

Trade opportunities in FMD endemic countries under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and SPS Measures in Africa

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Diagnostics to Strengthen Control Efforts in Eastern Africa**

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Introduction to AfCFTA

- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is a trade agreement among African Union member states, creating a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of businesspersons and investments.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - - Boost intra-African trade
 - - Enhance competitiveness
 - - Promote industrial development
 - - Foster sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth

WOAH and the AfCFTA

- The **AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods** includes a **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) framework**—contained in **Annex 7**—that aims to facilitate trade while protecting human, animal, and plant health
- WOAHA is recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the **international standard-setting body for animal health and zoonoses**, making its standards a reference point for SPS compliance under the AfCFTA
- WOAHA's support aligns with the African Union's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework to liberalise trade of goods and services, including livestock and their products, in a single market formation.

WOAH - AfCFTA Partnership

Supports.....

- **Economic Growth:** Increased trade and investment opportunities in the livestock sector.
- **Market Expansion:** Access to a larger market of over 1.2 billion people on the continent.
- **Job Creation:** Generation of employment opportunities.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Improvement in infrastructure and connectivity.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Enhanced economic activities leading to poverty alleviation.

The **WOAH PVS Pathway**: global framework used to **assess, strengthen, and sustainably improve** national veterinary services.

Core Objective:

Ensure veterinary systems comply with WOAHS standards to guarantee animal health, food safety, and safe trade.

Key Components:

1. **PVS Evaluation** – comprehensive country assessment against WOAHS standards (legislation, governance, human resources, labs, etc.)
2. **PVS Gap Analysis** – identifies capacity needs and investment priorities.
3. **Targeted Support** – technical missions on specific areas (e.g., FMD, PPR, Rabies, PPP, legislation).
4. **PVS Follow-up Missions** – measure progress over time.

Importance of PVS under AfCFTA

- **Harmonises** animal health systems and strengthens compliance with SPS measures.
- **Builds trust and equivalence** between member states for livestock and animal products.
- **Enables evidence-based zoning and certification** critical for trade from FMD-endemic areas.
- **Attracts donor and private investment** into animal health infrastructure.

Example (Africa):

Over 45 African countries have undergone a PVS Evaluation — supporting the design of national animal health strategies and regional trade frameworks (AU-IBAR, WOAHA, FAO collaboration).

Commodity-Based Trade - **non-geographic standards** that enable safe trade of animal commodities—even if sourced from FMD-endemic areas—by ensuring that final products pose a **negligible risk** of FMD transmission.

WOAH's *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (TAHC) outlines accepted CBT approaches such as:

- 1.Processing to inactivate the FMD virus:** is recognized as safe—virus particles are inactivated—**irrespective of the FMD status of origin**
- 2.Compartmentalization** of production systems: TAHC - a compartment is a site (farm, group of farms, facilities) with integrated biosecurity. Most common in controlled, intensive systems like poultry or pig farms.



- **Formal arrangements** between two countries outlining conditions for the import and export of animals and animal products.

Link to Sanitary Measures:

- Agreements include specific Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures based on risk assessment and WOAHA standards.
- Cover disease control requirements, certification, quarantine, and inspection procedures.
- Provide a framework for equivalence and mutual recognition of veterinary measures.

• Relevance under AfCFTA:

- The AfCFTA **encourages harmonisation** of SPS measures to reduce trade barriers.
- Bilateral SPS agreements **support implementation** of the AfCFTA Annex on SPS.
- **Facilitate safe cross-border livestock** and animal product trade among member states.
- Enable market access for FMD-endemic countries through risk-based trade arrangements.



Trade Opportunities: FMD-PCP

- **Staged, step-wise approaches** used to structure *the road to disease reduction and freedom*
- PCPs are used on a **range of major livestock and zoonotic diseases** incl.: **FMD**, PPR, Rabies etc
- Provides systemic **frameworks** for planning and evaluating field interventions and enable **realistic** disease control objectives to be defined and achieved
- Trade:

Project Activities 2025

- PVS Missions (FU/Targeted Support)
 - CB Training Lab Focal Points
 - CB Training on FMD official control Programmes
 - CB Training on WAHIS (Africa, French & English)
 - Support Delegates & Experts attend important scientific meetings
- **PVS Pathway support**
 - PVS Follow-up Missions
 - Gap Analysis
 - Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) missions
 - The WOAH Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Programme
- Provision of **SPS technical advice** to Member States
- Facilitation of **participation of WOAH Delegates** to scientific committee meetings and International Conferences, likely to lead to new animal standard-setting in the future
- **Capacity building** on:
 - WOAH standards
 - WOAH pathways towards recognition of disease freedom, endorsement of official disease control programmes
 - National Focal Point Workshops on disease reporting (WAHIS)
- Support to AU and COMESA Secretariat in **addressing SPS capacity and gaps**
- **Communications & Awareness-Raising** on SPS issues

Thank you

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