

Legislation & CAHWS in Kenya

OIE AVTA GALVmed Conference Johannesburg [13-16/10/15]

Dr. Mwenda Mbaka

Kenya Veterinary Board



Introduction

- This session is on "**Country testimonies : Community-based animal health workers (CAHW)**"
- **Presentation**
 - The issues surrounding CAHWs & Kenya's legal stance towards them
- **Topics**
 - Formation of KVB, Veterinary Professionals in Kenya, Genesis of CAHWs in Kenya, Current Status regarding CAHWs, redefining CAHWs

Formation of the KVB

- Established according to the VSVP ACT 2011 of the Laws of Kenya
- Comprises of 18 members
 - 4 elected Veterinary Surgeons
 - 3 elected Veterinary Paraprofessionals
 - 11 appointed Subject matter specialists appointed by the CS in charge of Veterinary Affairs in Kenya

Veterinary Professionals in Kenya

- Veterinary Surgeons [5year BVM Degree Program]
- BSc in AH [4 year Degree Program]
- Dip in AH [3 year Diploma Program]
- Cert in AH [2 year Certificate Program]
- **Training is on a KVB prescribed Curriculum**
- **Each cadre's functions are stated in Law**
- Practice must be supervised by a Vet Surgeon

Genesis of CAWHs

- 70% of Kenya ASAL [“Livestock land”]
- ASAL: Poor infrastructure & insecurity
 - Poor access to Vet Services
 - Gap filled by owners, illegal Vet medicines dealers
- Problem compounded by SAPs & withdrawal of Govt involvement in the delivery of Vet Services

Genesis of CAWHs Cont'd

- SAPS
 - Privatization of services [freeze on employment of vet professionals]
 - Removal of subsidized inputs & services such as AI, Clinical services, Vector control, etc.
- Implications
 - VPH challenges -> unsafe products -> lock out from lucrative markets -> poverty in ASAL
 - Catch 22
 - Poverty-> passive to quality of inputs, mine the environment for survival-> threatens pastoralism

Genesis of CAWHs Cont'd

- **Intervention**
- NGOs took a lead to address the challenges
 - Introduced CAHWs
 - Definition -> Grass roots livestock owners prepared with basic training (capacity building) to serve others on matters AH
 - Challenge: training content not standardized, & hence suspected to produce incompetent CAHWs
 - Widespread misuse of veterinary medicines

Genesis of CAWHs Cont'd

- Outcome
 - Risk to veterinary public health
 - Lock out from global markets
 - Threat to livestock production
 - Poverty & consequential environmental destruction
 - **Situation unacceptable to KVB & DVS**
- Intervention
 - DVS, KVB, NGOs & UON developed a Standard Guideline for the training of CAHWs

Current Status

- OIE guideline (Article 3.1.2.1 - TAHC 2011)
 - -> the delivery of Vet services should be by Professionals: VSs and VPPs
- The VS & VPPs should be effectively regulated by Regulatory Bodies [e.g. KVB]
- Regulation:
 - Training, Professionalism [Ethical Practice, Conduct, Use of Inputs & Animal Welfare]
 - Kenya ratified WTO/OIE Resolutions & hence developed the VSVP Act 2011 to enable it to comply

Current Status cont'd

- New challenges emerged
 - The post-SAPs impacts still influential: Vet professionals are not routinely employed into public service
 - Marginalization of ASALs over the years: poor infrastructure & insecurity, and hence poor accessibility, e.g. by Vet professionals
 - The VSVP Act 2011 **illegalizes** the Training & Practice of the “traditional” CAHWs

Current status cont'd

- Intervention Opportunities
 - Devolution
 - Equalization [Marginalization Compensation] Fund
 - Upsurge in Animal Health Training Institutions [AHTIs]
 - A KVB which is growing in strength
 - Political support, as awareness grows

Current Status cont'd

- Devolution
 - Counties can prioritize their preferences
 - E.g. invest in rewarding emoluments for Vet Professionals [NGO staff work in ANY terrain]
 - Equalization Funds can be used to fast track infrastructural development
 - The AHTIs producing more professionals [2 BVM, 2 BSc AH, several Dip & Cert in AH)

Redefining a CAHW

- On pg 9 of the Std guidelines for training of CAHWs is listed the criteria for selection of training candidates
 - On the foot note is written “Illiteracy should not disqualify candidates who are otherwise suitable to being trained”
- In the VSVP Act 2011 Rules on training of VPPs, the lowest cadre, which is Certificate holders, “shall have a minimum of C- at KCSE and a minimum of C- in Biology or Biological Sciences”

Redefining a CAHW Cont'd

- The rationale for a CAHW is a “Veterinary Service Provider who will **live and work** with specific communities all year round”
 - This is critical for the ASALs
- Legally, we can retain the rationale but reject the criterion for recruitment
- A CAHW should be “a Community Based Professional Animal Health Worker”
 - **CBPAHW**

Redefining a CAHW Cont'd

- A CBPAHW:
 - Should be a holder of a minimum of Certificate in Animal Health
 - Their deployment should comply with 2nd Schedule of the VSVP Act 2011, of the Laws of Kenya

Current Status Cont'd

- Benefits of a Strong KVB
 - Enhanced compliance with OIE guidelines
 - Acceptability of Kenyan products in Lucrative Global Markets
 - Improving ARS
 - Better profits for farmers ->re-invested in sector -> sustainability
 - Farmers pay professionals better
 - Enhanced VPH, Food Security, Animal welfare

Practices of a VPP

- VSVP Act Section 14 paragraph (2):
 - A person practices as a VPP if he performs any of the functions set out in the 2nd Schedule in the manner specified therein:
 - Provided that the CS may, on the advice of the Board, from time to time and as the need arises, review the 2nd Schedule

Practices of a VPP Cont'd

- Citation from the 2nd Schedule
 - Notwithstanding the provisions of Parts A and B of this Schedule a VPP shall perform the services referred to in Part A only during the course of delegated responsibility —
 - (a) as an employee of the Government; or
 - (b) as an employee of a registered Veterinary Surgeon

Conclusion

- Veterinary services are a **science** whose aim is to **safeguard**
 - Human health
 - Animal welfare
 - Environmental health (welfare)
 - Food security [quantity & quality]
 - Wealth creation
- Vet Services should be delivered only by Veterinary Professionals

Thank you

Mwenda Mbaka

Kenya