

Policy Advocacy and Gaining Political Support: Best Practices in Nigeria

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Outline

1. Background
 - Institutional Arrangements
 - Policy and Technical Structure
 - Policy Formulation & Budgetary Process
2. HPAI Control Policy Advocacy
 - What we had to contend with
 - How we coped
3. Sustainability
4. Conclusion

Definition

Simply put, Policy Advocacy is an effort to influence public policy through the use of a series of strategic communication tools
interpersonal meetings.
lobbying
negotiation
project visits
etc

Institutional Arrangements

- Nigeria - Federal System of Government
 - Federal, State, Local Government Councils
- Federal
 - Executive (President & Ministers)
 - Parliament - (Senate & House of Representatives)
- State - 36 States + FCT
 - Executive (Government & Commissioners)
 - Parliament - (House of Assembly)
 - FCT (Minister & Secretaries)
- Local Government Councils - 774
 - Executive - (Chairman & Councilors)
 - Parliament - (Council legislature)
- Others - Private Sector, Assns, Gen.Public, Press

Policy and Technical Structures

- Federal Structure
 - Ministries, Departments, Extra- Ministerial Agencies
 - Main Ministries - Agriculture, Health, Communication
- Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources
 - Department of Livestock
 - Disease Control Division
 - AICP, SPINAP- Special projects
 - Research Institutes
 - National Agric Quarantine Services
- State - Ministry of Agriculture & Nat. Resources
 - Veterinary Departments, Extra- Department Agencies
- Local Governments - Agriculture Departments

Policy Formulation

- Departmental submission (draft)
- National Livestock Development Committee (NLDC)
- National Council on Agriculture (NCA)
- Federal Executive Council (FEC)
- Judiciary & National Assembly (NASS)
- Mr. President's Assent to bill

Budgetary Process

- Departmental submission (draft)
- Ministerial Submission
- Budget Defense Workshop
- Judiciary & National Assembly (NASS)
- Mr. President's Assent to bill

Avian Influenza Policy Advocacy

How it Started?

- ❑ Director, NVRI / Head of Virology
 - Tentative diagnosis - "Lines of Agreement"
 - Padova Confirmation on 6 February, 2006
 - Confirmation communicated 7 Feb, 2006
 - Notified OIE & Neighbours
- ❑ Meeting with Minister of Agriculture on Tuesday Night, 7/02/06
- ❑ Memo by HMA on Wednesday 8, Feb. 2006 to Federal Executive Council (FEC)
- ❑ Announcement after FEC Meeting on Wednesday, February 08, 2006
"All Hell Broke Loose"

What We had to Contend With?

- ❑ Political Group
 - Refuseniks
- ❑ Medical Team
- ❑ Skepticisms
 - Public, Int. Community, Press, etc
- ❑ Poor Veterinary Services.
 - Private Vets
 - Vaccines/Drug vendors
- ❑ Pop-ups
 - Share of the national cake
 - Others

POLITICAL GROUP

- ❑ Poultry and Investment
 - Biggest beneficiary of loanable funds
- ❑ Outbreak of HPAI in Asia
- ❑ President - CVSN Investiture/Poultry farmer
- ❑ Ministerial - 1st case at Cabinet Minister's farm
- ❑ HPAI - High mortality and severe losses
- ❑ Refuseniks
 - Influential Farmers
 - Similarity to NCD
 - Economic Reasons - ECOWAS Market
 - Avoiding Egg & Poultry Products Glut
 - Some Private Veterinarians
 - Vaccines and vaccination

MEDICAL TEAM

- ❑ Medics versus Vets - interesting & useful
 - No prior forum for exchange of ideas
 - Understanding roles of the stakeholders
 - ❑ AI Technical Meetings
 - Steering Committee - Composition
 - Technical forum - issues
 - ❑ VS contribution to Pry. Health Care Services
 - Polio vaccinations & pastoralists
 - ❑ Outcome
 - FELTP programme
 - OWOH collaboration
 - T.B, Rabies, Brucellosis etc
- Tool: **Be well informed; advance superior arguments; build capacity**

SKEPTICISMS

- ❑ Public
 - Thinking of NCD
 - Poultry cheap source of meat
 - No immediate human fatalities
- ❑ Donor Agencies and Development Partners
 - Provide- Short-term & Long-term
 - Organize internal distribution of donated inputs.
 - Ensure Transparency and accountability
 - Veterinary Stockpile- regular audit/reports
- ❑ Tools
 - **Take Charge- Command structure**
 - **Assign each team an assignment**
 - **Regular briefing with details**
 - **Coming to our Party ??**
 - **For all including Disease tourists**

VETERINARY SERVICES

- ❑ Poorly funded victim of SAP
 - Dilapidated infrastructure
 - Lack of diagnostic capacity etc
 - No donor funded Projects except PACE
- ❑ Interventions
 - PACE & Gov. Support
 - EPP Preparation & Activation
 - Command Structure for HPAI control
 - DVS meeting/Sensitization
 - Emergency Support
 - FAO, USDA, USAID, CDC, EU, OIE, AU-IBAR, AFDB etc
 - WB Credit
 - AI Crisis Mgt Centre

Pop ups

- ❑ Too many international Visitors
- ❑ Numerous phone calls (Hotline)
 - Late nights at work
- ❑ Sharing the National Cake
 - Payments of Compensation
- ❑ Livestock markets politics
 - Informal credits, Unions etc
- ❑ Tools
 - Coming to our party?
 - Explain & Explain but stick to the rules

How did we cope -Summary

- ❑ High Political Support
 - President gave full support
 - AI Crisis Mgt Centre at Aso Villa
 - Activation of the EPP
- ❑ Public Enlightenment
 - Radio & TV Talk Shows, Jingles, workshops
 - Professional from media & Min of Information
 - Contact and Helpline
- ❑ Seeing is believing
 - Virulence of the HPAI
 - Losses incurred
- ❑ Glut of eggs & poultry products
 - No substitutes
 - Time

Sustainability

- ❑ Develop Communication skills
 - For Advocacy
 - For Improved Media relations
 - Appropriate messages development
- ❑ Maintain Public Interest
 - Talk Shows, Political jingles, Bill Boards
 - Media fellowship on HPAI
- ❑ Ensure adequate Funding
 - For Advocacy meetings, workshops & Seminars
- ❑ Training and Capacity Building
 - FELTP Programme
 - Staff, Stakeholders, NGOs
- ❑ Transparency
 - Websites, Presentation, Reports & Publications

Conclusion

- ❑ Sustain the interest of Political leadership and general public.
 - ❑ Engage all stakeholders in policy advocacy
 - ❑ In the conceptualization of control projects for zoonotic diseases
 - Roles of all key stakeholders should be properly identified and roles spelt out.
 - and
- ✓OWOH - provides a good platform for this.

Visit

www.aicpnigeria.org

Thank you.