



# **THE ROLE OF VETERINARY *PARA-PROFESSIONALS* IN ETHIOPIA**

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# ***THE ROLE OF VPP IN ETHIOPIA***



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## **BACKGROUND OF EAHPA:**

- The establishment of the Ethiopian Assistant Veterinarians' Association (EAVA) in 1970 is due to:
  - The need to develop and promote the profession of animal health in terms of
    - practice,
    - training and
    - research;

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- to elaborate, introduce and enforce a “Professional code of Ethics”; to create favorable professional conditions;
- The association is the second oldest professional association in Ethiopia. Since its establishment the association played a vital role for the development of animal health profession in the country.

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- One of the grand contributions made by EAVA and its members is the eradication of Rinderpest disease from Ethiopia.
- EAVA has re-structured itself and became the Ethiopian Animal Health Professionals Association (EAHPA) in 2010.
- Today, EAHPA
  - has more than 5600 members working on veterinary clinics, laboratories, research institutions, higher institutions, abattoirs and industries
  - Enrolls all AHP from certificate to higher degree

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- Played a role in taking care of the health and well-being of humans, animals, and the environment.
- Members of the association work in
  - Different regional states, zones,
  - districts and peasant associations
- which enabled the association to work on the entire veterinary services of the country.

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## **Objectives of the association**

- To develop and promote the profession of animal health in terms of practice, training and research.
- To elaborate, introduce and enforce a “Professional code of Ethics” for members of the Association.
- To create favorable conditions which shall enable members of the association develop their profession in accordance to the requirements

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- To exert every effort for the purpose of developing professional rights and interests of the association as well as those of its members.
- To support veterinary and related educational activities shall keep their quality and standards
- To organize conferences and discussions, publish and distribute journals, collect and keep documents relevant to the profession of animal health.





## **INTRODUCTION:**

- Ethiopia, endowed with livestock wealth which makes the country among the richest country in livestock population
  - 52million heads of cattle      -46 million small ruminants
  - 9 million equines and      -2.3 million camel
- This resource contributes to
  - 12% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP),
  - over 45% of the agricultural GDP and
  - 31% of the total agricultural employment.

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- Beside, the agricultural practice is based on livestock, either to use for farming related activities or as a livelihood.
- Despite the huge livestock resource, the benefit derived is by far below from the livestock potential.



## **The Animal Health Subsector In Ethiopia**

- The contribution of the livestock sector to the national economy is minimal compared to its potential.
- One of the main causes of this mismatch between population size and production output from livestock in Ethiopia is:
  - widespread occurrence of many infectious and parasitic diseases which drastically reduce the production of livestock

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- lack of proper veterinary service, and
- poor management system.
- Ethiopia is endemic to a number of livestock diseases which continue to deter livestock productivity and agricultural development and cause losses through :
  - morbidity
  - mortality and
  - market restriction.

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- There is no autonomous statutory body to regulate the profession, uphold ethics and educational standards. However it is now in progress.
- Since 2013 the sector is restructured under the ministry of agriculture as a *state minister for livestock development*
- Currently, this sector is structured as a *ministry of animal and fish resources*

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## **CURRENT SCENARIO**

- The current animal health services delivery is inadequate both in terms of coverage and quality.
  - There are very few private veterinary service providers
  - Few private veterinary pharmacies and
  - Very few community animal health workers (CAHWs) often supported by NGOs.
- There are difficulties in accessing veterinary service to the most remote areas of the country

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- Currently only 45% of the country is served by animal health delivery systems. But there are efforts in improving the Coverage of veterinary service.
- Field services are constrained by
  - lack of input supply
  - high operational cost and
  - poor facilities and infrastructure
  - illegal operators

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- The Government has a strategy in expanding the number of public clinics
- The woreda's, zonal and regional bureaus currently face problems in retaining their veterinary field personnel, especially in the more remote pastoral areas.



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- There is a breakthrough in continuous education development and in building competence.
- In recent years, with the expansion of higher education institutions in Ethiopia a curriculum has been designed
  - for veterinary technicians, in animal health, to upgrade to diploma level with competence evaluation at each level (level I-V)
  - For animal health assistance (diploma) upgrade their educational background to Bachelor of Veterinary Science/medicine.

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- The country has promoted the use of CAHWs in pastoral areas as alternative service delivery system. Standard training manuals and guidelines have been developed to ensure quality and sustainability of such services.

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## **FIELD CHALLENGES**

- Due to lack of proper and well equipped Veterinary clinics and laboratories in different parts of the country; creates:
  - Overlapping of tasks/Activities in practicing veterinary service between VP and VPP
  - Unappreciable Skill gap among professionals
  - Insufficient service delivery
  - Hinder professionals to act accordingly

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- Although duties and responsibilities are well defined, the actual practice in the field remain vague.
  - There is lack of clear demarcation in activities performed at field level.
- Due to the above reasons, sometimes there is a dispute in professional act.

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## **The Role of AHP (VPP) in Ethiopia:**

- Animal-health professionals from the lower educational level to the higher university degree make a huge difference in delivering animal health service in the country.
- Currently, it is estimated that there are more than 10,000 animal health professionals employed in the public sector to practice veterinary service.
- This increase the availability of animal health services in the country

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- VPP are duly engaged in Animal disease
  - Prevention
  - Treatment
  - Control and
  - Eradication
    - Infectious disease
    - Internal and external parasitic disease
    - TADS

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- Beside, Community-based animal-health workers (CAHWs) are community members who have received basic, non-formal training in animal-health care. They engage in:
  - the prevention (vaccination) and
  - treatment of animal diseases.
- CAHWs have played an important role in extending veterinary services in Ethiopia in the past years and bring the veterinary services closer to the livestock owners.

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## **Responsibilities of AHP (VPP)**

- Organize and conduct campaigns on disease control and eradication
- manage and operate in veterinary clinics at different level
- Arrange mass veterinary activities, like national and regional vaccination plan on field services
- Participate and engaged in research activities and training.



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- Undertake veterinary activities in the veterinary laboratories and field services
- Participate in policy issues.
- Take part in the control of trans boundary animal diseases as well as emerging diseases.
- Handle and control parasitological activities like de-worming livestock seasonally,

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- Treatment control of internal and external parasites in remote inaccessible areas of the pastoral as well as nomadic areas
- plan treatment and vaccination schedules
- Carry out and participate in surgical activities like cesarean session, open and closed castration, wound treatments etc.

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## **Competence of AHP(VPP)**

- The curriculum for diploma graduates sets a competence evaluation at each stage of educational level.
  - To continue education from *level I (year 1)* to *level II (year 2)* students should pass an exam called COC (certificate of competence)
- The competence developed by graduates makes them to perform different activities of veterinary service based on their rank of competence.

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- Graduates, who undertake the whole curricula of the diploma level can apply to universities to continue with veterinary medicine degree programs (VLT, BVSc, DVM)
- At the final stage of the *level*, students are expected to undertake an *apprenticeship* program to practice veterinary medicine in different parts of the country, which makes graduates to be competent.

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## **Conclusion**

The role of VPP is essential and critical in offering a range of veterinary service in the country specially in remote and pastoral areas .

- To overcome the challenges faced by the veterinary service, strategies has to be set and implemented
- The contribution of VPP should be recognized and a close monitoring has to be created for veterinary service delivery

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- Field challenges in relation to skill gap has to be monitored.
- There has to be a clear boundary of responsibilities among professionals
- The quality of veterinary service provided by VPP should be Uncompromised.
- The collaboration and unity between VPP and veterinarians should be strengthen and harmonized



***Thank You !!***