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Assessment of Building Front-line Animal Health Workforce Capacities in Kenya

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Context

Field veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals including the animal and public health front-line workers and wildlife personnel are essential front-line workers and have strong ties to the local community. Their proximity to disease events make them key to improving field data quality for risk analysis in disease prevention and control. The In Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) program strengthens veterinarians' skills, fostering critical thinking to enhance preparedness, early detection, and rapid response to transboundary animal diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and antimicrobial resistance, based on One Health approach.

Methods / Descriptions of activities

The training evaluation method employed mixed methods and were designed using a pre/post and post only evaluation.
The sample population included all 75 trainees (n =75)
Data was collected through a Google Form and in-person surveys. Knowledge assessments were analysed using paired sample t-test while the other quantitative indicators were analysed using descriptive statistics.

Results / Monitoring and evaluation of results

The assessments documented progress improvement of the frontline workers with increase in knowledge on One Health Concepts, demonstrating mastery in veterinary epidemiology skills through improved epidemiological data collection, analysis, reporting, outbreak investigation and documentation.

	Pre-training	Post-training	% Change	T-Stat	P-Value
Cohort 1	3.06	4.47	+ 0.46	16.16	0.0038
Cohort 2	3.35	4.32	+ 0.29	9.5	0.0109
Cohort 3	2.69	4.65	+ 0.73	17.67	0.0032

Dr. Priscila Waitiki an ISAVET Cohort 2 Trainee conducting a disease surveilance exercise in Biri Ward, Muranga County, Kenya. - Photo@FAO
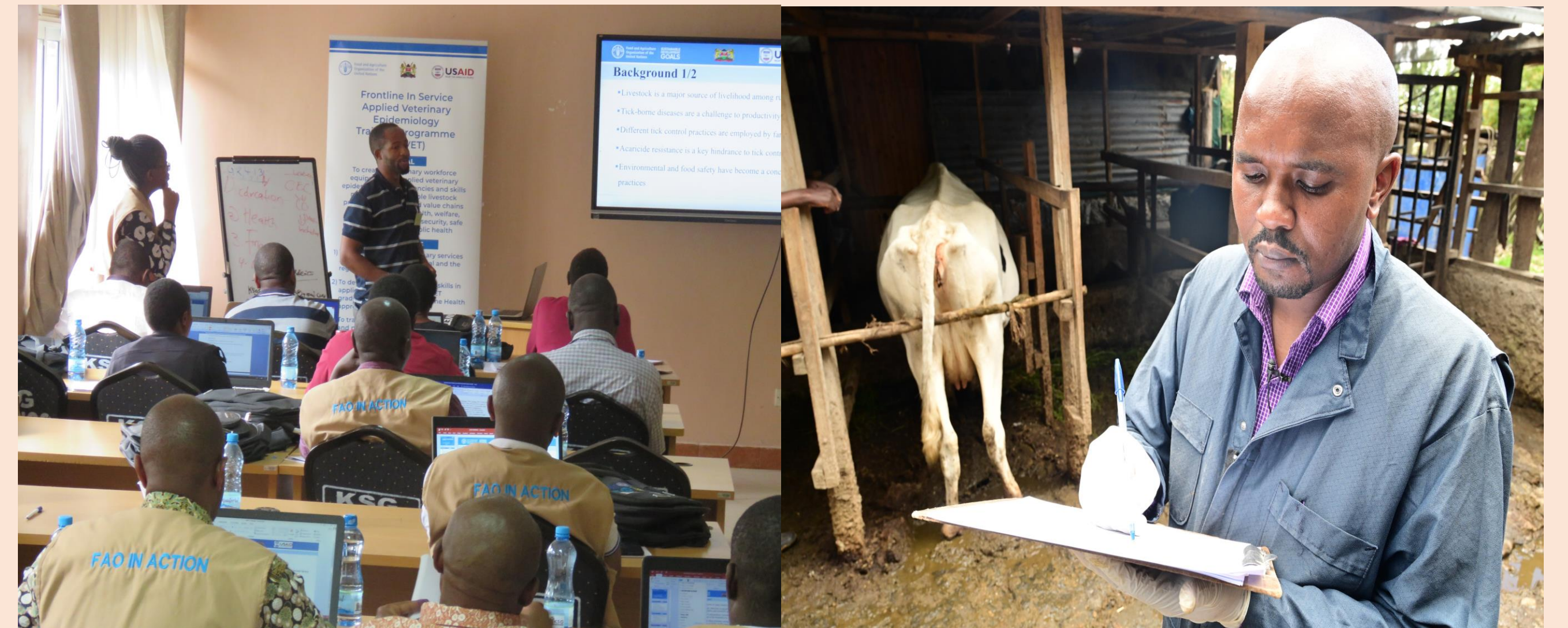
Trainee presentation during ISAVET Cohort 2 Training Photo@FAO

Dr. Peter Maina - ISAVET Cohort 2 trainee filling a surveilance and outbreak investigation form in North Kinangop, Nyandarua County, Kenya. Photo@FAO

ISAVET Cohort 2 Graduation Ceremony Photo@FAO

Conclusions and recommendations

The assessment identified the need to initiate executive ISAVET training for Directors at national and subnational levels and based on the usefulness of the ISAVET training skills in field, the ISAVET Certificate should be recognized as a competency among Frontline Animal Health workers. This will contribute towards the sustainability of the ISAVET program in the country.

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