi (5 – 8 May, 2008) whereby workplan for 2008/9 was developed, logframe reviewed. The 14 Eastern African countries are slated to receive \$ 8,450,000 for use within a max 18 months. The Constraints of the project in Eastern African Region was stated as follows:

- Response from certain countries is quite difficult. Comments done on fund requests undone for long in spite of continuous follow-up.
- Communication problems...Tel, e-mail, fax...
- Weakness of certain countries to develop their financing request.
- Slow contract development process:
 - Delayed response by countries
 - Tabulations stage – time sheets, payment proposals

Way forward

- Follow up of MoU & contracts signing
- Develop MoU & contracts for countries as proposals become ready

- Provide technical assistance to countries with incomplete proposals
- Provide Administrative & management back-up related to the project to countries that have received grants, including training & audits
- Participate in regional meetings & forums
- Participate in financial & mangt training to be organized by the PSU

Conclusions and recommendations

- All mechanisms to finalize application assessments, sign agreements and start disbursement of funds have been put in place and the release of funds commenced as of August 1st 2008.
- Speed of processing the grant is dictated by inputs at the country level. Accordingly countries are expected to exert maximum efforts towards expediting revision of their documents according to comments given by the PCU.
- Project implementation should begin soon after fund is forwarded to countries to meet the time table set in countries documents

3.2 Why integrated approach in the fight against HPAI: an exposie to the Global HPAI Strategies Dr. William Amanfu

Dr. Amanfu stated that the current outbreak of HPAI in the world resulted in unprecedented crisis with a complex epidemiology and socioeconomic impacts. It inflicts a major public health risk. The overall objective of FAO-OIE Global strategy for the Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is “to safeguard animal health and livelihoods from the threat of HPAI and mitigate the risk of a human pandemic through prevention and control of HPAI in the poultry sector at three interconnected levels: global, regional and national”. Seventeen rapid response missions from FAO/OIE assisted 11 countries in the fight against HPAI.

Dr. William said that laboratory results from Nigeria and the FAO/OIE reference laboratory in Italy show that the newly discovered virus strain recently in Nigeria is genetically different from the strains that circulated in Nigeria during earlier outbreaks in 2006 and 2007. (2 positive samples collected at LBM at Gombe and Kebbi: Confirmed outbreak of HPAI in Kano/ Katsina states. He further expounded that uncertainty about virus spread and transmission is a major challenge for control campaigns. Increased surveillance is key to monitor the situation and keep track of virus spread. He commended the rapid report of new H5N1 virus detection by the Nigerian authorities. Dr. Amanfu further described about the spread of HPAI in Egypt. Disease has been confirmed in 22 out of the 27 Governorates. The disease is endemic and outbreaks are detected from north to south of the country in the areas adjacent to the Nile river. There exist good cooperation with NAMRU 3 in HPAI diagnostics. Projects in Egypt are funded principally by: USAID/WB/Germany/Sweden/FAO/Government of Egypt and others.

Regional Animal Health Centres are created on a joint initiative of the FAO, AU-IBAR and OIE. The centres will help coordinate and harmonize actions taken to control HPAI and other TADs. Dr. Amanfu stressed on the need for a global, holistic approach taking into account interfaces between human, animal and wildlife health domains. Continued collaboration between Vets/Medics/Social Scientists/Communications experts; etc. is highly commendable and must be sustained.

3.3 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Entry Points: The Risk Factors for Introduction into Eastern Africa Dr. Yongolo Mmeta

Yongolo recounted the occurrence of H2N2 (1957); H3N2 (1968); Mwanza Influenza outbreaks in Rufiji Delta 1992. He said Introduction of HPAI into Eastern Africa (if at all) will be a challenge to pin the first

index event and would inflict heavy investment in controlling after confirmation of HPAI. Wetlands that support migratory birds, weak diseases prevention and control, trade of poultry and poultry products, presence and interaction of human, domestic chickens, ducks, pigeons and wild birds and environment are regarded as entry points/Risk Factors. Dr. Mmeta sarcastically inquires “If migratory birds were involved in the introduction of H5N1, what stopped introduction in other Eastern Africa countries?” He said occurrence of outbreaks concedes with late detection and reporting. It is difficult to determine when virus was introduced and factors associated with its initial introduction. He said the role of wild birds is not well documented. Trade is a major risk factor for introduction in Eastern Africa. The role of other factors needs further studies.

3.4 Poultry production systems and biosecurity in Eastern Africa - lessons learned and steps to stem HPAI risk *Uswege M. Minga*

Simplified FAO Classification of poultry production systems

	Sector 1	Sector 2	Sector 3	Sector 4
Systems	Industrial integrated -Very large scale, GPS, PS, Commerc	Commercial, Large scale GPS, PS, Commerc	Commercial (small scale)	Family poultry /Scavenging/village/indigenous/rural/Backyard
Level of biosecurity	High	Middle to high	Weak to minimal	Minimal
Poultry and product marketing	Commercial	Usually commercial	Birds usually sold in live bird markets	Poultry and products primarily consumed locally
Breed of poultry	Commercial/Hybrid/Pure Lines/'Synthetic' breeds			Indigenous/Native/Local breeds

Minga said Small scale poultry production systems (sectors 3 and 4): most common, most needy, most vulnerable (pro-poor approach) vs sector 1 and 2. Majority of commercial poultry in sector 3.

Long term Preparedness against HPAI (and other infectious diseases): is possible (A common understanding in region, similar and effective steps and levels of implementation: Needed): **ITS**

A lot of room for improvement in production practices and biosecurity levels: Feasible to improve

Empowerment of the farmer to optimise safe poultry production, raise income, alleviate poverty and improve quality of life. Creation of awareness among all stakeholders on biosecurity and biosafety (farmer, trader, consumer): possible

3.5 Major issues and challenges of influenza pandemic preparedness in developing countries
Dr. Dodji Tagodoe

Regarding the potential impact of next influenza pandemic, Dodji said there would be a projection estimated 62 million deaths in a future pandemic and concluded that 96% would occur in developing countries. Although the production capacity is limited, vaccines for subtype H5N1 viruses are currently being developed. Anti-viral agents are particularly useful in the early stages of a pandemic when there is a shortage of vaccines. WHO has global and regional stockpiles of antiviral agents, which are limited and specifically used for early response and containment. Dr. Dodji said To minimize the impact of an influenza pandemic, good preparedness plans need to be developed taking into consideration numerous competing priorities such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases. In his concluding remarks, Tagodoe said when an influenza pandemic emerges, all countries worldwide will inevitably be affected. Those well prepared will certainly cope better. Countries with limited or no antiviral stockpiles and other resources may not be able to cope with the pandemic. Large numbers of people may attempt to cross international borders to obtain better medical care, including antiviral treatment, or to escape a chaotic situation.

3.6 The challenges and lessons learned in HPAI control and the influence of production systems in EGYPT Prof. Hassan Aidaros

Prof. Hassan said after the occurrence of the disease in Egypt in 2006, within few days the disease spread to 19 governorates out of 27. Rapid decrees were issued to ban the raising of poultry on rooftops in cities, closure of live bird markets, closure of the zoo, culling all birds within 3 km around the index outbreaks, and prohibit transmission of birds between governorates. The GOE decided to allow the importation of AI vaccines (without registration) for a certain time due to Lack of contingency stockpile of AI vaccines., no AI vaccines were registered in Egypt at that time.and relatively long period required for registration of vaccines. Compensation was adopted for infected and registered farms, which was 166% from the market price opening the way for many intentional infections.Then the government stopped the compensation. The owners stop notification of the diseased birds and sale it live in the market. There was passive and targeted surveillance The current situation is that there are until now 1084 reported outbreaks to the OIE and the disease is considered endemic and further reporting will be on six monthly basis. Currently rapid Antigen Detection Test as a screening test instead of randomized active surveillance by RT PCR .The lessons learned are: before and at the beginning of the outbreaks; there was no preparedness plan for the containment and dealing with the HPAI H5N1 outbreaks if happened; either or both desktop or field simulation exercises should be adopted to test the preparedness plans, to enable all the stakeholders specially the non-technical group, to understand their duties and responsibilities, as well as the execution machinery; The country should have short, medium and long term plans for control of HPAI H5N1, all the relevant stakeholders should share in the formulation of the plans; efficient surveillance program for disease detection had to be in place to enable the country to contain the index outbreak(s) of introduction before the entrenchment; no source of infection was identified in any reported outbreak, this means that the epidemiological investigation was not appropriately addressed so, outbreak investigation formats should be prepared with SOPs to trace back and forward all the sources of infection.

3.7 Update on FAO HPAI activities in Eastern Africa *Joseph Litamoi*

Global Framework for Transboundary Animal diseases (GF-TADs) prepared in collaboration with the OIE starting 2002.The central focus is control of transboundary animal disease at source, preparation of global programme for HPAI Prevention and Control. The FAO Director General established in 2004 the emergency centre for the control of transboundary animal diseases (ECTAD). The thrust of this initiative is to bring the technical and operational capabilities of FAO together so as to effectively control HPAI and other TADs. Decentralized Units will be attached to the RAHCs and at country level in specific instances to carry out the mandate established by the DG of FAO. Eastern African Region has different Epidemiologic scenario in comparison to other regional blocks in Africa – only Sudan Infected. FAO in Eastern Africa involves in

strengthening of early warning and response systems in countries in the region, improvements in surveillance and laboratory diagnostic capabilities through networks, work with other partners (AU-IBAR & OIE) to support the Regional Animal Health Center based in Nairobi-Kenya, contributing to the development of regional support strategies on socio-economics and safe poultry production analysis for FAO-HPAI managed projects in Eastern Africa, assessment of national regulations for animal movement control and biosecurity measures across borders and carry out Eastern Africa regional projects in partnership with other players (e.g. Governments, AU-IBAR, ILRI, EAC, WHO, UNICEF, OCHA ; etc.

There will be assessment of potential regional laboratories for HPAI diagnosis and launching of new projects looking beyond HPAI – other TADs.

3.8 The importance of Regional Networks for HPAI and other TBDs surveillance Annie Lewa

Lewa said the final output of a surveillance system is a report or some communication to the decision makers (Policy makers, donors etc). At national level- the sectors (livestock, public health, communication) do not integrate and usually go divergent ways incase of disease outbreaks (nature of HPAI, RVF report to OIE). In 2008, so far, only Tanzania has reported to SADAC, Eritrea (Jan-March). Quality and timely information on diseases pattern is mandatory. Capacity in collecting and analysis. Animal health data and sharing of the generated information are of paramount importance. Many African countries report to OIE but not to AU/IBAR. Disease reporting systems are clearly defined but mechanisms to ensure adherence are weak.

3.9 Update on HPAI activities of the EAC Dr. Timothy Wesonga

The Regional EAC TADs committees are meant to create a platform for improved Coordination regarding TADs. The objective of the EAC draft strategy is to safeguard human and animal health, livelihoods of farming communities from outbreaks of through building capacities in the EAC through effective detection and response capacities. The strategic approaches focus on regional and national interventions to enhance cooperation, collaboration and networking among EAC Partner States. The EAC collaborates with AU-IBAR, EU, US, FAO-RAHC, GTZ, Rockefeller foundation, AfDB, CAHNET, Alive, ISS –*Mifugo* Project, WHO amongst others.

3.10 Update on USAID HPAI activities in Eastern Africa Dr. S. Wakhusama

Wakhusama said an influenza pandemic is a rare but recurring event. The overall US International AI strategy objectives are: Contain H5N1 outbreaks in animals and prevent infections in humans and prepare for a human influenza pandemic, the key principles being follow technical recommendations of WHO, FAO,OIE in line with GF-TADs and also use existing platforms (where available), including at regional and community level; work closely with other partners/donors.

3.11 Capacity building for AI surveillance in wild birds in Eastern Africa: Addressing existing gaps in order to promote a strategic, well coordinated approach Dr. Gakuya Francis

Dr. Francis said that the goal of AI surveillance in wild birds is to have an early detection and warning system. He said it is likely that H5N1 underwent further antigenic drift and shift allowing infection in additional species of birds, mammals and humans. Regarding data management, Gakuya said there are no centralized database on information about AI in wildlife in most countries. He further stated that a centralized body is required to co-ordinate surveillance activities. In some countries it is not known who coordinates these activities. Is it wildlife management authority, ornithological department, department of vet services (livestock), NGO's etc.

4. Plenary discussion on presentations and prominent issues

- **SPINAP Proposals and financial matters:**

- When developing a proposal, it is important to look and fill in the financial agreement form at the back of the contract document. This gives space for filling in bank account details etc. Besides, for all countries, before implementation, there is training for administration and financial procedures. Countries are also given tool kits on how to run issues in case of an outbreak.
- Each document states very clearly responsibilities for IBAR and individual countries.
- Some countries such as Ethiopia, have not yet submitted their account numbers to AU/IBAR. The countries reported that in order for them to be allowed to open accounts, the documents should be signed by the two parties-the country and AU/IBAR.
- There will be training on Microsoft project software on procedures and financial matters for all National and SPINAP coordinators as well as for accountants who work on countries SPINAP programmes.

- **Rwanda missing out:** We all recognize how important HPAI has become. In previous meetings, Rwanda has not been represented. In this current meeting, they are also not represented, although they confirmed their attendance. A question was forwarded as to how to incorporate them in HPAI related and other activities. It was suggested that a team from SPINAP should assist the country finalize the country funding proposal and at the same time contact higher pertinent officials for better attention to the project.

- **Joint, prompt and transparent disease reporting:**

- WHO is in full support of joint disease surveillance and due to the importance of HPAI, zero reporting should be included in disease surveillance.
- The Veterinarians and human medicine personnel should form a partnership to coordinate response to HPAI. In Nairobi, WHO and FAO are already developing joint training programs. In Ethiopia, a joint initiative between the Human and the livestock sectors to respond to HPAI was used in 2007 to respond to other emerging and re-emerging diseases such as RVF.
- Nigeria has been very transparent in reporting cases of HPAI. A leaf should be borrowed from Nigeria, which has been very transparent in reporting cases. Nigeria has also been very prompt in picking new cases (sometimes in 4 hours after exposure).
- In Egypt, the partnership of the two spheres (human and veterinary) is magnificent. A lot can be learnt from the Egypt situation.
- **Capacities for surveillance including wildlife:**
 - The capacities for wildlife health issues are currently very low. They should be developed.
 - In surveillance systems and in the value chain, traceability has been a big issue (from producer to consumer). Unless the source of infection has been identified, then one cannot predict an outbreak. In Sudan, introduction has been linked to migratory birds in one village while in another to poultry and poultry products.
- **Use of community networks to control disease:**
 - There is real need for behavior change and education to communities and there is need for countries to invest in public awareness networks, targeting all stakeholders involved in poultry production chain.
 - Awareness creation and communication in sectors 3 and 4 will be mandatory.
 - In sectors three and four, in the meantime, we need a lot of communication. There is no proper linkage between communication sector and technical people. The communication staff should be given clear messages by the technical people to take to the community. In the long term, we require review of relevant policies and legislation.

- **Registration of farms in sectors 3 and 4:** In Sectors 3 and 4, we lack registration for the farms. Countries should think of registering these farms. A good law will be an incentive to registration of farms. A leaf could be borrowed from Egypt.
- **Policy and legal changes for sectors 3 and 4:**
 - In most African countries, Birds/chicken are not adequately described as livestock in the disease control act. In the same context, to what extent are the recommendations made for sectors 3 and 4 going to have on legal, policy and other changes?
 - Birds miss out from policy and legal frameworks in most African countries since they are not recognized by law as livestock. There is therefore no legal framework in relation to their transportation for example.
 - Policy makers should look into these sectors. Sector 4 especially plays a big role socio-culturally.
 - In Kenya, the law review regarding poultry status has been completed. The document is being sent to the parliament for finalization but in case of a possible HPAI outbreak, it will be upgraded to law without going to parliament.

- **Whether SPINAP is doing enough**

SPINAP addresses INAPs only. This is a weakness. In future, SPINAP should put in place mechanisms to devise and support regional contingency plans. Regarding this issue, the Director of AU/IBAR expounded the green light for getting funds towards targeting the issue. Regional plans will commence the moment AU/IBAR collects the funds.

- **Use of Rapid Test Kits for screening:** Screening with R.T.Ks is recommended by FAO. R.T.Ks have improved tremendously. They used to have one major weakness, giving false negatives. But currently, they give false positives. The kit should be used for randomized surveillance but not for screening.
- **Vaccination:**
 - In Egypt, after the initial HPAI outbreaks, vaccines were allowed into the country without proper control. This is no longer the case. Currently, all vaccines coming in are registered six months earlier. Egypt has also since

developed a laboratory for ascertaining quality control. It is also producing vaccines for HPAI.

- Vaccinations should not be used as a continuous and main tool to control the disease. It should just be a support to other actions used in HPAI control.
- **Field Simulation exercise:** Sudan and other countries should do simulation exercises. A question was also forwarded whether AU/IBAR could assist in this.
- **Compensation:** There is need for fair compensation, and this should be based on market prices.
- **Emergency fund:** There is need for countries to have emergency funds in case of disease outbreaks.
- **Sustainable surveillance including disease reporting:**
 - Issues of data is becoming very important in regional coordination. Enough relevant information about each country is mandatory.
 - Surveillance should continue past project period. It was of unanimous impression that in regard to disease reporting, AU/IBAR should develop an advocacy program to lobby for disease reports from countries. AU/IBAR should make use of the professional communication packages to integrate new aspects of disease control and reporting.
 - The NGOs, private sector, wild life sector and any other veterinary service deliverers should channel their disease reports to the DVS/CVO who should then forward the same to AU/IBAR.
 - Disease reporting is an international concern and it needs financial resources. It was advised that FAO, AU/IBAR and OIE streamline this important activity
 - We need the Chief Veterinary Officers to assign a particular office (not an individual) to disease reporting.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

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Considering that most countries in the region are free from HPAI outbreaks;

bearing in mind that it may be just a matter of time before HPAI outbreaks occur in these; considering that there is serious need for effective emergency preparedness and response plans as opposed to preparedness plans on paper, and further considering the urgent need for efficient management of HPAI and other Trans-boundary diseases at both national and regional levels; and considering that there is the need for effective coordination and collaboration among various actors in the implementation of HPAI programs and projects, the SPINAP Technical Meeting for eastern Africa held at the Africana Hotel in Kampala Uganda recommends the following:

1. Integrated National Action Plans against Avian and Human Influenza be tested through the use of Simulation Exercises to determine their completeness and readiness in case of an outbreak;
2. Regional integrated preparedness plans be put in place at the Regional Economic Community (REC) level and be backed by simulation exercises to test and authenticate their readiness;
3. AU-IBAR should consider expanding the scope of the SPINAP-AHI program to include a regional coordination mechanism on HPAI given that in its current form the program lacks a regional perspective;
4. AU/IBAR in accordance with its mandate, takes up the role of coordinating funding and interventions on avian influenza and other TBDs in close cooperation with the RECs and other key actors (organizations and programs) at the regional level, and develops mechanisms with RECs and national authorities for sustainability of projects funded through such initiatives;
5. In view of the importance of accurate and rapid diagnosis of HPAI during outbreaks, National and Regional laboratory networks should be strengthened, with at least 2 BSL3 veterinary and human health laboratories established / strengthened in the region to H5 antigen detection;
6. In view of the increasing need for transparency in disease reporting and cross-border information sharing, AU-IBAR should strengthen advocacy for disease reporting and provide harmonized formats to enhance compliance. On their part, regional countries were challenged to give due priority to disease reporting to AU-IBAR as it is the continental animal health watchdog for Africa;

7. In view of the commonality of the Zoonoses challenge between veterinary and public health sectors, the “one world, one health” integrated approach to their (zoonoses) management should be strongly promoted and applied at all levels within the region;
8. Considering the inter-connectedness of the regional states and the trans-boundary character of HPAI, policy and legal frameworks and strategies on HPAI should be harmonized;
9. In view of the important role played by wildlife in the epidemiology of animal diseases and zoonoses, technical capacity for wildlife disease surveillance should be developed by all countries, and the coordination/collaboration between wildlife and veterinary services departments be strengthened for better efficiency in disease surveillance, reporting and management in the region, in partnership with all relevant actors;
10. That information and communication are integral aspects of emergency, development and technology transfer programs and especially new and emerging threats such as HPAI. The meeting therefore recommends the strengthening of awareness and behavior change communication interventions, as well as the use of participatory approaches to mobilize and sustain practices towards behavior change in poultry husbandry as a tool to combat HPAI and other diseases

6. LESSONS LEARNED

1. From what was observed, levels of preparedness for prevention of Avian Influenza differ from country to country. Most of the African countries were at the same level of preparedness before the advent of HPAI outbreaks in the continent. Among those, some (Egypt and Nigeria) have become endemic. This signifies that African countries should do a lot more regarding preparedness. A high level of preparedness can be borrowed from Ghana.
2. African countries need to review disease control Act to recognize the importance of poultry in domestic stocks. In this regard, Kenya has progressed much, which is on completion of formulating the Act; and hence other countries can learn from it.
3. Clear-cut legal ground does not seem to exist to resolve the introduction of animal diseases across borders. There should be common Policy to facilitate harmonization of TADs prevention/control and livestock movement control across borders. There was a common understanding that AU-IBAR and the EAC to initiate signed communiqué for effective TADs control across borders and inter-governmental coordination
4. Obviously the rate of disease reporting from African countries is currently very low. It was of unanimous impression that AU/IBAR should develop an advocacy program to lobby for disease

reports from countries. AU/IBAR should make use of the professional communication packages to integrate new aspects of disease control and reporting beyond project dependency

5. There is real need for behaviour change and education to communities and there is need for countries to invest in public awareness networks, targeting all stakeholders involved in poultry production chain. In the discussion it was agreed that awareness creation and communication in sectors 3 and 4 is mandatory. It was realized that there is no proper linkage between communication sector and technical people. The communication staff should be given clear messages by the technical people to take to the community. In the long term, we require review of relevant policies and legislation.
6. Countries are not properly budgeting for periodic surveillance of TADs. This also includes wildlife. It was realized that central wildlife surveillance coordination and data management body is necessary in most African countries. It was also learnt that the capacities for wildlife health issues are currently very low in Africa which needs attention.
7. In HPAI infected countries, compensation should be thought of very carefully to avoid deliberate infection of birds for financial gains. This was learnt from the experience of Egypt
8. INAPs for prevention/control of HPAI brought the noble idea of "one world one health". This approach should be extended to other zoonotic diseases as well. Regarding this joint endeavor, it was described that a lot can be learnt from Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia.
9. An idea of projects continuation was inculcated in the minds of workshop participants. On this regard, IGAD is shifting from project to continuous program approach.

7. Summary of closing remarks

A. The EC Delegation Representative, Uganda

Mr. Costas Tsilogiannis, Charge d'affairs, Delegation of the European Commission to Uganda, delivered a closing remark at the SPINAP Technical workshop. He said the core principle of the European Commission (EC) cooperation on avian and human influenza is to support the global efforts aiming at developing and implementing integrated national plans for avian influenza control and pandemic influenza preparedness. Mr. Costas congratulated those countries that have signed Memoranda of Understanding and Contract Agreements with the AU-IBAR in order to access the available funds and he encouraged those who have not to do so soon in order to benefit from this three years programme, whose implementation period expires in April 2010.

The EC Delegate further noted that the EC has also availed funding to the Avian and Human Influenza multi-donor facility (AHIF) administered by the World-Bank THAT HAS BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE June 2006. For Uganda, the Delegation of the EC has recommended the country to access US\$2.0 million from this facility to finance the gaps identified by the National Competent Authority in the implementation of the INAP. We do encourage those countries that require more funding for the same cause to access those funds too. He expressed his pleasure to

attend the closing ceremony. He said “feedback from the workshop indicates that it has largely achieved its objective of bringing together important players in the fight against the avian influenza, and this improves regional coordination, which in my opinion is a pre-requisite for a successful outcome in this endeavor”.

B. Vote of Thanks, by The Ag. Director of AU/IBAR

The Director expressed his pleasure to be with workshop participants at the closing event and thanked in a special way the Honourable Minister of Animal Industry for honouring the invitation to officiate at the closing ceremony. He also thanked the Government of Uganda for accepting to host this important workshop and I am also grateful to the Acting Head of Delegation of the EC in Uganda for attending this closing ceremony. The Director further stated that contracts for proposals from Uganda, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia have already been signed and these countries are ready to implement the programme. The Technical Workshop is meant to bring all countries to the same level and sensitize stakeholders on HPAI preparedness. He said during the workshop important resolutions have been made that will assist countries to improve their preparedness. Eventually He wished everyone a safe journey home and invited the Honorable Minister to officially close the workshop.

C. Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry, Hon. Major Bright Rwamirama

He thanked the Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Ahmed Abdou Ali Elsalwaly for selecting Uganda to host the Regional Technical Workshop, the first of its kind in the Region. He said SPINAP has come timely because preparedness is key in averting the HPAI epidemic that would have disastrous consequences for the countries in the region if not addressed with efficiency and timeliness. On behalf of the Ministry and the Government of Uganda he expressed his appreciation to the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR) for coordinating the implementation of the SPINAP programme and the European Commission for the financial support. The State Minister particularly commended the European Commission for the continued support to the Livestock Sub sector in Uganda through the PACE and FITCA projects.

Annex 1: THE WORKSHOP AGENDA

AGENDA FOR SPINAP TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN AFRICA

13th - 15th August 2008, KAMPALA, Uganda

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

TIME	TOPICS	PRESENTER/ RESPONSIBLE
Day 1		
08:30– 09:30	SESSION 1: OPENING SESSION SESSION CHAIR: DR. S. MURIUKI	
09:30 – 10:30	1. Welcoming Remarks 2. Official Opening Address 3. H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace	Director, AU/IBAR Minister Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries DREA Commissioner
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	ADOPTION OF PROGRAM , INTRODUCTIONS OF PARTICIPANTS AND EXPECTATIONS AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES	Dr. S. Muriuki, PC

11.30 – 12.10	PROGRESS OF SPINAP-AHI IN THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION	Dr. N. Hussein, RC
12.15 – 13.00	WHY INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HPAI: AN EXPOSIE TO THE GLOBAL HPAI STRATEGIES	Dr. William Amanfu, RAHC Nairobi
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	ALL
Session 2 - Safe Poultry Production Husbandry and Policies: Chair – William Amanfu		
14.00 – 14.45	HPAI Entry Points – THE RISK FACTORS FOR HPAI INTRODUCTION INTO EASTERN AFRICA	Dr. Mmeta Yongolo
14.45 – 15.30	POULTRY PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND BISOSECURITY IN EASTERN AFRICA – LESSONS FROM KENYA AND THE STEPS TO STEM HPAI RISK	Prof. P.N. Nyaga / Minga
15.30 – 16.15	THE CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN HPAI CONTROL AND THE INFLUENCE OF PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN EGYPT	Pr. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros
16.15-16.45	PLENARY DISCUSSION OF PRESENTAION	ALL
16.45- 17.00	HEALTH & REFRESHMENTS BREAK	ALL
17.00-17.15	UPDATE ON FAO HPAI ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN AFRICA	Dr. Joseph Litamoi
17.15-17.30	UPDATE ON HPAI ACTIVITIES OF THE EAC	Mr. Timothy Wesonga
17.30-17.45	UPDATE ON USAID HPAI ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN AFRICA	Dr. Samuel Wakhusama
17.45 – 18.45	<p>Group Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can poultry producers, especially in sector 3&4 be encouraged to improve Bio-security and Husbandry Practices as a strategy against HPAI 2. How to Improve coordination between various interventions for maximum impact 	Facilitator & PC
DAY 2: session 3 - HPAI Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Emergency Preparedness: CHAIR: DVS UGANDA		
08.30 – 09.00	Recap of Day 1	Dr. Nantima, NPC Uganda
09.00 – 09.45	THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR HPAI AND OTHER TBDS SURVEILLANCE	Dr. A. Lewa
9.45 – 10.05 10.05-10.30	Plenary discussion on earlier presentations Capacity building for AI surveillance in wild birds in Eastern Africa: Addressing existing gaps in order to promote a strategic, well coordinated approach	Dr. Francis Gakuya KWS
10.30-10.45	HEALTH AND TEA BREAK	ALL
10.45-12.15	<p>Group Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can poultry producers, especially in sector 3& 	Prof. U. Minga

	<p>4 be encouraged to improve Bio-security and Husbandry Practices as a strategy against HPAI</p> <p>2. How to improve collaboration between SPINAP & other interventions on HPAI for maximum impact</p> <p>3. HPAI and 2005 IHR. Evaluation of Events and Communication under 2005 IHR (Exercise on AHI)</p>	
12.15-12.45	PARTICIPATORY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN EAST AFRICA	Dr. C. Jost-ILIRI
12.45-14.00	LUNCH BREAK	ALL
	SESSION 4: CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION AND DIAGNOSTIC: CHAIR –DVS UGANDA	
14.00-14.45	USE OF SIMULATION EXERCISES AS TOOLS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AGAINST HPAI – The practice, design and execution of SEs: Experience from SEA	Mr. Titus Wanjala – OCHA UN
14.45-15.30	CROSS BORDER COORDINATION OF HPAI PREVENTION AND CONTROL INTERVENTIONS – CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICE	Dr. N. Nantima
15.30-16.00	PLENARY DISCUSSION OF CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION AND PORT CONTROL	What are the practical possibilities? - EAC, IGAD, IBAR, RAHC
16.00-16.30	HEALTH BREAK AND REFRESHMENTS	
16.30-17.00	HPAI DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY AND COLLABORATION IN EASTERN AFRICA: - FACILITIES AVAILABLE, REFERRAL PROCEDURES, ETC AND CAPACITY GAPS	J. Litamoi
17.00-17.30	GLOBAL HPAI DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES, TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY	Invited Guest - FAO Dr. Adama Diallo
DAY 3: SESSION 4: HPAI Emergency response AND Communication		
SESSION CHAIR: PH/communication representative from Uganda		
08.30 – 08.45	Recap of Day 2	NPC – Sudan
8.45 – 9.30	<p>Group Discussions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate Capacity Building Needs in HPAI 2. Epidemiology and Diagnosis 3. Systems/networks sufficient 	Dr. Sam Wakhusama/Dr. Litamoi/Peter
9.30-10.00	PRESENTATION OF GROUP DISCUSSION RESULTS	
10.00-10.30	HEALTH BREAK AND REFRESHMENTS	ALL
10.30-11.30	FROM HPAI PREPAREDNESS TO OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT - THE INGREDIENTS ON AN EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE	Dr. J. Awuni, Ghana

10.30-11.30	HPAI PREPAREDNESS TO OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT - EXPERIENCE FROM GHANA	Dr. Joseph Awuni, Ghana
11.00-12.00	HPAI OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR APPLICATION IN HUMAN POPULATIONS	WHO/PH REP
12.00 – 12.45	HPAI OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR APPLICATION IN POULTRY POPULATIONS	MS/ILRI
12.45-14.00	LUNCH BREAK	ALL
14.00-15.00	HPAI COMMUNICATION: WHAT AND HOW TO COMMUNICATE AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE EPIDEMIC (i.e. pre, during and after the epidemic).	AED – USAID
15.00-16.00	PLENARY BRAINSTORM ON HPAI RISK COMMUNICATION	AED - Facilitator
16.00-17.00	CLOSING CEREMONY RECOMMENDATIONS REMARKS VOTE OF THANKS OFFICIAL CLOSING ADDRESS	NPC Kenya EC DELEGATION DIRECTOR – AU/IBAR HON. MINISTER OF STATE ANIMAL INDUSTRY
	HEALTH BREAK AND REFRESHMENT	

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Annex 3: SPEECH

- a. OPENING CEREMONY
1. SPEECH BY: H.E. MME RHODA TUNIISIIME
COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE
OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION,

AT THE OPENING OF THE SPINAP-AHI TECHNICAL
WORKSHOP IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

Your Excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture, and Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda,

- The EC country representative for Uganda
- Invited guests from partner organizations
- National SPINAP coordinators and Public Health AI focal points
- SPINAP staff
- Ag. AU-IBAR director
- Other distinguished guests and participants
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning as we preside over the opening ceremony of the Support Program to Integrated National Action Plans' on Avian and Human Influenza (SPINAP-AHI) regional technical workshop for Eastern Africa

The SPINAP-AHI is designed to support your country's own efforts to fight the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Therefore, SPINAP is your program.

As you are aware, the global threat of Avian & Pandemic Influenza has continued to cause concern to all worldwide. Since the beginning of the current wave of HPAI outbreaks, over 61 countries have experienced outbreaks. Millions of birds have been culled, livelihoods destroyed and human lives lost in the process.

Africa has not been spared these impacts. In deed 11 of our countries have experienced outbreaks, two on a repeated basis pointing to the potential of viral establishment in the poultry populations. As we speak here today, Egypt and Nigeria are experiencing a new wave of AI outbreaks. The Nigeria outbreak is caused by a new strain of the H5N1 virus, presenting an even greater threat.

HPAI outbreaks in Africa have so far claimed 23 human lives out of 52 infections representing a case mortality rate of 44.2% (below the global average of 61%). While the number of people infected appears small, the case mortality rate is very high. In terms of economic costs, millions of poultry have been killed and or culled as a result of HPAI outbreaks in Africa.

Africa must therefore get ready to deal with HPAI in a conclusive and sustainable manner to stem further spread and prevent the establishment of the virus on the continent. The African Union Commission, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal resources had taken serious steps to support member states to establish mechanisms for early detection and emergency response to HPAI outbreaks.

Following the initial outbreaks in 2006, we obtained funds from the AfDB to assist 13 infected and at risk countries for emergency response. Some of the beneficiaries of these funds, which supported both public health and veterinary interventions are represented at this meeting.

I wish to thank the AfDB for this magnanimous gesture.

This meeting is organized by the SPINAP program which is funded by the EC over a 3 year period. Out of the total 22.59 Million Euro available for SPINAP-AHI, the EC has given 95% while 5% has been contributed by AU-IBAR. Eligible Africa ACP countries will receive 85% of these funds for the implementation of emergency preparedness and response plans in line with their Integrated National Action Plans (INAPs). This is a huge investment from the AUC and member states are encouraged to return the gesture by allocating more funds to support the implementation of their INAPs.

I wish to thank the EC through their representative in Uganda for this show of friendship for Africa and confidence in the AUC and AU-IBAR. My thanks also go to the ACP secretariat who are key players in the SPINAP program.

We will reciprocate by ensuring good use of the funds.

We are also negotiating additional support from other donors in collaboration with other institutional partners. Additionally, I recognize that many development partners have lent direct support to AUC member states in support of efforts to combat the HPAI and develop their animal resources. For these efforts, I would like to make thank them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The three day workshop we are launching today is intended to prepare countries in this region for the implementation of SPINAP.

Through SPINAP countries are identifying and implementing priority actions on HPAI emergency preparedness and response. Co-ordination of these actions through AU-IBAR is an opportunity to harmonize preparedness at regional level and address cross cutting trans-boundary issues. In a region that is so intrinsically connected, HPAI can only be controlled if all countries work towards this agenda. Any country that lags in its efforts could become the weak link that negates the consolidated efforts of the rest of the world. We acknowledge the variability of capacities to respond to HPAI among countries due to their cultural, economic and political differences, but we must stand together and move forward as one, in our commitment and resolve to fight this virus. We can collectively achieve this by setting common goals and working towards realizing them with sincerity and transparency.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SPINAP funding contracts have already been signed with 1 country in the region (Uganda) and 4 (Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles and Ethiopia) others have received their finalized documents for signatures. Additionally, the DRC, Congo Brazaville, Eritrea and Sudan have only minor adjustments to make before their contracts can be concluded. Of the remaining 5 countries, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti and Rwanda have major revisions to do while Somalia has to develop a contingency/emergency preparedness plan before their application can be processed.

As you can see from this process, the speed of processing the grant is dictated by inputs at the country level.

I therefore congratulate those who have passed the test and encourage those who still have some work to do to expedite so that activities can begin.

As you enter into the implementation phase, I urge you to stick to the approved actions and to familiarize yourselves with the contents and requirements of the financing contract so as to ensure accountability and compliance in the use of funds.

The terms of the contract will be enforced without exception, so if you are in doubt at any stage, seek clarification from the SPINAP technical and management support team.

As you discuss the various technical aspects of HPAI prevention and control in preparation for the implementation of your SPINAP supported proposals, I am confident of the participants' professionalism and commitment to the process. The issues on the agenda are highly relevant to the management of HPAI across the continent.

I challenge you to discuss and resolve them without wavering.

I wish you success in your deliberations.

I declare the workshop officially open.

Thank you.

2. SPEECH BY UGANDA'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES DURING THE EAST AFRICAN TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLANS 13TH - 15TH AUGUST 2008 HOTEL AFRICANA, KAMPALA, UGANDA

**The Commissioner for Rural Development
African Union**

The Head of Delegation, European Union, Uganda

The Director AU-IBAR,

The Director Animal Resources

The Commissioner Livestock Health and Entomology

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the government of Uganda, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and on my own behalf, it gives me much pleasure to address this Regional Technical Workshop of the Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans against avian and human influenza (SPINAP). I would like to particularly thank the Director of the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR), Dr. Ahmed Abdou Ali Elsawalhy for selecting Uganda to host the first Regional Technical Workshop.

Distinguished Participants

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of my country to thank in a special way AU-IBAR for executing the implementation of the SPINAP programme and the European Commission for the financial support.

As you may already be aware, Uganda like many other nations in Africa is a developing country whose economy still largely depends on agriculture. About 80% of the population is employed in the agricultural sector which contributes 34% of the GDP. Livestock currently contributes 9% of the GDP and 15 % of the Agricultural GDP. More than 60% of the rural households derive their livelihood on livestock related activities.

Recent studies in Uganda have shown that livestock husbandry is a more viable entry point to poverty alleviation and has a high potential for the economic development of the country.

However, despite this promising picture, the livestock sub-sector is still faced with a number of limiting factors. Notable among these, is the presence of epidemic animal diseases and tsetse infestation in parts of the country.

The major animal diseases causing a threat to the livestock sub sector in the country include Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP), Peste de petit Ruminantium (PPR), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), New Castle Disease, East Coast Fever among others. The country has been declared free from Rinderpest infection by the OIE. The ministry is also tasked with the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Distinguished Participants

Although Uganda is currently free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, the disease is still a real threat. This is because the country is neighboring countries that have been affected by this disease, has a large population of free range poultry, movement of poultry and poultry products is not properly regulated and the location of major routes for the wild migratory birds within the borders of the country. All these factors coupled with the civil and humanitarian situation in some parts of Northern Uganda, low public awareness and limited human and financial resources in public and private services puts Uganda at a very high risk for avian influenza.

I am grateful that the SPINAP programme has come timely to address some of these challenges. As you may be aware, Uganda has already started implementing the SPINAP programme. The Contract Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding have already been signed by the government of Uganda and AU-IBAR and structures for the implementation of this programme are already in place.

Distinguished Participants

Allow me to register my countries highest appreciation of the good work AU-IBAR has done and continues to do in improving animal health and welfare in Africa.

As I end, I would like to pledge Uganda's commitment and support to AU-IBAR in her noble regional cause to improve animal health and welfare and to reiterate that it is only through commitment and concerted effort by all member states that the continent can hope to achieve the objective of controlling and eradicating transboundary animal diseases.

In this connection, I wish to assure you that the government regards the outputs of meetings like this one as important inputs for reviewing and formulating national policies and strategies. Therefore we bless this meeting.

I thank you and wish all of you fruitful deliberations.

Hon. Engineer Hillary Onek

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES, UGANDA.

**3. UGANDA EC DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVE (Mr. SERUYANGE)-OPENING
SPEECH**

The director, AU/IBAR,

The Commissioner (DREA)

The minister for Agriculture

The commissioner –Livestock and Agriculture

Ladies and gentlemen.

I welcome you all to the SPINAP workshop. I want to appreciate the fact that Uganda is among the few countries benefiting from SPINAP support, and on behalf of the EC, I would like to assure you of our continuous support.

Besides support through the SPINAP project, Uganda has also received USD 200, 000,000 from global support bank. I would wish to encourage all member countries to look for additional support through AU/IBAR.

The EC appreciates the goodwill done under PACE, leading to the creation of a structure that caters for TBDs.

Finally I wish to welcome all of you to the workshop and I wish you happy deliberations

4. SPEECH BY: DR. AHMED EL SAWAHLY
ACTING DIRECTOR, AU-IBAR
AT THE OPENING OF THE SPINAP-AHI TECHNICAL
WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN AFRICA IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

- Your excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture, and Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda,
- Your Excellency the commissioner for rural economy and agriculture of the AUC
- The EC country representative for Uganda
- Distinguished guests and participants
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning as we start the first in a series of regional technical workshops of the Support Program to Integrated National Action Plans' on Avian and Human Influenza (SPINAP-AHI)

Before inviting the Minister for Agriculture to make welcoming remarks and invite the Commissioner to open the workshop for us, I would like to make a few comments about AU-IBAR for the benefit of participants who may be interacting with us for the first time.

AU-IBAR is a specialized pan African technical office of the African Union, responsible for the livestock sector on the African continent. It has been in existence for 57 years.

- Its mandate is to enhance the ability of AU member states and their RECs to sustainably improve the contribution of their animal resources to the nutrition and incomes of their communities; especially the rural poor
- It operates under the department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, of the African Union Commission (AUC)
- Its mandate is organized around 3 strategic thrusts; namely
 - Animal Health
 - Animal Production
 - Trade and Markets (animals and animal products)

To realize its mandate, AU-IBAR targets the following key areas of intervention in its operations

- Control of major trans-boundary livestock diseases
- Improvement of livestock genetic and feed resources
- Development of livestock information, communication and technology
- Enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products
- Quality assurance of livestock and livestock products and Veterinary Services, and;
- Harmonization of livestock policies and the legal frameworks

In terms of strategy, AU-IBAR executes its activities in close coordination with the regional Economic Communities and is actively exploring mechanisms of working through the RECs in the execution of its mandate. Additionally, it mobilizes resources from different sources to support its activities.

AU-IBAR is therefore a strategic institution for the coordination of technical and development agenda on the African continent. Regional Economic Communities, Countries, technical organizations and donors alike should make use of its strategic mandate and political clout to harmonize investments in the livestock sector.

Having said this ladies and gentlemen, I now wish to say a few things about SPINAP and this workshop.

The support Program to Integrated National Action Plans is one outcome of AU-IBAR resource mobilization efforts. It is designed to support you country's own efforts to fight the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. In order to achieve this objective, AU-IBAR has developed a demand led approach to the provision of financial and technical support through SPINAP.

The first step towards receiving funds is the formulation of country applications in accordance with a call for applications sent out late 2007. Specific criteria was spelt out to guide countries in ensuring their applications are in line with global HPAI strategies and SPINAP objectives

Once received, your proposals are assessed on the basis of the similar criteria and only applications that meet these criteria are submitted for approval by the steering committee.

Today's gathering comes at a stage in the implementation of SPINAP when countries have started receiving cheques for the implementation of their proposals.

Other speakers will be saying something about this, but I will to emphasize that the speed with which the SPINAP team can process your applications depends a lot on inputs and feedback from the countries. The team cannot make decisions on your applications without involving you. Therefore, when you do not respond to issues raise on time or do not conclusively address concerns, the process generally slows down or stops all together. I therefore urge you to be more proactive in working on both your applications for those who are still at this stage, and coordination of the implementation process for those whose applications have been approved.

The SPINAP team is now complete and ready to work with you at all stages to make the implementation process as smooth as possible.

Further, for those who have already signed the contracts, we are planning a training session for all project coordinators and accountants to make sure all aspects of the contract are well understood. This will avoid mistakes.

For those that are lagging behind, we have organized a support exercise with 4 countries at the end of this workshop.

However, we are aware that some countries may require specialized technical support with SPINAP and other livestock matters. Therefore, national coordinators and other officials should feel free to call upon the SPINAP team and in deed AU-IBAR for support whenever they need to have a helping hand in the process. Do not leave it to us to guess your needs.

Last but by no means the least, I wish to thank our key development partner in the SPINAP program, the EC for the financial and technical support they have extended to the ACP member states through AU-IBAR. The confidence you have demonstrated in us is an incentive for hard work on our part to make the program work. I also extend sincere thanks to the ACP secretariat for their continued support and encouragement. We will remain available to implement and coordinate the implementation of all livestock programs coming to the Africa ACP region.

With these few remarks ladies and gentle, I wish you all very fruitful deliberations at this workshop. The outcomes will go a long in helping the SPINAP team and participating countries in doing the right things during field implementation.

Thank you.

b. CLOSING CEREMONY

1. SPEECH BY THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR ANIMAL INDUSTRY, HONOURABLE MAJOR BRIGHT RWAMIRAMA AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF THE EAST AFRICAN TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLANS 13th -15th AUGUST 2008 HOTEL AFRICANA, KAMPALA, UGANDA

**The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
African Union**

The Head of Delegation, European Union, Uganda

The Director AU-IBAR,

Representatives of FAO, WHO Regional Offices, EAC, IGAD

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to officiate at the closing of the Technical workshop of the Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans against avian and human influenza (SPINAP). I would like to particularly thank the Director of the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR), Dr. Ahmed Abdou Ali Elsayalhy for selecting Uganda to host this Regional Technical Workshop the first of its kind in the Region.

Distinguished Participants

I understand that the workshop has brought together key actors of the SPINAP programme from 14 countries in the Eastern Africa Region and representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, UN technical agencies, donor community, research institutions, international experts and professionals from some of the infected countries in Africa. I am also aware that for the last three days you have discussed and shared experience and best practices in the fight against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Although Uganda is currently free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, the government regards the outputs of this meeting as important inputs for reviewing and formulating national policies and strategies against this disease.

Distinguished Participants

I am happy to note that the SPINAP project will provide technical and financial support to establish mechanisms for emergency preparedness for avian and human influenza. The programme has come timely because preparedness is key in averting the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza epidemic that would have disastrous consequences for the countries in the region if not addressed with efficiency and timeliness. I am aware that in countries where Avian Influenza outbreaks have occurred such as Nigeria and Egypt, poultry farmers and the government have incurred heavy economic losses besides human deaths.

I am informed and grateful that Uganda is the first country to access the SPINAP funds within the Eastern Africa Region. The NRM Government will consequently avail all the necessary resources to ensure that this project is successfully implemented since it augments the fight against rural poverty within the Prosperity for All programme commonly referred to as “Bona Bagagawale”. Indeed the SPINAP programme is also in line

with the principles of Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).

Distinguished Participants

Let me also once again express on behalf of my Ministry and the Government of Uganda our appreciation to the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR) for coordinating the implementation of the SPINAP programme and the European Commission for the financial support. I particularly commend the European Commission for the continued support to the Livestock Sub sector in Uganda through the PACE and FITCA projects. As a result Uganda has been officially declared free from Rinderpest Infection by the OIE.

I, therefore, would like to conclude by thanking all of you who spared your precious time to come and participate in this very important workshop. I am sure that all of you will cherish the fruits and outputs of this project.

I invite you to take off a little time and enjoy the wonders that nature has provided to the Pearl of Africa before you go back to your individual destinations.

I wish all of you safe journeys back home, and greetings to your respective Governments.

It is now my pleasure to declare this Technical workshop officially closed.

For God and My Country

Honourable Major Bright Rwamirama

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ANIMAL INDUSTRY

2. REMARKS BY Mr. COSTAS TSILOGIANNIS, CHARGE D'AFFAIRS, DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO UGANDA, AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR AVIAN AND HUMAN INFLUENZA (SPINAP-AHI), 15th AUGUST 2008

The Honorable Minister of State for Animal Industry, MAAF
Your Excellency, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, AU
The Ag. Director, AU/IBAR

The Director, Animal Resources, MAAIF
The Commissioner, Livestock Health and Entomology, MAAIF
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am particularly pleased to be here today and I appreciate the kind invitation from the SPINAP/AU-IBAR (African Union – Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources), to participate at this function of closing this regional workshop.

The core principle of the European Commission (EC) cooperation on avian and human influenza is to support the global efforts aiming at developing and implementing integrated national plans for avian influenza control and pandemic influenza preparedness. To do so, the EC has mobilized various sources of financing one of them being this three year Euro 21.5 million to this support programme which is managed by the AU-IBAR. This initiative is demand-driven and is designed with a purpose of promoting ownership by the competent regional and national entities concerned, under whose responsibility the relevant activities will have to be implemented. I take this moment to congratulate those countries that have signed Memoranda of Understanding and Contract Agreements with the AU-IBAR in order to access the available funds and I encourage those who have not to do so soon in order to benefit from this three years programme, whose implementation period expires in April 2010.

The EC has also availed funding to the Avian and Human Influenza multi-donor facility (AHIF) administered by the World-Bank THAT HAS BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE June 2006. For Uganda, the Delegation of the EC has recommended the country to access US\$2.0 million from this facility to finance the gaps identified by the National Competent Authority in the implementation of the INAP. We do encourage those countries that require more funding for the same cause to access those funds too.

Honorable Minister, let me say how pleased I am to attending this closing ceremony. Feedback from the workshop indicates that it has largely achieved its objective of bringing together important players in the fight against the avian influenza, and this improves regional coordination, which in my opinion is a pre-requisite for a successful outcome in this endeavor. This SPINAP-AHI serves as testimony to the strong commitment of the EC to support the avian influenza control the pandemic influenza preparedness. I hope that the deliberations of this first regional workshop under the SPINAP-AHI were successful and we will be very grateful to share with you the outcomes, especially those that may require follow-up action on the part of the EC.

I thank you all and wish you a safe journey to your respective destinations.

3. VOTE OF THANKS

**SPEECH BY: DR. AHMED EL SAWAHLI
ACTING DIRECTOR, AU-IBAR**

**AT THE CLOSING OF THE SPINAP-AHI TECHNICAL
WORKSHOP, KAMPALA, UGANDA**

Your Excellencies Commissioner for Development Rural Economy and Agriculture

Honorable Minister of State Animal Industry

Head of Delegation European Commission in Uganda

Participants

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you again this evening as we close the SPINAP-AHI Technical Workshop. Let me thank in a special way the Honorable Minister of Animal Industry for honoring the invitation to officiate at this closing ceremony. Additionally I want to thank the Government of Uganda for accepting to host this important workshop and I am also grateful to the Acting Head of Delegation of the EC in Uganda for attending this closing ceremony.

As you are aware, the global threat of Avian & Pandemic Influenza has continued to cause concern to all worldwide. Since the beginning of the current wave of HPAI outbreaks, over 61 countries have experienced outbreaks. Millions of birds have been culled, livelihoods destroyed and humans lives lost in the process.

In order to achieve its objectives, AU/IBAR received an EC grant to the tune 21.5 million Euros to Support Integrated National Action Plans in 47 ACP member countries. AU-IBAR appreciates this gesture from the EC and the much more support EC has granted.

AU/IBAR prepared guidelines for preparing country proposals which were reviewed by a panel of experts. Contracts for proposals from Uganda, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia have already been signed and these countries are ready to implement the programme.

This Technical Workshop is meant to bring all countries to the same level and sensitize stakeholders on HPAI preparedness.

During the workshop important resolutions have been made that will assist countries to improve their preparedness.

With these few remarks I take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe journey home and I wish to invite the honourable Minister to officially close the workshop.

Dr. Ahmed El Sawalhy
Ag. Director – AU/IBAR

Eventually the SPINAP-AHI Coordinator, Dr. Samuel, Muriuki stated the following final words emphasizing the need for perseverance of national project coordinators for effective implementation of the project in the respective countries:

As we may be well aware, we have only 2 years before the end of SPINAP. So far we have only 6 countries in pipeline for signing. Majority of the applications that you have sent have been returned for lack of clarity, lack of harmony between sections and lack of logic in various parts of the documents. We at a meeting held this morning (Director, Financial Advisor and SPINAP coordinator) came up with the attached list of countries to be fast tracked between now and middle September.

Please study this carefully and put demonstrable effort in ensuring these targets are met before the next Programme Steering Committee. There is no room for failure to achieve this. You must therefore intensify follow-up with national coordinators and ensure appropriate input when the documents get to you to avoid rebounds once they are submitted to PCU/PSU. The unclassified countries require special support which should best be prioritized after the reasonably good ones have signed up. Most of those within August deadline are being worked on by the financial advisor, so you will be advised where and when your inputs are required. Wishing you the best of luck.

