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Book of abstracts

Livre de résumés

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations or experiences that stimulate interest in the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional sectors
Abstract title: LA FORMATION PAR SIMULATION DANS L'EDUCATION VETERINAIRE : CAS DE L'ECOLE INTER-ETATS DES SCIENCES ET MEDECINE VETERINAIRES (EISMV) DE DAKAR
Author/s: Pr. Yalcé Y. Kaboret ; Mireille Kadja, Dieudonné Kabkia
Abstract text:

Introduction/contexte/objectifs

Depuis plus d'une vingtaine d'années, le développement de l'apprentissage par la simulation progresse à grand pas dans la formation vétérinaire et plus particulièrement dans les activités d'enseignement clinique des étudiants et des professionnels de la santé et la reproduction animales.

L'utilisation large de cette pratique pédagogique répond plus particulièrement à des enjeux stratégiques qui touchent notamment à la sécurité d'exercice des professionnels de santé, à la formation initiale basée sur l'acquisition des compétences, à l'adaptation aux évolutions sociétales fortes au carrefour des relations animale-homme-environnement, à l'image internationale des établissements vétérinaire, à l'approche « One Health » et à l'intégration de la révolution numérique dans l'enseignement vétérinaire.

En phase avec son nouveau référentiel de diplôme, l'Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires s'est dotée d'un Laboratoire de simulation Clinique vétérinaire (LABOSIM) avec comme objectif de mieux préparer aux conditions d'exercice de la profession vétérinaire actuelle et à venir.

Activités/résultats

Le LABOSIM dispose de mannequins qui permettent aux apprenants de se perfectionner en réalisant en toute sécurité les principaux gestes du vétérinaire dans l'exercice de sa pratique médicale, chirurgicale et obstétricale au quotidien et d'adopter une posture réflexive sur leur pratique clinique.

Il dispose de 3 ateliers : 1) les ateliers de Reproduction permettant aux étudiants de s'exercer dans les cas de dystocie chez les ruminants et la pratique de l'insémination artificielle ; 2) les ateliers de Chirurgie pour l'apprentissage des sutures, d'ovariectomie, de castration chez le chien, de port de gants, de geste de réanimation chez le chien; 3) les ateliers de Cliniques pour la pratique de prise de sang, d'injections, de sondage, d'auscultation cardiaque, de prise de température, de bandage, de gestion des fractures et reconnaissance des formes.

Le LABOSIM est un environnement essentiel qui permet aux apprenants vétérinaires d'acquérir des compétences en amont et en complément des pratiques pédagogiques conventionnelles de formation par la clinique.

Impact/Conclusions

Régulièrement fréquenté par les étudiants accompagnés de leurs formateurs, le LABOSIM envisage optimiser l'apprentissage en mettant les apprenants dans un contexte au plus proche de la réalité et dans des situations pratiques et complexes avec l'acquisition d'une salle de simulation numérique.

Mots clés : Simulation, santé animale, clinique vétérinaire

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations or experiences that stimulate interest in the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional sectors

Abstract title: ISVEE18, 8-12 NOVEMBER 2027, CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA): TOWARDS AN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE THAT STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE VETERINARY AND VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONAL SECTORS

Author/s: Dr Nduvuyo Magadla, Anita Michel, Geoffrey Fosgate, Mohamed Sirdar, Peter Thompson

Abstract text: **Introduction**

What is ISVEE? ISVEE, the International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics hosts ISVEE symposiums in different regions every three years. The ISVEE is presided over between meetings by an International Management Committee (IMC) of at least five persons. This Committee manages the general affairs of the Society and advises the National Organising Committee for the next meetings as required.

Objective of ISVEE

The major objective of the International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) is to organise scientific meetings and accompanying workshops, to exchange information and provide training on developments in the fields of veterinary epidemiology and economics. This has long been the premier international conference in the field of veterinary epidemiology, and has previously been hosted twice in Africa, in Nairobi (1994) and Durban (2009).

Hosting ISVEE18 Cape Town, 2027

In 2022, South Africa, represented by the Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SASVEPM), presented and won a bid to host the 18th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE18) in Cape Town, South Africa, which was later endorsed by IMC as per ISVEE bylaws.

Impact

SASVEPM, through its ISVEE18 Sub-Committee, has a 20-year history of promoting veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine. It strives to enhance communication between epidemiologists and at the science-policy interface, and to build capacity in veterinary epidemiology in the Southern African region. The Society's mission evolved by driving fruitful collaborations between epidemiologists within the region and promoting the One Health approach, a vision it shares with a wide range of global institutions.

Conclusion

With ISVEE18, SASVEPM is aiming once again, as in 2009, to expand this mission to the global stage and invite international epidemiologists to share expertise and discuss novel approaches and methodologies applicable to our continent.

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations or experiences that stimulate interest in the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional sectors
Abstract title: REGIONAL NETWORKS OF VEEs AND VSBS IN ASIA – TOWARDS BETTER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES
Author/s: Dr Maho Urabe, Dr Ashish Sutar, Dr Pasang Tshering
Abstract text: Introduction/Overview

Veterinary education establishments (VEEs) and veterinary statutory bodies (VSBs) play key roles in ensuring the effectiveness of veterinary professionals and delivery of competent Veterinary Services (VS). Over the years, WOAHP developed several guidelines and active programmes to support its Member Countries in strengthening veterinary education. In Asia, more than 300 VEEs exist with diverse course curricula, standards and delivery methods.

Objectives

Networking and networks among VEEs and VSBs can improve standards and veterinary education outcomes through sharing of experiences, ideas, and resources. In Asia, WOAHP Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and WOAHP Sub-regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR-SEA) have been supporting and collaborating with VEE and VSB networks in the region to improve the effectiveness of veterinary professionals and delivery of competent VS.

Activities/Results

Over the last decade, RRAP and SRR-SEA organised regional, sub-regional, and national workshops for VEEs and VSBs to 1)advocate importance of good quality veterinary education, 2)promote WOAHP's resources and 3)facilitate information sharing and regional/sub-regional collaboration. Further, WOAHP has been supporting establishment and strengthening of VEE and VSB networks, namely Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS), Southeast Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA), ASEAN VSB Network (AVSBN) and South Asia VEE and VSB Network (SAVEE&VSB). Highlighting two examples;

1) With secretariat support from WOAHP, AAVS's working groups have organised regular continuing education webinars for the faculty/staff members facilitating sharing of innovative teaching methods and promoting veterinary education research. AAVS signed an MoU with Federation of Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) and they are jointly organising a session dedicated to veterinary education during their annual meetings in October 2024.

2) To facilitate cross-border mobility of veterinarians, a harmonised accreditation standard between VEEs is necessary. In Southeast Asia, WOAHP collaborated with SEAVSA and AVSBN to develop the Southeast Asia Veterinary School Accreditation Standards through a series of consultation webinars with the stakeholders and experts. WOAHP also supported the AVSBN in developing the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Veterinary Practitioner aiming for future pan-ASEAN mobility of the veterinary workforce. As of September 2024, the MRA is in the process of endorsement by ASEAN Member States.

Impact/conclusions

Networking among VEEs and VSBs across countries can provide valuable opportunities for information and resource sharing towards harmonised curriculum and accreditation processes. Such networks can also provide unified voice to advocate for policy changes and better funding for veterinary education and practice to build capacities. WOAHP can play a critical role in such endeavours.

Key words: Network, veterinary education, Asia

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations or experiences that stimulate interest in the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional sectors

Abstract title: ENGAGEMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT ON THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: THE EXPERIENCE OF VETERINARY STUDENT CLUBS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GONDAR, ETHIOPIA

Author/s: Dr Shimelis Dagnachew, Rehmet Kemal, Andinet Yirga, Tsegaw Fentie, Alice Matos, Amanda Berrian, Armando Hoet

Abstract text: Students' involvement in extracurricular activities is thought to be beneficial to both their overall educational experiences and general well-being. Veterinary students undergo high levels of stress, with concerns about academic performance, workload, and the amount of time spent studying. Participation in extracurricular activities provides university students a variety of opportunities for better engagement in campus life. In turn, this leads to higher levels of retention through graduation, increased leadership capacity, improved student academic and career success, and generalized cognitive and social development. Therefore, encouraging the creation and implementation of veterinary student clubs to enhance students' academic experiences was one of the goals of the WOAHE Veterinary Education Twinning Program between the University of Gondar – College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences (UoG-CVMAS) and The Ohio State University – College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM). The student clubs were established after exchange programs in 2016 and 2018, where 16 veterinary students visited the OSU-CVM. These visits exposed the students to valuable opportunities and interactions with leaders from the OSU-CVM student organizations, encouraging the UoG students to take a more active role in their own education. These exchange students led the creation of three student clubs at UoG-CVMAS in 2018: the Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Club, the Veterinary Clinical Medicine (VCM) Club, and the One Health (OH) Club. By the following year, the VPH Club counted over 66 members, the VCM Club had more than 110 members and the OH club had about 50 members. These student clubs enhanced the participation of veterinary medicine students in a variety of extracurricular activities, including: 1) developing clinical skills, 2) veterinary service community outreach to promote awareness on animal welfare, animal and zoonotic disease control and prevention, 3) treating cases of epizootic lymphangitis related to welfare and health managements of cart horses in Gondar city, and 4) conducting canine rabies vaccinations. These functional student clubs have been instrumental in motivating the students, improving their skill in veterinary services, enhancing their educational experience, and supporting UoG's efforts to produce highly competent graduates.

The influence on increasing student motivation towards veterinary medicine in improving the quality of education is significant, even in the face of several obstacles such as a shortage of funding and materials that limited the amount and quality of activities. In general, all veterinary programs in Ethiopia and beyond should support, maintain, and grow sustainably student-led extracurricular activities like those made possible by professional student clubs.

Key Words: Extracurricular activities; Student clubs; Twinning program; Veterinary medicine education

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations or experiences that stimulate interest in the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional sectors

Abstract title: IMPACT OF DVM CURRICULUM TWINNING IN DAY 1 COMPETENCY FOR ETHIOPIAN VETERINARY EDUCATION

Author/s: Dr Shimelis Dagnachew, Dr. Amanda Berrian, Dr. Armando Hoet, Mr. Tadegegne Mitiku and Dr. Tsegaw Fentie

Abstract text: Ethiopian veterinary education (VEE) is currently expanding along with the national higher education policy. Accordingly, there are more than 15 veterinary education colleges/schools with first, second and third generation categories based on the time of establishment. The CVMAS-UoG in partnership with the CVM-OSU has been established DVM curriculum twinning project focusing the achievement of Day 1 competencies of the WOAHA recommendation that was successfully accomplished. Therefore, the objectives of this work are sharing the experience and impacts of the twinning project for Day 1 competencies in the veterinary education of DVM curriculum obtained in Ethiopia. The approaches involved the participation of deans and senior faculties from each VEE during the DVM curriculum Day 1 competency WOAHA recommendation twinning project between UoG and OSU. The implementation progress of the DVM curriculum in UoG was presented in various platforms for VEEs like EVA, annual conference, in deans forum meeting, in the national curriculum harmonization and review process and finally during the closing conference of the DVM curriculum twinning project. With well understanding of the revised UoG Day 1 competency curriculum the VEEs were used as a benchmark and model for the national curriculum harmonization process and most VEEs approved their DVM curriculum by the respective senate of the university. Furthermore the Ministry of Education provided for each VEE to use the Day 1 competency based harmonized curriculum across the country. In addition elevenization academic calendar and the incorporation of practical based Off campus course were incorporated in the Day 1 competency based curriculum by most VEEs. In conclusion the the Day 1 competency revised curriculum has been successfully expanded and adopted by Ethiopian VEEs and a fruitful impact will be expected in standardizing the national veterinary services as well as professional competences which was observed from CVMAS-UoG alumni.

Keyword: DVM Curriculum, Day 1 Competency, Veterinary Education

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Innovations in admissions processes that make education available to broad communities, including rural areas and gender balance
Abstract title: STRATÉGIE INNOVANTE DU CNFTEIA EN MATIÈRE DE PRISE EN COMPTE DU GENRE DANS LE RECRUTEMENT ET LA FORMATION
Author/s: Dr Fatou Ka
Abstract text:

Introduction : A l'issue de la conférence continentale sur le rôle des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires en Afrique qui a eu lieu en octobre 2015 à Prétorie en Afrique du Sud, il y'a eu des recommandations pour faire face aux défis liés à l'intégration efficace de PPV dans la main d'œuvre. Parmi ces défis, les écarts entre les sexes dans la main d'œuvre et la prestation vétérinaire constituent une limite importante.

Objectifs : Partager la stratégie innovante du CNFTEIA en matière de prise en compte du genre dans le recrutement et la formation.

Activités/Résultats : Au CNFTEIA, le recrutement se fait essentiellement par concours en relation avec la Direction Examens et Concours. Néanmoins, un recrutement complémentaire est organisé au Centre.

- Le concours national prend en compte le genre et l'inclusion sociale. Les hommes, les femmes mariés (ées) ou pas de même que les personnes handicapées, passent les tests avec égalité de chance. Les nouvelles technologies de l'information et l'accès facile aux médias surtout avec l'internet facilitent le partage de l'annonce dans les localités les plus reculées du pays.

- Le recrutement complémentaire : l'inscription se fait par le biais d'un questionnaire en ligne, ce qui évite le besoin de se déplacer pour déposer son dossier.

- Dans les deux cas, le nombre de femmes admises à la formation augmente d'année en année. Pour les femmes mariées enceintes ou allaitantes, un accompagnement interne leur permet de vivre leurs conditions sans trop impacter sur leur formation.

Impacts/Conclusions :

- Le regain d'intérêt: le Centre enregistre de plus en plus de candidats à l'examen d'entrée. Ceci est dû à la circulation de l'information, la forte demande de main d'œuvre vétérinaire de base, mais aussi la révision du curriculum qui intègre des enseignements répondant au contexte actuel de la santé animale et la santé globale.

- Le Centre forme exclusivement en Elevage (santé animale) et les sortants représentent la majorité de la main d'œuvre vétérinaire de base au Sénégal.

- Nous espérons un bon suivi, surtout avec la perspective de formation des formateurs en ingénierie pédagogique.

- Nous avons comblé certains gaps parmi lesquels: l'actualisation de notre maquette, la rédaction de syllabi, le renforcement de l'apprentissage pratique, entre autres.

- Notre stratégie dans le recrutement et la formation nous permet de recevoir de plus en plus de jeunes femmes et les jeunes venant du milieu rural.

Mots clés : stratégie, recrutement, formation

Thematic session: Education
Session title: Success stories of the WOAAH Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) Twinning Programme or VPP curricula/development missions
Abstract title: PROGRAMME DE JUMELAGE DES ETABLISSEMENTS VETERINAIRES DE L'OMSA : CAS DU JUMELAGE VETAGRO SUP – ECOLE INTER-ETATS DE SCIENCES ET MEDECINE VETERINAIRE
Author/s: Pr. Yalacé Kaboret, Thierry Roger, Olivier Lepage, Mireille Kadja, Miguiri Kalandi, Rock Alister Lapo
Abstract text: Introduction/contexte/objectifs

Dans le cadre du programme de jumelage des établissements vétérinaires de l'Organisation Mondiale de Santé animale (OMSA), l'appui de l'OMSA a permis à Vet-Agro Sup de Lyon (France) et l'Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV) de Dakar (Sénégal) de concrétiser leur jumelage en février 2019 (contract for an OIE veterinary education twinning). Le projet de jumelage a pour but d'assurer à l'EISMV une reconnaissance internationale de son niveau de formation. De manière spécifique il s'agit de :

- Faire évoluer le cursus de l'EISMV tout en y intégrant la notion Licence-Master-Doctorat ;
- Engager les actions de formation des formateurs.

Activités/résultats

Les tâches réalisées ont conduit à la construction du nouveau cursus de l'EISMV et sa mise aux normes régionales africaines et internationales, permettant ainsi à l'EISMV de se doter d'un rapport d'auto-évaluation et d'un nouveau référentiel de diplôme comportant :

- Une matrice de compétences, mise en cohérence avec les recommandations de l'OMSA sur les compétences minimales attendues des jeunes diplômés en médecine vétérinaire (Day-1 competences) et de l'Union Africaine (Day-1 competences for veterinarians in Africa)
- Un référentiel de formation, construit selon une architecture faisant succéder progressivement l'enseignement fondamental, préclinique et clinique tout au long du cursus vétérinaire, ainsi que la rédaction d'un syllabus, répondant aux « Lignes directrices de l'OMSA sur le cursus de formation initiale vétérinaire » ;
- Un nouveau parcours de formation avec une année de mise à niveau (S1-S2 ou L1) destinée aux élèves bacheliers et un cursus vétérinaire de 5 ans (S3-S12 ou L2-D1);
- Un référentiel d'évaluation avec les modalités d'évaluation des enseignements et les modalités de validation des compétences par l'étudiant

Le personnel enseignants et techniciens a été formé dans les établissements tuteurs en France et au Québec. Des ressources financières ont été mobilisées pour investir dans les outils et infrastructures pédagogiques.

Impact/Conclusions

Le projet de jumelage a contribué à la dynamique de modernisation de la formation à l'EISMV, grâce à l'introduction dans le cursus, de changements qualitatifs visant le développement des compétences et la professionnalisation des enseignements.

Mots clés : Jumelage, référentiel, formation

Thematic session: Education

Session title: Veterinary workforce development in Africa: the role of technology for competency-based learning

Abstract title: EXPLORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANIMATION TRAINING VIDEOS FOR COMPETENCY-BASED LEARNING

Author/s: Dr Vincent Oloo, Dr James Kithuka, Mr Paul Mngat, Dr Samantha Opere

Abstract text:

Introduction: Brooke East Africa works towards strengthening animal health systems through training and mentorship of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) on equine health and day one WOAH competencies. Brooke currently mentors 120 AHPs through an Animal Health Mentorship Framework which has 5 competencies; Animal Welfare Advocate, Communicator, Veterinary Clinical Expert, Kit Content and Clinical Governance. The results indicated that donkey handling, performing full clinical examination, IV and IM drug administration competencies continue to perform poorly.

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Objective: Brooke sought to develop and explore the effectiveness of animation as an audio-visual training tool on skills linked to the above competencies. 4 storyboards and videos were developed locally. Upon completion two cohorts (treatment and control) of VPPs of 10 each in two project geographical areas in Kenya were selected and baseline data collected. Only the treatment group received the four videos via WhatsApp which they watched for four weeks. Thereafter endline data was collected from both the treatment and control groups.

Results: Exposure to the animation videos resulted in improved handling of donkeys by VPPs during treatment. At baseline only 13% of treatment VPPs carried a halter in their vet kit, this increased to 59%. Prior to watching the videos only 42% of treatment VPPs would carry out a system-by-system examination of animals prior to treatment; this percentage increased to 75%. On intramuscular drug administration, at baseline 38% of treatment VPPs would aspirate the syringe before starting to inject; at endline, this percentage had increased to 92%. On intravenous drug administration, at baseline only 32% of treatment VPPs could correctly insert the needle in the vein; at endline, this percentage had increased to 75%. For the mentioned parameters, the results remained constant in the control group.

Conclusion: Use of animation in teaching VPPs is a new concept which simulates ideal situations and safeguards animal welfare by reduction and replacement of live animals for training which could have negative effects on the animals. The videos provide VPPs with an easy to access reference point especially when their mentors are not reachable. It helps in explaining and mentoring complex clinical skills. The videos are also available throughout and easily acceptable by many VPPs. The videos are easily shareable hence one video having ripple effects and reaching out to many VPPs at the same time. This affirms that technology contributes meaningful advancement of VPP skills and quality of animal health services.

Keywords: Animation, animal welfare, competency, veterinary paraprofessionals

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development

Session title: Case studies of veterinary workforce assessments in the past 5 years

Abstract title: ANALYSE D'ACCESSIBILITÉ DES SOINS VÉTÉRINAIRES AU CAMEROUN

Author/s: Dr Justin Kouamo,

Abstract text:

La présente étude a été réalisée au Cameroun dans les dix régions que compte le pays. Les buts à atteindre étaient de faire l'inventaire physique (disponibilité) des cabinets et pharmacies vétérinaires, faire une cartographie de leur répartition géographique et définir quelques critères d'accessibilités des populations et /ou des animaux aux soins vétérinaires. La prise des coordonnées GPS en vue de réaliser la cartographie des cabinets vétérinaires a été faite grâce à un récepteur GPS de la marque Garmin et grâce au logiciel Cartolander version 13.2, nous avons pu générer la cartographie de répartition de ces cabinets et pharmacies vétérinaires. De ce travail, il en ressort que les écoles vétérinaires de Ngaoundéré, Dakar et Bangangté étaient les plus grands centres de formation des vétérinaires Camerounais. Concernant la disponibilité des cabinets et pharmacies, 112 étaient fonctionnels sur les 159 ciblés (70,44%). S'agissant de leur répartition sur le plan régional, la région du sud-ouest (1) est celle qui a le moins de cabinet vétérinaire, alors que la région du centre (39) vient en tête suivi des régions du littoral (20) et de l'Ouest (20). Sur 58 départements que compte le Cameroun, seuls 34 possédaient au moins un cabinet vétérinaire (24 départements non couverts) ; les métropoles de Yaoundé (28) et Douala (16) étaient les villes qui regorgeaient le plus de cabinets vétérinaires. S'agissant de la source de financement des cabinets, 46,4% provenaient des fonds propres des promoteurs des cabinets. Sur le domaine d'activité, 70,5 % des enquêtés exerçaient dans la pharmacie et la clinique et 29,5 % faisaient uniquement dans la vente des médicaments vétérinaires. Au niveau national, la concentration spatiale était de 2,370 × 10-4 vétérinaire au Km2. Sur le plan de la desserte médicale vétérinaire, les VLU (Veterinary Livestock unit) et TLU (Tropical Livestock Unit) nationaux étaient de 651 069 et 808 608, respectivement. Les ratios de VLU et TLU par vétérinaire étaient de 5813,113 et 7219,712 respectivement. Au niveau national, le ratio était de 0,641 vétérinaire en clientèle privée installé pour 100 000 habitants. En conclusion, on note un maillage inadéquat du territoire pour une bonne couverture sanitaire vétérinaire.

Mots clés : Cabinet vétérinaire, soins vétérinaires, VLU, TLU, Cameroun.

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Case studies of veterinary workforce assessments in the past 5 years
Abstract title: A CASE STUDY ON VETERINARY WORK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND MENTORSHIP IN EAST AFRICA

Author/s: Dr Samantha Opere, Dr James Kithuka, Mr Paul Mngat, Dr Vincent Oloo

Abstract text: **Introduction:**

Brooke's vision is of a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering and have a life worth living. One of the ways of achieving this is by ensuring that there exists a good quality animal healthcare system. The system will have competent animal health service providers (AHPs) who use evidence-based veterinary medicine in a manner that promotes animal welfare. The system will also ensure that all essential veterinary medicines are available, accessible, and affordable. Brooke developed an Animal Health Mentoring Framework (AHMF) which is a competency-based mentorship tool aimed at improving the quality of animal health services.

Objective:

To establish whether AHMF as a work-based assessment can effectively help to bridge skill and resource gaps and allow case-based mentoring to occur as part of the process. 40 veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in Kenya and Tanzania were enrolled onto the mentorship program. The VPPs were assessed on at least one clinical case per quarter between April 2019 and March 2022 (a total of 12 quarters). The assessment was based on 5 broad competencies namely; animal welfare advocate, communicator, clinical expertise, kit content and clinical governance.

Results:

The overall performance of the VPPs improved from 41% unsatisfactory, 23% requires improvement, 36% good and 0% outstanding in 2019 to 29% unsatisfactory, 16% requires improvement, 53% good and 3% outstanding in 2022. Notable changes were realized in clinical expertise, kit content and clinical governance competencies. Clinical expertise improved from 62% in 2019 to 74% in 2022. This competency assessed the VPPs ability to conduct full clinical examination, interpret findings, calculate, and correctly administer medicine. Kit content competency assessing the presence of essential medicines and equipment in VPPs kits improved from 49% in 2019 to 55% in 2022. On clinical governance, the parameter of greatest concern was record keeping; though this improved from 29% to 37%, it is still a hard win. Clinical records are essential in effective disease control and antimicrobial stewardship.

Conclusion:

AHMF is an effective work-based and mentorship tool. It allows for mentors to identify individual and group training needs. Furthermore, the tool helps identify veterinary supply chain gaps. In 2019, pain relief drugs in the East African market were few and quite expensive. Brooke East Africa's engagement with veterinary pharmaceutical companies has seen a gradual increase in a variety of affordable pain relief drugs in the market.

Keywords: Assessment, mentorship, animal health, veterinary paraprofessional, competency

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Case studies of veterinary workforce assessments in the past 5 years
Abstract title: ASSESSMENT OF BUILDING FRONT-LINE ANIMAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CAPACITIES IN KENYA

Author/s: Mr Evans Mulinge, Mr. Evans Tenge, Dr. Khadija Chepkorir, Dr. Rinah Wangila, Dr. Sam Okuthe, Mr. Stephen Gikonyo

Abstract text: **Introduction/Overview:**

Field veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, and wildlife personnel are crucial front-line workers with strong ties to the local community. Their proximity to disease events, coupled with knowledge of the local animal health and disease issues, and access to primary sources of field data, positions them as key players in improving the quality of field data for analyzing risk factors in disease prevention and control efforts. The front-line In-service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) program in Kenya focuses on strengthening the competences and skills of these front-line animal health workforce at national and sub-national level, by developing critical thinking skills in preparedness, early detection, rapid and effective response to transboundary animal diseases (TADs), emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) based on One Health (OH) approach.

Objectives:

This paper assesses the transformational effects of front-line ISAVET on strengthening and enhancing animal health workforce capacities. Using structured monitoring and evaluation guidelines, the study aimed to assess 27 trainee's knowledge and skills acquired from ISAVET; and how this knowledge, competencies and skills are being implemented at their workplace focusing on contributions to practices in surveillance and disease reporting, field and outbreak investigation, outbreak response, and disease control.

Activities/Results:

The methodology used was conducting trainee pre-tests and post-tests, pre-training surveys, post-training surveys, and 6-month post-training practices survey through online-surveys and key informant interviews; achieving 100% response rate from the 27 targeted trainees.

Impacts/recommendations:

The assessments documented progress improvement of the front-line workers with increase in knowledge on One Health Concepts, demonstrating mastery in application of veterinary epidemiology skills through improved epidemiological data collection, analysis, reporting, and outbreak investigation. The assessment also recommends executive ISAVET training for Veterinary Directors at national and subnational levels, and recognition of ISAVET Certificate as a competency for Front-line Animal Health workers.

Keywords: Front-line, ISAVET, One Health approach, Workforce capacities, Monitoring and evaluation

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: New, novel or adaptive methodologies for conducting veterinary workforce assessments

Abstract title: DESIGNING A CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOCUSED ON WOAHS COMPETENCIES AND CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR CAHWS – TOWARDS RECOGNITION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF CAHWS

Author/s: Dr Alice Matos, Dr. Amanda Berrian and Dr. Armando Hoet

Abstract text: In most African countries, up to 80% of the rural population is engaged with livestock keeping. Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWS) are essential in providing animal health services to these communities, helping to expand veterinary services coverage under official oversight. For that reason, it is essential to guarantee that CAHWS possess a minimum set of competencies to perform their duties adequately. As the harmonization of CAHWS qualifications gains momentum with the development of competencies and curriculum guidelines by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), there is a growing expectation for training agencies to assess their curricula against the established recommendations. To respond to this need, The Ohio State University was selected to develop a methodology for curriculum assessment. A systematic and comprehensive literature review focused on the context of CAHWS was conducted to identify current practices and existing methodologies of curriculum and training assessment. The research revealed that limited work has been done on CAHWS curriculum assessment, even in countries with national standards for CAHWS training. To address this gap, a new assessment methodology has been developed. In its creation, methodologies implemented in related settings like veterinary schools were considered. However, the unique challenges encountered on CAHWS training programs such as heterogeneity of trainees, variation in program duration, and differing resources availability, were also addressed. The assessment was then designed to maximize the three key aspects: validity (results are useful), reliability (results are consistent), and feasibility (the tool is accessible and user friendly), offering a certain level of flexibility to accommodate the diversity of CAHWS training programs. With the primary goal of promoting the adoption of WOAHS recommendations on CAHWS core competencies, we aim to help improve CAHWS training programs. Therefore, the new curriculum assessment methodology will play a crucial role in enhancing the recognition of training programs and professionalization of CAHWS, thereby contributing to a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa.

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Member updates on veterinary workforce development and VPP integration

Abstract title: TANZANIA ANIMAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Author/s: Dr Daniel Mdetele, Dr. Benezeth Malinda, Dr. Makungu Selemani and Dr. Samwel Mngumi

Abstract text: A competent workforce is crucial for timely detection and prompt response to emerging and re-emerging health threats. Like other countries Tanzania is challenged with the fact that people, animals, and our environment are interlinked and that a threat to one entity poses a threat to all. It is therefore prudent to have a multisectoral workforce that will facilitate preparation, prevention, response, and recovery to animal health emergencies.

In achieving the animal health workforce development, the country has one higher learning institution on Animal health and 20 colleges, where 8 are owned by the government and 12 are operated by the private sector under close monitoring of the Government. Moreover, In-service training on animal health is being offered through Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (FELTP), In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Programme (ISAVET), Regional Virtual learning centers (EAC/SADC) supported by FAO and other refresher training on specific aspects.

The country has managed to register 1078 veterinarians, enrolled 2,299 Paraprofessionals, and enlisted 2,2550 Paraprofessional assistants. Also, the government has licensed 904 meat inspectors, 71 laboratory technicians and 78 artificial inseminators. The effort has been to promote gender equity in the animal health workforce, and awareness creation on policy and regulation among professionals. Among the challenges are graduates at all levels not optimally absorbed by either the public or private sector after graduation such that they lose interest in animal health work and start engaging in other activities. In public services, there is no strategic succession plan such that there is no experience sharing among professionals. Furthermore, resource mobilization for suitable infrastructure development and adequate funding of animal health service provision is limited among animal health professionals because of lacking soft and communication skills to influence decision-makers on investing in animal health projects.

KEYWORDS: Tanzania, Workforce, Animal Health, opportunities and Challenges

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Member updates on veterinary workforce development and VPP integration

Abstract title: COMMENT PROFESSIONNALISER LES PARAPROFESSIONNELS VÉTÉRINAIRES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Author/s: Mr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou

Abstract text: **Contexte et objectif :** Le projet professionnalisation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires financé par l'Agence française de développement est mis en œuvre par l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale avec l'objectif d'améliorer l'accès à des services vétérinaires de qualité pour les pays d'Afrique francophone.

Activités et conclusions : Différentes activités ont été conduites par le projet dans le but d'une meilleure intégration des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires dans le réseau des professionnels de santé animale dans les deux pays. Un appui à la mise à niveau du cadre réglementaire à travers le Programme d'Appui à la Législation Vétérinaire (PALV) été apporté dans chaque pays. Aussi un appui à la concertation et aux campagnes de communication des services vétérinaires est en cours. Au sujet de la formation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires, l'appui a porté sur i) l'analyse, le développement, l'adoption et la mise en œuvre des curricula de formation, ii) un renforcement des plateaux techniques des établissements pour la formation clinique et pratique, iii) un appui en matériel vétérinaire pour les étudiants diplômés, iv) la création d'une passerelle de formation entre les études vétérinaires et paraprofessionnelles vétérinaires, etc. L'appui du projet a également permis d'octroyer des kits de terrain à 240 étudiants des établissements dont 40% de femmes. En plus, 160 étudiants dont 30,6% de femmes ont pu entreprendre des stages pratiques de terrain avec l'appui du projet. Le projet a apporté un appui aux professionnels en activité à travers des formations continues sur les soins vétérinaires, la législation et la réglementation vétérinaire et le jeu sérieux ALERTE développé par le projet EBO Sursy. Dans les deux pays, cette intervention a permis de renforcer les compétences de 250 personnels vétérinaires dont 177 PPV.

Aussi, une étude sur le genre dans le domaine de la santé animale a été conduite au Sénégal et au Togo et a permis de noter une faible prise en compte du genre dans la formation et aussi l'emploi des femmes dans les services vétérinaires. Enfin, le projet a travaillé dans chaque pays à proposer une stratégie de renforcement du réseau de professionnels vétérinaires en collaboration avec les services vétérinaires de chaque pays. Au Togo la stratégie et le plan d'actions ont été validés en mai 2024 et des échanges sont en cours pour la rédaction et la validation du document au Sénégal.

Mots clés : P3V - Sénégal - Togo - Professionalisation - Paraprofessionnels vétérinaires

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Member updates on veterinary workforce development and VPP integration

Abstract title: BUILDING RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL HEALTH WORKFORCE THROUGH FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING IN UGANDA (2019 – 2024)

Author/s: Dr Annet Namboowa, Dr. Chrisostom Ayebazibwe and Dr. Merab Acham

Abstract text: **Introduction:**

The livestock sector in Uganda, which supports 60% of the country's livelihoods, faces a challenge due to the high prevalence of livestock diseases affecting production, trade, and livelihoods. This gap has been elaborated by assessments such as Joint External Evaluation, Surveillance Evaluation Tool, and the WOAHP-VS pathway that highlighted shortcomings, like limited programs that offer structured and routine in-service training for animal health workers and unequal distribution of highly qualified workforce with proper technical skills to tackle health challenges at the frontline. The In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) was launched in 2018 to bridge this gap

Objectives:

ISAVET aims to establish a sustainable public health system by fostering a highly qualified workforce with technical, scientific, and subject-matter expertise.

Activities/Results:

The ISAVET program is funded by USAID and implemented by FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The program targets frontline professionals such as veterinarians, Para-veterinarians, laboratory technicians, and wildlife specialists both in public and private sectors across the country.

The program has a standardized four-month curriculum, including four weeks of formal training, followed by three months of home-based mentored field projects at trainee duty stations. The training covers disease surveillance, investigation, and emergency response, all within a One Health framework. A review of student projects for the years 2019 – 2024 showed 70% emphasis on building preventive measures for both zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases.

Since its inception, ISAVET has trained 147 professionals with representation across Uganda as follows; Central - 51; East - 33; North - 22; West - 41, with 27.9% female, 43.5% VVPs, 56.5% Vets, 10.2% private sector, 9.5% lab technologists and 2.7% wildlife trainees. Trainees have demonstrated improved disease detection, response, reporting, and data management abilities. The program promoted collaboration among veterinarians, public health professionals, and environmental scientists.

Conclusion:

ISAVET has strengthened Uganda's animal health workforce, and improved disease surveillance, response, and collaboration across sectors. Continued investment and collaboration with stakeholders is crucial to safeguard public health and the country's economy.

Keywords: ISAVET, animal health workforce, surveillance, disease prevention, disease detection, One Health, field epidemiology

Thematic session: Workforce assessment and development
Session title: Youth perspectives on futures of the workforce
Abstract title: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON FUTURES OF THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE IN AFRICA

Author/s: Ms Sonia Fèvre, Simon Kihu, Nancy Mugei, Desmond Rono, Finn Strivens, Tianna Brand

Abstract text: **Overview**

Training future workforces can take between 1 to 10 years, and understanding the context in which animal health management is evolving, can influence our workforce vision, plans and decisions now.

Activities

WOAH conducted consultations with more than 80 young people from the veterinary domain in Africa, including veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional students, research students, and recent vet and VPP graduates. Participants came from more than 12 countries. Foresight research and consultation included: trends analysis, expert interviews and domain mapping. Three workshops were convened (two online, in English and French), and one face to face event in Nairobi in English. Recommendations from the workshops were synthesised and reviewed by the same stakeholders through an online survey, and presented to decision-makers at the WOA conference Towards a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa 2024.

Recommendations

The recommendations are intended to support decision makers, educators, employers and WOAH to involve next generation animal health sector professionals and to identify and anticipate emerging trends and issues to ensure that workforce planning and education is relevant and adaptable.

Recommendations include: shaping the veterinary workforce to be more inclusive with more diverse demographics (e.g., youth, women, people with special needs, ethnic minorities), safeguarding mental health wellness for animal health professionals, creating economic incentives for farmers, and increasing investments in research.

Thematic session:

Session title:

Abstract title:

Author/s:

Abstract text:

Creating a sustainable working environment

Best practices for VPP professional integration in country

ENHANCING PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTHCARE SERVICE DELIVERY: COLLABORATIVE ROLES OF ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS (AHTS) AND VETERINARIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr Johan Oosthuizen

Introduction/Overview

South Africa's agricultural landscape is diverse, with a substantial portion of the population relying on smallholder farming in communal areas. Livestock is not only a source of sustenance but also critical for their economic stability. However, limited veterinary services in these areas challenge animal health and productivity. This paper proposes a sustainable model for primary animal healthcare service delivery, emphasizing the crucial collaborative roles of Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinarians.

Objectives

- Address the shortage of veterinarians in rural and underserved areas.
- Leverage AHT expertise to deliver preventive care, treat common ailments, and assist in vaccination programs.
- Enhance veterinary service delivery through AHT and veterinarian collaboration.
- Build a sustainable primary animal healthcare system catering to smallholder farmers' needs.
- Activities/Results
- Utilize AHTs' skills and training to provide essential animal healthcare services.
- Empower smallholder farmers with knowledge and resources to manage their livestock better.
- Extend the reach of veterinary care through AHTs' work in surveillance, prevention, and treatment.
- Create a comprehensive healthcare system by combining AHTs' routine care with veterinarians' specialized services.
- Employ data-driven approach to identify service gaps and allocate resources effectively.

Impact/Conclusions

This collaborative model, supported by AHT training/certification programs and public awareness initiatives, can:

- Improve animal health.
- Increase agricultural productivity.
- Promote the overall well-being of rural communities.
- Ensure a sustainable primary animal healthcare system for smallholder farmers.

Keywords: Animal Health Technicians, Veterinarians, Primary Animal Healthcare, Collaborative Model, Smallholder Farmers, Rural Communities

Thematic session:

Session title:

Abstract title:

Author/s:

Abstract text:

Creating a sustainable working environment

Best practices for VPP professional integration in country

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORT TO PRIVATE VETERINARY PRACTICE IN NIGERIA

Dr Yakubu Yanet Ago

Private veterinarians make up approximately 80% of the animal health workforce in Nigeria. Achieving a robust and effective animal health service requires adopting a sanitary mandate through a public-private partnership (PPP) in the veterinary sector. This partnership should involve collaboration, synergy, shared risks and resources, and clearly defined responsibilities and benefits. However, private veterinarians in Nigeria operate largely unregulated and without synergy or collaboration with public veterinarians due to the lack of a clear framework for their integration and support within the veterinary services. This has resulted in missed opportunities for animal health development and promotion.

In response to the recommendations of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) to adopt PPPs in animal health service delivery, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security developed a national strategic plan to support private veterinary practices in Nigeria. This study aims to describe the development process of this plan. Nigeria developed the plan through a nationwide consultative and participatory process, involving the review of existing veterinary services and infrastructure, evaluation of the business environment, and assessment of veterinary premises using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The plan addresses some of the gaps identified in the PVS, reflecting a shared commitment to enhance multi-sectoral collaborations in tackling challenges related to veterinary service access, delivery, and public health.

Thematic session:

Session title:

Abstract title:

Author/s:

Abstract text:

Creating a sustainable working environment

Best practices for VPP professional integration in country

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY: NIGERIA PERSPECTIVE

Dr Yakubu Yanet Ago

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are defined as a collaborative approach in which the public and private sectors share resources, responsibilities, and risks to achieve common objectives and mutual benefits in a sustainable manner. PPPs are identified as a key solution to improve animal health care services at the community level and last mile. However, livestock and poultry farmers living in rural communities face challenges in accessing quality and affordable animal health care services for their animals due to weak collaboration between the public and private animal health sectors, despite the high number of private animal health care service providers in Nigeria. The aim of this study is to review the PPPs in the animal health service sector and adopt PPP models in line with global best practices that will serve the country's interests, fostering an enabling environment for PPPs in this sector. Stakeholder engagement clusters involving public veterinary authorities, private animal health care service providers, researchers, academicians, livestock farmers, veterinary drug and vaccine production and distribution companies, and community influencers and livestock value chain operators were conducted. A scoping review and SWOT analysis were adopted to identify the challenges, enabling factors, and PPP models that will fit the country's needs. Three clusters were identified and separated according to two main variables: type of private partners and type of interaction. Cluster 1, transactional PPPs, represented the traditional understanding of PPPs by Veterinary Services, initiated and funded by the public sector, giving service delivery accreditation to mostly private veterinarians. Cluster 2, collaborative PPPs, included partnerships between producer associations and public Veterinary Services, driven by trade interests. Cluster 3, transformational PPPs, represented joint programs initiated and funded by private companies and initially driven by business development objectives. Specific success factors and key obstacles affecting the performance and sustainability of these initiatives were identified for each cluster. This study represents the first practical attempt to identify meaningful PPP models in the field of animal health and to identify fundamental challenges currently inhibiting the development of PPPs. It suggests ways to support national Veterinary Services in overcoming these challenges.

Thematic session:

Session title:

Abstract title:

Creating a sustainable working environment

Best practices for VPP professional integration in country

ENQUETE D'INSERTION PROFESSIONNELLE DES DIPLOMES ISSUS DES CENTRES NATIONAUX DE FORMATION ZOOTECHNIQUE ET VETERINAIRE DE MAROUA, JAKIRI ET FOUMBAN : PROMOTIONS 2010 A 2022

Author/s:

Abstract text:

Dr Gaelle Nathalie Tinak Satok

En cohérence avec les Objectifs de Développement Durable, dont l'un des objectifs généraux est de "Réduire la pauvreté sous toutes ses formes et dans tous les pays, protéger la planète et garantir la prospérité", le gouvernement Camerounais a élaboré la Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2020-2030 (SND-30). Dans le cadre de l'opérationnalisation de ses piliers 2 « le développement du capital humain et du bien-être » et piliers 3 « promotion de l'emploi et de l'insertion professionnelle » conformément aux sous-objectifs de développement (cibles) OMD 4, OMD 5 et OMD 8, le Ministère de l'Élevage, des Pêches et des Industries Animales (MINEPIA) a entrepris le processus de professionnalisation des para-professionnels vétérinaires (PPV). Formation attrayante et lorsque l'emploi est garanti, il ne prend pas toujours en compte les 4 objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation internationale du travail en matière de travail décent. Ainsi, en vue d'améliorer le dispositif d'insertion socioprofessionnelle, une étude a été réalisée auprès des diplômés des Centres Nationaux de Formation Zootechnique et Vétérinaire (CNFZV) pendant la période allant d'août 2022 à avril 2023. Evaluer le taux d'insertion socioprofessionnelle des PPV afin de développer une stratégie d'amélioration de l'insertion socioprofessionnelle dans le sous-secteur élevage, pêche et industries animales (EPIA).

De manière spécifique il s'est agi :

- De déterminer le taux d'insertion des PPV et leur domaines et secteurs d'activités;
- D'identifier les facteurs favorisant et les principales contraintes liées à l'insertion socioprofessionnelle des PPV dans le sous-secteur EPIA ;
- D'identifier les éléments clés caractéristiques du travail décent pris en compte lors de l'insertion des PPV.

Cette étude descriptive et analytique a été réalisée en deux (02) étapes : l'administration d'un questionnaire en ligne à 929 PPV et les entretiens auprès des 10 employeurs. Il ressort que le taux d'insertion des PPV est de l'ordre de 37%. Par ailleurs, les 08 indicateurs du travail décent sont partiellement pris en compte. Les actions suivantes ont été proposées au terme de l'étude:

- Développer et opérationnaliser une stratégie d'insertion socioprofessionnelle des jeunes dans le sous-secteur EPIA ;
- Renforcer le partenariat public-privé ;
- Mettre en place un fonds dédié au financement des projets agropastoraux ;
- Mettre en œuvre des politiques garantissant des conditions de travail décentes pour le sous-secteur EPIA;
- Étendre la protection sociale et promouvoir le dialogue social tout en prenant en compte le genre et l'environnement comme objectifs transversaux.

Mots clés : Enquête, insertion socioprofessionnelle, diplômés, Centres Nationaux de Formation Zootechnique et Vétérinaire.

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Case studies and experiences related to PPP Interventions to improve terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare**

Abstract title: **PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION FOR VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN VACCINE PRODUCTION AND QUALITY CONTROL IN AFRICA: EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

Author/s: **Dr Khalid Omari Tadlaoui, Dr Lamya Rafi**

Abstract text: **Introduction:**

Veterinary vaccines are crucial for animal health, animal welfare, food production, and public health. Most veterinary vaccines used in Africa are manufactured by government-owned national manufacturing facilities. Such a system is facing several challenges with negative impact on livestock farmers in the continent. These include: lack of funding, poor quality leading to unsafe or ineffective, high cost due to lack of manufacturing process optimization and discontinuous supply due to poor planning and changing government priorities. In this context, initiatives of public-private partnerships and other type of collaboration are required for capacity building and technology transfer to produce and to deliver quality vaccines needed in Africa.

Objective:

MCI-Santé Animale, a vaccine developing company based in Morocco is committed to collaborative partnerships with African institutions as means of promoting technology transfer and capacity building for the development of high-quality vaccines against major livestock diseases.

Three examples of MCI collaboration in this area are presented and discussed.

Activities:

With the support of Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, MCI delivered three-week training on quality manufacturing of veterinary vaccines for senior manufacturing professionals from nine sub-Saharan African countries. This project has contributed to increased awareness of the importance of quality manufacturing process including opportunities to increase efficiency of manufacturing and reduce costs.

In another initiative supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), MCI worked for the transfer of quality control technology to AU-PANVAC for combined vaccines against peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and Rift valley fever (RVF) produced at MCI laboratories. AU-PANVAC staff benefited from 2 weeks of bench training at MCI laboratories on the control of combined vaccines produced on the same type of cells using a new technology that has been developed by MCI. This training was followed by 2 weeks of coaching by MCI experts for the validation of vaccine control testing at PANVAC laboratories.

MCI has also collaborated with the Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute of Kenya (KEVEVAPI) to address the availability of quality assured vaccines for diseases which are prevalent in Kenya and other East African countries. This was achieved through the transfer and piloting of bulk antigen processing technology from MCI to KEVEVAPI, including the establishment of production and quality systems. The project supported the Kenyan institute acquiring capacity to produce 3 new vaccines of international quality standards.

Conclusion:

These initiatives need to be upscaled for greater impact through formal and sustainable public private partnerships and south-south cooperation programmes with the support of developing and funding partners.

Keywords: veterinary vaccines, capacity building, quality control, PPP, Africa

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Country experiences and best practices regarding sustainable deployment of vets, VPP and CAHWs in private and public sectors**

Abstract title: **WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEPLOYMENT OF CAHWs: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES, VETERINARY SERVICES, AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Author/s: **Dr Alexia Rondeau**

Abstract text: **Introduction:** CAHWs provide basic animal health and production services to livestock keepers in areas where veterinarians and VPPs may fall short. Initially trained by NGOs in the 1990s, government and private programmes began to take an interest in the training of CAHWs, considering their substantial contributions to animal health, public health, and food and economic security at household level. However, uncoordinated approaches to their training and deployment as well as the lack of institutional framework limited CAHWs sustainability in the field. In this context, WOA and VSF International (VSF-Int) launched in 2022 a joint project aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for CAHWs.

Objectives: VSF-Int assessed the strengths and weaknesses of CAHW programmes to identify the prevailing barriers to their sustainability. Through a global literature review and 4 country case studies (Burundi, Cambodia, Niger, South Sudan), VSF-Int gained a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by CAHWs in the field and elaborated recommendations for improvement.

Results: Although CAHWs operate in various settings, our findings showed that many of the factors contributing to their sustainability are common to different contexts. These factors mostly relate to community involvement and buy-in (including the willingness to pay for services), the provision of appropriate training for CAHWs, their regular supervision and access to continuing training, a reliable access to quality veterinary inputs, and the existence of an enabling legal framework.

Conclusions: The sustainable deployment of CAHWs, whether in the private or public sector, requires the involvement of all stakeholders. VSF-Int encourages:

Veterinary Statutory Bodies to define the official scope of work and accountability mechanism for CAHWs, as well as training and licensing requirements.

Veterinary Services and line Ministries to set up a national database of active CAHWs, to have a clear picture of the number and geographical distribution of CAHWs in their country and be able to plan for future CAHW training in areas where existing workforce is not meeting the needs. This will also facilitate CAHWs monitoring.

NGOs, agencies, and their donors to comply with national regulations regarding CAHW training and authorization to practice. Sustainable exit strategies should be designed for CAHWs to work in synergy with the existing animal health workforce. Countries where CAHWs are needed are encouraged to take ownership of these recommendations and take the appropriate policy actions for the purpose of ensuring quality services to livestock keepers and the veterinary profession.

Keywords: CAHWs – enabling environment – sustainability – policy recommendations

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Country experiences and best practices regarding sustainable deployment of vets, VPP and CAHWs in private and public sectors**

Abstract title: **PRIVATE VETERINARIANS AND CAHWS WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH THE PRIVATE PROXIMITY VETERINARY SERVICE: THE CASE OF NIGER**

Author/s: **Dr Alexia Rondeau**

Abstract text: **Introduction:** In the 1990s, the government of Niger withdrawn from the provision of animal health services to livestock keepers to the benefit of the private sector. However, lack of infrastructure, supply chains and markets, livestock keepers' limited ability to pay, as well as insecurity have been significant challenges for vets to provide animal health services in remote areas.

Objectives: To fill this gap, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and Karkara initiated in 2003 the Private Proximity Veterinary Service (PPVS), where private veterinarians and community animal health workers (CAHWs) work together to ensure animal health services delivery to livestock keepers in underserved areas. The success of the approach resulted in the expansion of the model and today there are 40 active PPVS, covering 70% of the country's departments.

Activities/Results: The PPVS consists of a rural veterinary practice operated by a private veterinarian and connected to a network of around 30 CAHWs. This collaboration is beneficial to both parties:

- Through working with CAHWs, private vets extend their geographical coverage and reach livestock keeping communities that they would not be able to reach on their own, hence expanding their client base.
- Through working with private vets, CAHWs access a reliable source of quality veterinary inputs, and benefit from technical support and mentoring from their vet.

The PPVS activities are monitored and controlled by the Veterinary Authorities.

The development of PPVS had a substantial impact on livestock productivity, dairy production, and food security in households benefiting from those services (Van Vlaenderen, 2014). PPVS have also positively impacted vaccinated livestock numbers at national level, including for PPCB and PPR. As an example, significant rises in vaccinated livestock numbers were reported in 5 departments after the set-up of PPVS in 2018 (+224% for cattle, +231% for small ruminants) (Pil, 2023).

Conclusions: The case of Niger is inspiring, as it demonstrates that community-public-private partnerships (CPPP) can thrive even in challenging contexts. The sustainability of the PPVS relies on the institutional support that national stakeholders were able to secure: in 2015, the PPVS was officially defined as the reference model to deliver private animal health services to livestock keepers in the country, and CAHWs were officially recognized as PPVS members, benefiting from an official definition, scope of work and training modules. African countries are encouraged to consider such CPPP to enhance their capacity to improve animal health and strengthen their livestock sector.

Keywords: Niger – CAHWs – private sector – community-public-private partnership

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Country experiences and best practices regarding sustainable deployment of vets, VPP and CAHWs in private and public sectors**

Abstract title: **EXPERIENCES NATIONALES ET MEILLEURES PRATIQUES DES ACSA DANS LES CRISES MILITAIRES POLITIQUES EN REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE**

Author/s: **Dr Etienne Nguertoum**

Abstract text: **Contexte :** Dans l'ensemble, l'économie centrafricaine repose largement sur le secteur agricole qui occupe 70% de la population et contribue pour 52% dont 12,7% pour le sous-secteur de l'élevage au PIB. L'élevage centrafricain se caractérise par un taux d'exploitation global du bétail estimé à environ 11% et un apport substantiel au commerce extérieur avec une exportation estimée à environ 25% de la production nationale. Le gros bétail est essentiellement limité à l'espèce bovine (6.500.000 têtes). Le petit bétail compte les volailles (30 millions), les porcs (2.500.000), les petits ruminants (ovins : 6.500.000 ; caprins : 12.500.000). Les ACSA étaient formés par la Direction de l'animation mutualiste de la FNEC aux techniques de base de la santé animale (vaccination, déparasitage, surveillance épidémiologique). Sous l'effet des crises récurrentes qu'ont connues le pays, les belligérants ont pris pour cible les bovins et leurs bouviers car la prise de ce cheptel était fructueuse. Ces derniers ont fui pour se réfugier dans les pays limitrophes. Les services vétérinaires, eux aussi, ont été désertés délaissant les petits éleveurs en proie à des pathologies diverses.

Objectifs : Le présent article rend compte des résultats des interventions des ACSA, qui malgré les moyens techniques limités, ont mieux répondu à l'épidémie de la PPR et la MNC qui sévissaient dans les cheptels des Régions Nord-Ouest et Nord Est.

Méthodes : La méthodologie est basée sur la consultation des cahiers du poste mise à la disposition des ACSA dans les villages de chaque poste vétérinaire. 650 cahiers ont été consultés contenant les informations sur les interventions zoo sanitaires.

Résultats: Dans la majorité des secteurs 90 % des caprins, ovins et volailles ont été vaccinés par les vaccins importés à partir du Cameroun et du Soudan frontaliers. En plus, ils pratiquent également les premiers soins d'urgence. Le déparasitage représentait 62% des interventions.

Conclusions : Grâce à leurs interventions, les ACSA ont pu protéger les moyens d'existence des petits éleveurs et sont voués à devenir d'importants prestataires de services et jouer un rôle important dans les programmes de contrôle des maladies transfrontalières et dans la sensibilisation.

Mots clés : ACSA ; taux d'exploitation ; belligérants ; PPR ; MNC, épidémies, soins d'urgence

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Experiences of collaboration between VPP and vets, with a focus on VPP supervision by vets in private sector**

Abstract title: **DIGITIZING ANIMAL HEALTH IN AFRICA: INITIAL RESULTS AFTER THE LAUNCH OF A TELEHEALTH APPLICATION DESIGNED FOR VETERINARIANS, VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS AND SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS**

Author/s: **Dr Alexis Kiers, Dr Benson Ameda, Mike Howe, Tequiero Abuom, Tom Osebe, Apryle Horbal**

Abstract text: Small-scale livestock and poultry producers (SSPs) lack accessible and affordable veterinary services. Consequently, low medicalization rates, substandard health products and poor treatment outcomes persist, and farm animals continue to suffer high disease challenges, high mortality rates and low productivity. The project « Digitizing Animal Health in Africa » (DAHA) started in July 2024 with the launch of a telehealth platform in two counties in Kenya. This is the beginning of a planned-for and ongoing country-by-country rollout through Africa. The goals are to enhance interaction between farmers, veterinarians, and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs), to improve the health of the animals, and the safety, security, and resilience of the local food supply chain.

The objectives of the DAHA Telehealth Mobile Application (DTMA) are to increase farmers' access to effective veterinary services, strengthen skills of veterinarians and VPPs and ensure the supply of high-quality medicines. The DTMA includes three major components: the first one enables on-demand access to veterinary care by combining telehealth features, digital workflows and connecting VPPs with their supervising veterinarians, a legal requirement in Kenya; the second component increases accuracy of disease identification, proposes treatment and references disease occurrence in a location mapping interface ; the third component provides information about the valid use of registered medicines using the Global Trade Index Number. The DTMA equips veterinarians and VPPs with innovative tools to improve their services, bolster their businesses and reinforce their working relationship which is a key aspect of improving animal health in Africa. Further improvements will be made based on users' feedback and field trials observations. The DTMA is available for download on iOS and Android devices, and through a web-based application. By the end of 2024, the project aims for 30 veterinarians and 250 VPPs to use the DTMA, and for 100,000 SSPs to have their livelihoods positively impacted. The presentation focuses on how these objectives have been achieved by tailoring the architecture of the digital platform to the local context in Africa, by providing extensive training to veterinarians and VPPs and by using social media communication to drive adoption and utilization. Several field cases of user experiences and clinical case resolution are presented. Finally, the presentation highlights how the DTMA positively impacts the health of animals, favorably supports disease awareness, preventive care, record keeping, and regulatory compliance and increases the livelihood of farmers, VPPs, and veterinarians.

Key-Word: Telehealth, Livestock, Poultry, Small-Scale Producers (SSPs), Veterinarians, Veterinary ParaProfessionals (VPPs)

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Experiences of collaboration between VPP and vets, with a focus on VPP supervision by vets in private sector**

Abstract title: **LA FORMATION DES PPV AU TOGO POUR UN MAILLAGE TERRITORIAL DES SERVICES VÉTÉRINAIRES**

Author/s: **Dr Kokouvi Soedji, Akakpo-Issola Owoningbin, Douhourou L. Dieudonné**

Abstract text: Au Togo, le développement des professionnels de santé animale a été faiblement pris en compte dans les différentes initiatives. En 2019, La couverture vétérinaire a été jugée inacceptable avec des disparités fortes notées entre le Nord (faible maillage) et le Sud (concentration des vétérinaires). En 2021, les services vétérinaires du Togo comptaient 75 vétérinaires dont 5 femmes et 116 PPV dont 23 femmes. On a observé aussi une faible prise en compte des spécificités des femmes dans l'exercice de la profession vétérinaire. De plus, On a noté, la présence des acteurs illicites qui occupent une place, non négligeable, dans l'exercice de la profession. Sur la base des effectifs du cheptel et des missions des services vétérinaires et dans le cadre de sa stratégie du renforcement du réseau des professionnels de la santé animale au Togo, les conclusions de l'étude de la démographie et du maillage vétérinaire (OMSA, 2022), ont montré que le besoin total en nouveaux vétérinaires pour le secteur est de quatre-vingt-cinq (85) et de deux cent soixante-quatre (264) PPV. Cette contribution se propose de décrire le processus de recrutement et la stratégie mise en place pour une formation efficiente des PPV pour un meilleur maillage des services vétérinaires du Togo. L'approche méthodologique est basée sur des visites de terrain et des entretiens directs avec les acteurs impliqués dans la formation des PPV, ainsi qu'une analyse et une estimation du genre dans le processus de formation des PPV au Togo. Les résultats envisagés qui seront présentés, permettront de mettre en relief les activités d'appui aux différents acteurs nationaux pour la formation des PPV par l'OMSA et de montrer comment cette formation peut soutenir une meilleure collaboration entre les PPV et les vétérinaires sur le terrain.

Mots clés : services vétérinaires, paraprofessionnels vétérinaires, formation efficiente des PPV, centres de formation des PPV

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**

Session title: **Experiences of collaboration between VPP and vets, with a focus on VPP supervision by vets in private sector**

Abstract title: **ENCADREMENT ET EMPLOYABILITE DES PARA-PROFESSIONNELS VETERINAIRES AU BURKINA FASO**

Author/s: **Dr Sandaogo Hamidou Ouandaogo, Dr Alima Combari, Dr Sidwatta Guy Ilboudo, Dr Constant Rakiswendé Roamba, Dr Kadre Sanfo, Dr Hamidou Zangre**

Abstract text: Au Burkina Faso, les para-professionnels vétérinaires (PPV) constitués des agents techniques d'élevage et de Santé animale (ATESA), des techniciens supérieurs d'élevage et de Santé animale (TSESA) et des ingénieurs d'élevage et de Santé animale (IESA), sont formés dans les écoles professionnelles publiques et privées du pays pour une durée de 2 ans pour les ATESA et les TSESA et de 5 ans pour les IESA. A ce jour, environ 1000 PPV sont formés annuellement et disponibles sur le marché de l'emploi. Leur employabilité bien que devenant un problème de plus en plus préoccupant est encadrée par des textes législatifs et réglementaires afin d'assurer leur insertion dans le secteur de l'élevage et de la santé animale et de garantir la santé publique. En effet, en plus de la possibilité d'être intégrés dans la fonction publique (environ 1% des PPV), ils peuvent s'installer en clientèle privée sous la supervision directe d'un vétérinaire privé. Leurs principales activités couvrent principalement les soins vétérinaires, la vaccination de masse, la production animale, la vulgarisation et le suivi-conseil. L'encadrement des PPV encore appelé parrainage est régit par les textes de l'Ordre national des vétérinaires du Burkina Faso (ONV-BF). L'ONV-BF au niveau décentralisé est divisé en 5 régions ordinales regroupant chacune 3 ou 4 régions administratives. Le parrainage se fait uniquement dans la même région ordinale. Les PPV bénéficient de l'accompagnement des vétérinaires individuellement mais également à travers les organisations des vétérinaires dont l'Association des Médecins Vétérinaires du Burkina Faso (AMVET-BF). Les activités de l'AMVET-BF à leur endroit est constitué principalement du renforcement des capacités (formation, sensibilisation) et l'appui à l'intégration professionnelle de ces PPV. Une étude en cours permettra dans les prochaines semaines de faire une cartographie de ces PPV et de formuler des recommandations afin qu'ils puissent jouer pleinement leur rôle dans le développement de l'industrie animale et la protection de la santé publique vétérinaire au Burkina Faso.

Mots clés : para-professionnels vétérinaires, insertion, réglementation, formation, Burkina Faso

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**

Session title: **Opportunities and challenges in implementing of PPPs in the veterinary domain**

Abstract title: **A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND SUSTAINABLE MODELS**

Author/s: **Mr David Magina Owino, Dr. Martin Barasa, Dr. Maurice Kiboye, Dr. Sylvester Wakhu**

Abstract text: **Introduction/Overview:** The Horn of Africa (HoA) faces significant challenges in veterinary service delivery due to its reliance on livestock and vulnerability to animal diseases, climate change, and political instability. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a potential solution to address gaps in veterinary services by combining public sector policy and regulatory oversight with private sector efficiency and innovation. However, implementing PPPs in the HoA requires a nuanced understanding of the region's unique context and challenges.

Objectives:

1. Enhance veterinary service delivery in the HoA through PPPs
2. Address challenges in implementing PPPs in the region
3. Develop evidence-based strategies for sustainable PPPs

Activities/Results: PPPs in the HoA offer opportunities to:

- i. Attract private investment in veterinary infrastructure and services
- ii. Improve cold chain management and vaccine distribution
- iii. Implement innovative disease surveillance and control strategies
- iv. Enhance accessibility of veterinary services in remote areas
- v. Strengthen national disease surveillance systems
- vi. Foster a competent veterinary workforce
- vii. Promote sustainable livestock production

However, **challenges** include:

- i. Weak governance and regulatory frameworks
- ii. Underdeveloped private veterinary sector
- iii. Lack of trust between public and private sectors
- iv. Socio-cultural barriers
- v. Environmental and security risks
- vi. Disparities in veterinary education
- vii. Weak professional associations
- viii. Infiltration of the profession by unqualified practitioners
- ix. Limited career progression opportunities
- x. Inadequate recognition of livestock services' importance

Impact/Conclusions: To foster sustainable PPPs in the HoA, evidence-based strategies are crucial:

- i. Strengthen governance and regulatory frameworks
- ii. Strengthen private sector capacity
- iii. Foster trust and collaboration between stakeholders
- iv. Address socio-cultural barriers through community engagement
- v. Mitigate environmental and security risks
- vi. Harmonize veterinary curricula across the region
- vii. Strengthen professional veterinary associations
- viii. Implement measures to curb unqualified practitioners
- ix. Create clear career progression pathways
- x. Advocate for recognition of livestock services' importance

Successful implementation of these strategies can significantly improve veterinary service delivery in the HoA, enhancing animal health, food security, and economic development. PPPs have the potential to transform the veterinary sector in the region, but their success depends on addressing the unique challenges and leveraging the specific opportunities present in the Horn of Africa.

Key words: Horn of Africa, veterinary services, Public-Private Partnerships, animal diseases, livestock, governance, capacity strengthening, disease surveillance, sustainability, professional development

Thematic session: **Creating a sustainable working environment**
Session title: **Case studies, examples or research on mentorship, career pathways and leadership for women in veterinary services**

Abstract title: **GENDER EQUALITY IN THE VETERINARY PROFESSION IN KENYA**

Author/s: **Dr Anima Sirma, Marilyn Karani, Getrude Shepelo, Mary O'Brien, Sol Perez**

Abstract text: **Introduction/Overview:**

The Kenya Women Veterinary Association (KWVA), a specialized branch of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), was formed in 1993 and currently comprises approximately 156 members, representing women veterinarians in various sectors including research, academia, public and private sectors. KWVA aims to promote the professional development and welfare of its members and safeguard animal health and welfare. Over the years, KWVA has developed numerous initiatives to empower women veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) through its core areas of focus: One Health, animal welfare, gender inclusivity, and environmental governance.

Objectives:

KWVA's objectives include promoting gender equality in the veterinary profession, improving access to professional opportunities for women, addressing gender-based barriers, and supporting the welfare of animals. Additionally, KWVA seeks to empower women through community-based projects that integrate gender-sensitive approaches.

Activities/Results:

1. One Health Program: KWVA initiated a project (2022-26) in Turkana County to enhance efforts against rabies and hydatidosis, promoting responsible dog ownership and community empowerment. To date, 795 dogs have been vaccinated, 196 surgeries conducted, 200 children educated, 3 women's groups supported through beading of dog collars, and 50 trees planted for environmental conservation.
2. Animal Welfare: KWVA contributes annually to the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals and supported the construction of a cattery unit at their Nairobi shelter.
3. Gender Inclusivity: KWVA has organized a fundraising drive, Adopt a Girl, donating over 500 packets of sanitary towels to needy students. It also runs social media campaigns to raise awareness on gender-based violence (GBV).
4. Study on Gender Equality: A 2023 study conducted by KWVA assessed gender equality within Kenya's veterinary profession. The study, involving surveys and interviews, revealed that 58% of respondents felt that gender influenced their missed opportunities for advancement, while 73% believed more needed to be done to improve gender diversity.

Impact/Conclusions:

KWVA's initiatives serve as a model for integrating gender-sensitive approaches into veterinary services and community outreach, while promoting professional growth and addressing gender barriers. The organization's holistic approach highlights the importance of gender inclusivity in advancing both animal and human health outcomes.

Keywords: Gender, Equality, Veterinary, Women, Animal Health, Kenya

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Case studies demonstrating multisectoral collaboration at national/sub-national/cross-border levels across the topics: the evolution, spread, and prevention of AMR and improved use of antimicrobials in animals; Priority Emerging, re-emerging and endemic zoonoses with regards to surveillance investigation and response; Novel methods and used to assure safety of Food of animal origin ; Impact of climate change and other environmental factors on vector borne diseases

Abstract title: A REVIEW OF HUMAN DOG-BITE INJURIES IN KITUI SOUTH SUBCOUNTY, KENYA (2017-2021)

Author/s: Dr Peris Kung'u

Abstract text: Introduction/Overview

Dog bites continue to be a serious public health issue due to their association with the transmission of rabies virus. In Kenya, there are no studies estimating dog-bite incidence. Annual mortalities resulting from dog-mediated rabies are estimated at 523 (95% confidence interval 134–1100). The main objective of this study was to assess major risk factors associated with dog bites in Kitui South subcounty, Kenya, between 2017 and 2021.

Objectives

This study aimed to record the frequency of dog bites and major demographic and seasonal risk factors in Kitui South subcounty. The study hypothesised that demographic and seasonal factors (age, sex and season) were associated with an increased risk of human cases of dog bites in Kitui South subcounty.

Activities/ Results

We recruited 387 dog-bite patients (cases) and 387 non-bite patients (controls) for the case-control study from the Mutomo Mission Hospital and the Ikutha Level 4 Hospital records. Multivariable logistic regression analysis evaluated the association between risk factors and dog-bite cases. In the final model, pairwise interactions among variables were evaluated. The model fit was evaluated using receiver operating characteristics and area under the curve.

The study found that the dog-bite incidence was highest in Kanziko ward in Kitui South subcounty. Fifty-one percent (108 bites) of dog-bite victims were children under 15 years of age, with 53% (N = 68) being men and 36% (N = 77) being bitten on the limbs. Dog bites mostly (44%, N = 93) occurred between October and December (short rainy season). Age group and season were identified as the most significant variables for high dog-bite incidence in Kitui South subcounty.

Impact/ Conclusions

Promotion of responsible dog ownership and reinforcement of dog control policies may prove more effective in reducing dog-bite injuries in Kitui South subcounty.

Keywords: Dog-bite, Case-control, One Health, Surveillance and Zoonoses

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Case studies demonstrating multisectoral collaboration at national/sub-national/cross-border levels across the topics: the evolution, spread, and prevention of AMR and improved use of antimicrobials in animals; Priority Emerging, re-emerging and endemic zoonoses with regards to surveillance investigation and response; Novel methods and used to assure safety of Food of animal origin ; Impact of climate change and other environmental factors on vector borne diseases

Abstract title: LES MICROMAMMIFERES ANTHROPOPHILES : SOURCE POTENTIELLE DE PARASITES ZOONOTIQUES DANS LA COMMUNE D'ABOBO, ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE

Author/s: Dr Gaoussou Coulibaly

Abstract text: **Contexte :** Les petits mammifères prolifèrent en milieu urbain, notamment dans les quartiers défavorisés. Cette cohabitation entre ces animaux et l'homme est effective dans les communes de la ville d'Abidjan. Cependant, ces micromammifères peuvent héberger des parasites responsables de maladies humaines.

Objectifs de l'étude : Cette étude vise à identifier et évaluer les parasites intestinaux à potentiel zoonotique chez les micromammifères terrestres afin de mieux comprendre les risques associés.

Méthodes : Des captures vivantes ont été réalisées à l'aide de pièges Sherman placés dans les habitations humaines de la commune d'Abobo à Abidjan. Les animaux capturés ont été euthanasiés et leurs pattes ont été soigneusement lavées avec une solution d'acétate de sodium, d'acide acétique et de formol. Par la suite, le contenu du tube digestif et les liquides de lavage des pattes ont été examinés en utilisant la méthode de concentration de Ritchie.

Résultats : *Mus musculus* (75,3 %) et *Rattus rattus* (13,5 %) sont les espèces de petits mammifères les plus répandues. Dans l'ensemble, 33,3 % de ces animaux étaient infectés par des parasites intestinaux. Les espèces d'helminthes prédominantes étaient *Hymenolepis diminuta* (8,9 %) et *Ancylostoma* sp. (6,9 %), tandis que le principal protozoaire pathogène détecté était *Giardia intestinalis* (2,3 %).

Conclusion : La présence de parasites importants pour la santé publique prouve que la cohabitation de petits mammifères avec des humains présente un risque important pour la santé publique et vétérinaire. Ces données fournissent donc des informations précieuses aux administrations locales et provinciales, qui devraient envisager des mesures de contrôle de la population de petits mammifères afin d'atténuer la transmission de maladies zoonotiques à l'homme. Elles fournissent également des informations aux praticiens médicaux pour le diagnostic d'éventuelles zoonoses, ainsi qu'une référence pour d'autres études en milieu urbain en Côte d'Ivoire.

Mots-clés : Abidjan ; anthropophile ; parasites intestinaux; petits mammifères ; zoonose

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Case studies demonstrating multisectoral collaboration at national/sub-national/cross-border levels across the topics: the evolution, spread, and prevention of AMR and improved use of antimicrobials in animals; Priority Emerging, re-emerging and endemic zoonoses with regards to surveillance investigation and response; Novel methods and used to assure safety of Food of animal origin ; Impact of climate change and other environmental factors on vector borne diseases

Abstract title: ONE HEALTH APPROACH DURING OUTBREAKS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTHERN SENEGAL, 2022 AND 2023

Author/s: Dr Nicolas Djigoum Diouf, Dr Coumba Faye, Dr Evariste Bassene, Dr Youssou Ndiaye, Dr Ahmadou Tidiane Niang

Abstract text: Avian influenza is a viral zoonotic disease that affects birds and humans. The first case of avian Influenza with H5N1 was reported in Senegal in 2020. Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) occurred in wild birds parks in northern of Senegal in 2022 and 2023 respectively. This study describes the evolution of the epidemic as well as the response strategies. The interventions of the various actors in animal and human health, wildlife conservation service, hygiene service, research were coordinated by the local administrative authority and led by the national One Health task force team. After confirmation of the outbreak by the laboratory by RT-PCR, an incident management system (IMS) according to the One Health approach was set up. The teams carried out all the collection operations, animal identification, epidemiological survey, burial, incineration of dead birds, community awareness. In 2022, the epidemic concerned only the wild population of pelicans with 1230 deaths with a predominance of mortality of 98% in juveniles and 2% in adults. In 2023, 1745 dead birds were counted. The tern group was the most affected (70%). Adults (98%) were more affected than juveniles (2%). In both outbreaks, the highest mortality was recorded in the breeding area (96%) and the phylogeny showed a probable introduction of the virus linked to migratory species. Both outbreaks were recorded during the cold dry season between January and March. No human cases have been reported. The One Health approach has gradually enabled operational teams to learn from previous experiences, improve the management of interventions and capitalize on good practices.
Keywords: Avian influenza, One Health, Wild birds, Senegal

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Case studies demonstrating multisectoral collaboration at national/sub-national/cross-border levels across the topics: the evolution, spread, and prevention of AMR and improved use of antimicrobials in animals; Priority Emerging, re-emerging and endemic zoonoses with regards to surveillance investigation and response; Novel methods and used to assure safety of Food of animal origin ; Impact of climate change and other environmental factors on vector borne diseases

Abstract title: RENFORCER LA COLLABORATION INTERSECTORIELLE DANS LA SURVEILLANCE DES MALADIES ZONOTIQUES : PLACE DES ECOLES DE FORMATION DES PPV DANS LA DIFFUSION DU « JEU SERIEUX ALERTE »

Author/s: Dr Wendmisida Victor Yacinthe Guigma, Mme Sophie Muset, Dr Dieudonné Laibané Dahourou

Abstract text: Les récentes pandémies ont révélé les insuffisances des systèmes de surveillance des maladies dans les pays. L'émergence/réémergence des maladies zoonotiques dont pour la plupart la faune sauvage constitue un réservoir, justifie l'importance de renforcer les connaissances des acteurs des différents secteurs sur le système de surveillance des maladies et leurs places dans la chaîne de transmission de l'information zoonositaire. Aussi, pour assurer l'alerte précoce, les communautés doivent être impliqués dans le système de surveillance.

Le projet EBO-SURSY a été développé en collaboration avec le CIRAD et BIOVIVA un jeu sérieux dénommé « ALERTE » dont l'objectif est d'assurer l'alerte précoce et de renforcer la collaboration intersectorielle dans la surveillance des maladies zoonotiques. Les écoles de formation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires ont été identifiées comme un maillon essentiel dans la stratégie de diffusion de ce jeu. Une formation des animateurs du jeu a été organisée à Dakar au Sénégal en octobre 2022 par le projet EBO-SURSY en collaboration avec le projet P3V et a ciblé les enseignants des écoles de formation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires du Sénégal, les écoles de formation de vétérinaires du Sénégal et de la Guinée, des vétérinaires privés du Togo et du Sénégal et des cadres du ministère en charge de la faune sauvage du Sénégal. En outre le projet P3V a assuré une diffusion supplémentaire du jeu en assurant la formation de 7 enseignants des établissements de formation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires au Sénégal et au Togo. Au total, 25 animateurs dont 14 enseignants des écoles de formation des paraprofessionnels ont été formés et ont bénéficié de kit du jeu.

Ce jeu a été utilisé comme outil pédagogique à ce jour dans 3 établissements de formation des paraprofessionnels vétérinaires au Sénégal et au Togo dans les enseignements d'épidémiologie appliquée, nouvellement inclus dans les curricula développés dans le cadre du projet P3V et actuellement mis en œuvre au Sénégal et au Togo. Le projet P3V étant en cours d'extension au Bénin, une diffusion du jeu y est également prévue dans les établissements partenaires de formation de ce pays. Des résultats de l'évaluation de la formation, il ressort que le jeu contribue à l'amélioration de la compréhension de l'approche une santé dans le contexte de la surveillance épidémiologique. Il permet également de comprendre le rôle des acteurs et leurs interactions dans les systèmes de surveillance. En perspective, les enseignants formés utiliseront le jeu comme un outils de formation.

Mots clé : Jeu « Alerte », Animateur, Surveillance ; Zoonoses

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Experience sharing on how various professional categories are used in surveillance or emergency management

Abstract title: COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN CAMEROON: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN INTEGRATED ONE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM

Author/s: Dr Cleophas Kahtita Mbah

Abstract text: **Introduction/Overview:** In Cameroon, human and animal health surveillance systems operate independently, complicating effective detection and response to public health threats, especially zoonoses.

Objective: This study aimed to compare these systems and identify opportunities for developing an integrated One Health surveillance platform.

Activities: A qualitative descriptive and comparative study was conducted, including a desk review of existing policies and administration of semi-structured questionnaires to stakeholders in both health sectors. Data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel 2016 and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software version 23.0 (IBM, Armonk), categorizing responses according to core surveillance functions outlined by WHO's Technical Guidelines for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) and WHO's guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation of communicable disease surveillance and response systems. Key themes included priority diseases targeted, structure of the surveillance system, core functions of the system, support functions of the system, and intersectoral collaboration and One Health. This was followed by a SWOT analysis.

Results: Obtained results revealed:

- Cameroon has several laws and national strategies encouraging interministerial collaboration in addressing public health threats. Despite having a recognized One Health Platform, the legal framework for multisectoral collaboration is not fully operational.
- Significant gaps and discrepancies exist between the human and animal health surveillance systems. The human health system is well-resourced and structured, utilizing District Health Information Systems (DHIS2) for timely outbreak detection and data transmission. Conversely, the animal health system faces chronic underfunding and lacks an operational digital data management tool, with the Cameroon Animal Health Information System (CAHIS) yet to be functional, thus affecting the timeliness of the system.
- Opportunities for integration include operationalizing the One Health legal framework, establishing data exchange platforms, investing in cross-training for health professionals, and fostering technological innovations that utilize mobile health applications and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Impact/Conclusions: The assessment unveils gaps in the human and animal surveillance systems and reveals significant disparities between both systems in Cameroon, emphasizing the need for an integrated One Health approach. By operationalizing the One Health legal framework, enhancing intersectoral collaboration, and investing in digital tools and cross-training, Cameroon can improve timely detection and response to public health threats, particularly zoonoses, enhancing overall public health outcomes.

Keywords: Health surveillance systems, One Health, Intersectoral collaboration, Integrated platform, Zoonoses

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Experience sharing on how various professional categories are used in surveillance or emergency management

Abstract title: SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE ON ADDRESSING WORKFORCE GAPS AND THE EVOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF VPPS, AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION BY THE SAVC

Author/s: Dr Nandipha Toyota Ndudane

Abstract text: South African experience on addressing workforce gaps and the evolution of recognition for various categories of VPPs, as well as the establishment of qualifications and registration by the SAVC

South Africa has dire shortage of veterinarians, where the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), the regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, has indicated in its database of registrees, has about 4000 registered veterinarians for the population of South Africa comprising of 30 million people. The world accepted standard is about 200 - 400 veterinarians per million people. This shortage threatens the South African food security and puts the country at risk of disease outbreaks in livestock. Furthermore, this shortage is felt more by the rural smallholder farmers and threatens their livelihoods.

With the above mentioned, the SAVC revised the regulatory framework for veterinary paraprofessionals to expand their scope of practice and to increase their visibility in the rural sector thus improving accessibility of the veterinary services by the smallholder farmers, rural communities and townships.

This expansion allows VPPs, which includes the various categories as follows Animal Health Technicians (AHTs), Veterinary Technologists (VTs), Veterinary Nurses (VN), Veterinary Physiotherapist (Vet Physio) and Laboratory Animal Technologists (LATs) to work for their own gain, especially in areas of Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC) but more importantly disease prevention and biosecurity including sampling (AHTs), research and development (LATs), sampling and diagnostics (VT). Veterinary nurses and veterinary physiotherapist target mainly the urban areas for companion animals (VN and Vet Physio) and performing animals like horses (Vet Physio).

The South African Veterinary Council, as mandated by the Veterinary and Paraveterinary Professions Act, (Act No. 19 of 1982) widely consulted with the South African public in promulgation of the new rules for VPPs, and these were gazetted in December 2022 for all except the vet physios which were gazetted in February 2023. These collaborative efforts collectively contribute to addressing the workforce challenges and enhancing animal health across South Africa.

Keywords: Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs), Workforce, South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Gender in the veterinary domain

Abstract title: GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES FOR TRAINING VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS IN NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND UGANDA

Author/s: Dr Emma Alegi, Anthony Mugisha, Gani Enahoro, Grace Nakityo, Holly Hufnagel, Jacoray Lesiba Khunou, Jenny Maud, Johan Oosthuizen, Nafinatu Hyelni Abdullahi, Neil Sargison, Nokulunga Xaba, Rob Kelly, Rosie Herrington, Shehu Shamsudeen, Sylvia Baluka, Zimbini Mdlulwa

Abstract text: Women make up two-thirds of the world's 600 million low-income livestock keepers, yet only 5% receive support from agricultural extension services. Despite their central role in day-to-day animal care, men are more likely to be prioritized by animal health services and have better access to information to implement best practices. Neglecting women's contributions to animal healthcare not only limits their potential as key change-makers but also misses opportunities to solve persistent healthcare challenges at the farm level.

To support the development of a gender-responsive training model for veterinary paraprofessionals (VPP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a participatory animal health service needs assessment in Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. At the farmer level, the study revealed that while women and men perform distinct but complementary roles in livestock care, women have significantly less access to animal health services. This disparity is shaped by gender norms, religious affiliations, and traditional roles. At the VPP level, the study found a lack of awareness about how gender impacts farmer's access to service provision. It also reported that although women VPPs are an important channel for reaching women farmers, they represent a minority in the workforce and face gender-related professional disadvantages, including bias about their competence, pay gaps, sexual harassment, lower confidence, digital access issues, and fewer mentorship opportunities. These challenges may disincentivize them from working in the field, opting to be stationed in clinics and laboratories or dropping out of the profession entirely, furthering the gender gap in veterinary service access.

In response to these challenges, a VPP training program was piloted to ensure that (i) content was designed to meet women livestock keepers' needs and improve VPP outreach to women livestock keepers and (ii) that the professional challenges women VPPs face are addressed. To achieve this, the program incorporated modules to build women VPPs' confidence in areas such as communication, price negotiation, de-escalating bias and harassment, and handling large ruminants. Efforts were made to facilitate women's participation through flexible, self-paced online learning, short workshop duration, and the provision of childcare. Additionally, a gender-sensitive animal health service delivery module was developed, focusing on outreach to women livestock keepers. To date, the training has received great interest and positive impact with regards to gender. A total of 880 VPPs have undertaken gender-sensitive training, with 305 completing face-to-face sessions.

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Gender in the veterinary domain

Abstract title: LE NOMBRE DE FEMMES DANS LE SECTEUR VÉTÉRINAIRE AUGMENTE, MAIS EST-CE QUE L'INCLUSION EST AUSSI SIMPLE QUE ÇA ?
SOUS-TITRE : ANALYSE « GENRE » SUR L'ACCÈS À LA FORMATION ET L'INSERTION PROFESSIONNELLE DES FEMMES DANS LE SECTEUR VÉTÉRINAIRE AU SÉNÉGAL ET AU TOGO.

Author/s: Dr Anne-Françoise Thierry, Sonia Fèvre, Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, Bachir Souley Kouato

Abstract text: En 2023, l'OMSA a commandité une étude genre du Projet de Professionnalisation des Para-professionnel·les (P3V) au Sénégal et Togo, afin de mieux comprendre les spécificités des femmes dans le secteur de la santé animale et promouvoir un environnement favorable à la fois à plus d'égalité et équité entre femmes et hommes dans les domaines vétérinaire et à une meilleure prise en charge de la santé animale. Au-delà de la revue exhaustive des documents du P3V, ont été conduits des entretiens en ligne et au Togo avec les ministères de l'élevage, des professionnel·les vétérinaires, des étudiant·es, enseignant·es et éleveur·euses. Ces analyses qualitatives ont été complétées par des enquêtes exhaustives en ligne auprès des mêmes publics dans les deux pays. Ces travaux ont permis de mettre en évidence des constats et conclusions dans l'accès à la formation et insertion professionnelle des femmes dans les services vétérinaires. Ainsi, les environnements politiques et institutionnels des deux pays sont depuis plusieurs années plus favorables à la professionnalisation des femmes, ce qui s'est concrétisé par une part croissante de la proportion des femmes dans les métiers de vétérinaires. Néanmoins, dans les faits, les contraintes liées au genre, à la charge mentale et familiale, aux stéréotypes (notamment sur la force physique) et au poids des traditions persistent et handicapent encore la carrière des femmes « modernes », notamment pour ce qui est des paraprofessionnelles. En effet, les structures d'enseignement et la profession ne prennent pas toujours suffisamment en compte les spécificités liées au sexe biologique (ex. par l'adaptation des infrastructures sanitaires et structures d'accueil, la mise en place de politique de prise en compte des étudiantes enceintes, la gestion des risques liés à la grossesse sur le lieu de travail). Un certain nombre d'étudiantes et professionnelles ont fait part de violences sexistes, principalement verbales, sur les lieux d'enseignement, de stage et de travail. Les spécificités des femmes éleveuses ne sont pas analysées à la hauteur des enjeux en termes de santé animale et humaine, et certaines d'entre elles échappent aux services et soins vétérinaires par manque d'information, de formation et de financements. Enfin, la faible représentativité des femmes dans la sphère publique, les organes consulaires, les organisations représentatives, et sur les postes d'enseignement et de direction continue à avoir un effet dissuasif sur les jeunes femmes à choisir une carrière scientifique liée à la santé animale.
Mots clés : Femmes vétérinaires et paravétérinaires, contraintes basées sur le genre, femmes éleveuses, violences sexistes

Thematic session: Technical themes and enabling environment for effective veterinary workforce

Session title: Gender in the veterinary domain

Abstract title: AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES ET JEUNES ENTREPRENEURS IMPLIQUÉS DANS LA PRODUCTION ANIMALE ET HALIEUTIQUE (Kinshasa, RDC)

Author/s: Dr Solange Ndudi, Denise Ntema, Eulalie Kashwantale, Dr Tatiana Banze, Antoinette Lukalu

Abstract text: **Contexte**

En RDC la femme est une actrice incontestable dans le secteur de l'élevage et la survie des ménages en milieu rurale. Malgré les efforts fournis par le gouvernement et les partenaires pour leur autonomie financière, plusieurs difficultés sont encore constatées par rapport au développement de leurs unités de production. Il s'agit entre autres de l'ignorance des maladies des animaux d'une part, les faibles applications de mesures de contrôle et de prévention des maladies ainsi que la faible communication avec les services attirés et ces acteurs d'autre part. C'est dans ce cadre que l'Association s'est doté d'un plan d'activité quinquennal qui est mis en œuvre en majeure partie avec ses fonds propres et selon l'approche "une santé".

Description des activités

Phase I de la formation des femmes entrepreneurs et PPV sur la production des grillons comestibles (Octobre 2024);

Réflexion sur les difficultés rencontrées au quotidien par les femmes actives dans de l'agropastoral en milieu péri-urbain de Kinshasa en collaboration avec RENAFER (Activité encours de réalisation Kinshasa, Octobre 2024).

Etat des lieux des étangs , organisation des pisciculteurs de Kimwenza Gare et visite de la ferme Expérimentale des cailles créée par AVFD faisant suite à l'identification des femmes et jeunes entrepreneurs impliqués dans la production animale et halieutique (Kinshasa, Septembre 2024);

Sensibilisation des vendeurs de produits carnés et halieutiques sur les VBG et leurs impacts sur les revenus au marché de Gambela; activité réalisée avec les Paraprofessionnels vétérinaires (PPV) femmes (Kinshasa, Septembre 2023);

Résultats / Suivi et évaluation des résultats

9 Femmes ont été formés pour produire les grillons comestibles : renforcer l'autonomie financière et offrir les protéines de bonne qualité;

20 étangs ont été visités et 17 pisciculteurs ont été organisée en association à Kimwenza;

La ferme expérimentale des cailles de AVFD a été visité (Exploitation sans Antibiotique à Lemba);

56 vendeurs des viandes et poissons (15 hommes et 41 femmes) ont été sensibilisés sur les VBG et leurs impacts sur leur revenus à Gambela.

Impacts et recommandations

Formation sur la production des grillons: Améliorer des compétences, générer des revenus supplémentaires, contribuer à la diversification de l'alimentation (apports en protéines et nutriments), impliquer les femmes dans la pratique du développement durable de l'environnement;

Réflexion sur les difficultés quotidiennes rencontrées par les femmes actives dans de l'agropastoral: Les sensibiliser sur les bonnes pratiques de l'élevage et la reproductivité ainsi que l'utilisation rationnelle des antimicrobiens et les pesticides;

Etats des lieux des étangs et visite ferme: gérer de manière responsable et collaborative des étangs et améliorer la production ainsi que les revenus des femmes et jeunes entrepreneurs dans la chaine animale et halieutique pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des communautés;

Sensibilisation des vendeurs de viande et poissons: lutter contre les VBG, améliorer leurs revenus et renforcer la cohésion sociale.





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