

PUBLIC SECTOR VIEWS: NIGERIAN VETERINARY AUTHORITY

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At

Webinar on WOAHA Standards Facilitating Safe International Trade
Commodity: Poultry Meat

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Why poultry meat matters to Nigeria

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Food & nutrition

Poultry is a major source of accessible animal protein and an important component of household food security.

Livelihoods

The value chain connects farmers, feed suppliers, transporters, processors, traders and service providers.

Trade opportunity

The strategic opportunity is to build export-ready systems that demonstrate safety, quality, traceability and disease control.

Poultry meat trade links animal health, veterinary public health, food safety, biosecurity, surveillance and market access. For government, the objective is not simply to export more—but to export safely, consistently and credibly. International standards provide the common technical language needed to build confidence between trading partners.

The public-sector perspective

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PROTECT

VERIFY

CERTIFY

FACILITATE

RESPOND

The Veterinary Authority's central proposition

International trade confidence is built on a functioning assurance system. Certification is the visible output; surveillance, laboratories, regulation, biosecurity, traceability, inspection and emergency response are the system underneath it.

The Veterinary Authority is the competent public institution for animal health assurances underpinning international trade. Our role is to provide credible evidence that disease risks are identified, controlled, monitored and transparently communicated. Certification must be the end-point of a functioning system—not a stand-alone administrative exercise. Safe trade requires alignment among veterinary services, laboratories, quarantine, food-safety authorities, producers, processors and exporters.

WOAH standards: the common technical language

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Terrestrial Code

Internationally agreed animal-health and veterinary public-health standards.

Terrestrial Manual

Standardized approaches supporting reliable diagnosis and laboratory evidence.

SPS framework

Science-based sanitary measures and international reference standards.

WOAH standards support safe international trade while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.

The Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides internationally agreed measures for terrestrial animal health, veterinary public health and trade.

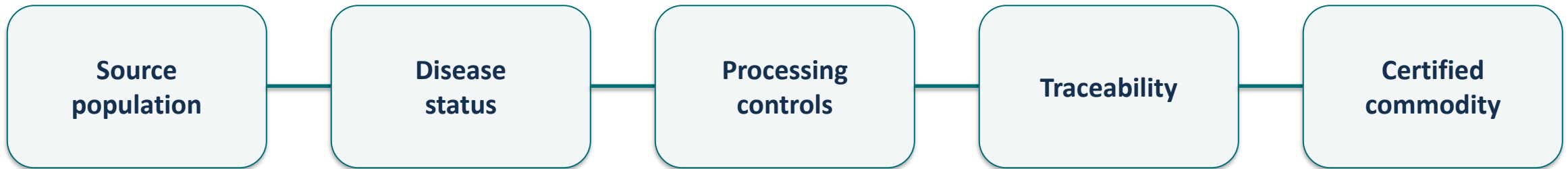
The Terrestrial Manual provides standardized approaches to diagnosis and supports reliable certification.

The SPS Agreement encourages WTO Members to base sanitary measures on relevant international standards where they exist.

STANDARDS → CONFIDENCE → SAFE TRADE

Commodity-based risk: the shift from blanket restrictions

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Trade decisions should focus on the specific commodity and the actual hazard pathways—not automatically on the status of the whole country. Relevant controls may address the health status of the source population, zone or compartment; slaughter and processing controls; treatment; traceability; and prevention of contamination.

The public sector must be able to demonstrate that measures are science-based, proportionate and verifiable. This approach creates opportunities for continued safe trade even where disease occurs in defined areas.

Avian influenza: managing a high-consequence trade risk

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1 • DETECT

Surveillance, investigation and rapid laboratory confirmation.

2 • CONTAIN

Biosecurity, movement controls, response and tracing.

3 • DEMONSTRATE

Notification, defined disease status and commodity-specific assurance.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a major threat to poultry production, livelihoods, public health and international trade in Nigeria.

Regionalization and compartmentalization can help prevent unnecessary disruption of trade when disease is geographically or epidemiologically contained.

Transparent notification, surveillance, rapid response, biosecurity and official certification are central to maintaining confidence.

Other poultry disease risks: evidence must drive measures

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Newcastle disease

Surveillance, diagnosis, vaccination and biosecurity underpin credible disease-status claims.

Other hazards

Importing-country requirements should be addressed through risk assessment and agreed sanitary conditions.

Proportionality

Measures should be technically justified, verifiable and proportionate to identified risk.

Newcastle disease remains an important poultry health and trade consideration; virulent Newcastle disease is a WOAH-listed disease.

Effective surveillance, laboratory confirmation, vaccination programmes and biosecurity underpin credible disease-status claims. Trade assurance should also consider other relevant hazards identified through bilateral risk assessment and the importing country's sanitary requirements.

Nigeria's approach remain risk-based, evidence-driven and consistent with applicable WOAH standards. Recently, a NCD strategic control document was validated.

What the Nigerian Veterinary Authority must be able to assure

Disease surveillance: timely detection, investigation and reporting of priority poultry diseases.

Laboratory assurance: competent diagnostics, quality systems, traceable results and reliable turnaround times.

Biosecurity: enforceable standards from farm through transport, slaughter and processing.

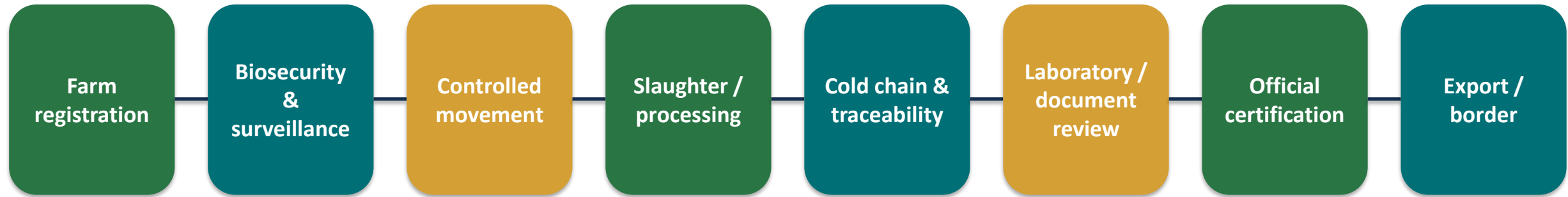
Traceability: ability to identify the origin and movement of birds, products and relevant establishments.

Certification: competent officials issuing accurate, verifiable international veterinary certificates.

Transparency: timely communication with WOAH and trading partners when disease events occur.

Farm-to-export assurance chain

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Farm registration and risk profiling

Biosecurity assessment and disease surveillance

Approved/controlled movement and transport

Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection where applicable

Hygienic slaughter and processing under controlled conditions

Cold-chain integrity, traceability and product identification

Laboratory verification and documentation

Official veterinary certification and border/quarantine controls

EVERY HAND-OFF IS AN ASSURANCE POINT

Institutional coordination: one assurance system

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FMLD / CVON

Policy • Veterinary Services • disease control

NVRI

Diagnostics • research • laboratory support

NAQS

Quarantine • border inspection
• export/import controls

STATE VET SERVICES

Field surveillance • response • verification

FOOD SAFETY / STANDARDS

Food-chain controls
• complementary oversight

Certification: credibility is the product

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EVIDENCE

VERIFICATION

AUTHORISATION

CERTIFICATE

The certificate is only as credible as the system behind it

The certifying official must have access to reliable surveillance, laboratory, establishment and traceability information
Certification should be accurate, secure, traceable and supported by documented procedures.

Public–private partnership: assurance is a shared responsibility

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Priority system gaps to close

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PRIORITY 01

Uneven biosecurity implementation

PRIORITY 02

Traceability and movement-data gaps

PRIORITY 03

Laboratory capacity & quality assurance

PRIORITY 04

Risk-based inspection and audit

PRIORITY 05

Export-oriented infrastructure / cold chain

PRIORITY 06

Federal–State information coordination

Institutional coordination in Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Livestock Development / Office of the CVON: animal health policy, veterinary oversight, disease control and international veterinary obligations.

National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI): diagnostics, surveillance support, research and vaccine-related functions.

Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS): animal quarantine, export/import inspection and certification functions at points of entry/exit.

State Veterinary Services: frontline surveillance, outbreak response, field verification and implementation.

Food-safety and standards institutions, industry and laboratories: complementary controls across the food chain.

Effective trade depends on clear mandates, interoperable information systems and coordinated certification.

Nigeria's reform direction

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Modern Veterinary Services

Stronger surveillance & labs

Risk-based inspection & audit

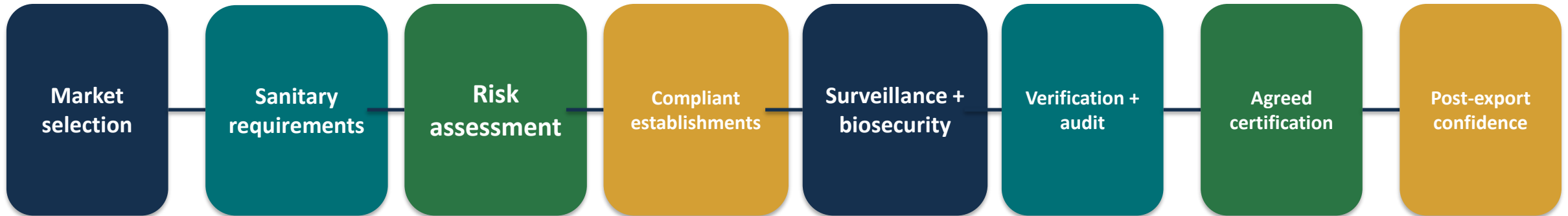
Traceability & digital information

Export-ready poultry value chains

Nigeria has developed a strategic roadmap for the Veterinary Services and has made considerable investments in its surveillance and laboratory testing. NADIS is now online to assist in prompt disease reporting. A one Health risk-based inspection guideline has been developed and validated by stakeholders and the National Animal identification and Traceability system is in its final stages.

Practical pathway to poultry meat export

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Nigeria's message to trading partners

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SCIENCE

Nigeria supports sanitary measures based on science, risk assessment and relevant WOAH standards.

TRANSPARENCY

Confidence requires timely notification, credible surveillance and evidence.

DIALOGUE

We welcome technical engagement, equivalence discussions and opportunities to demonstrate system performance.

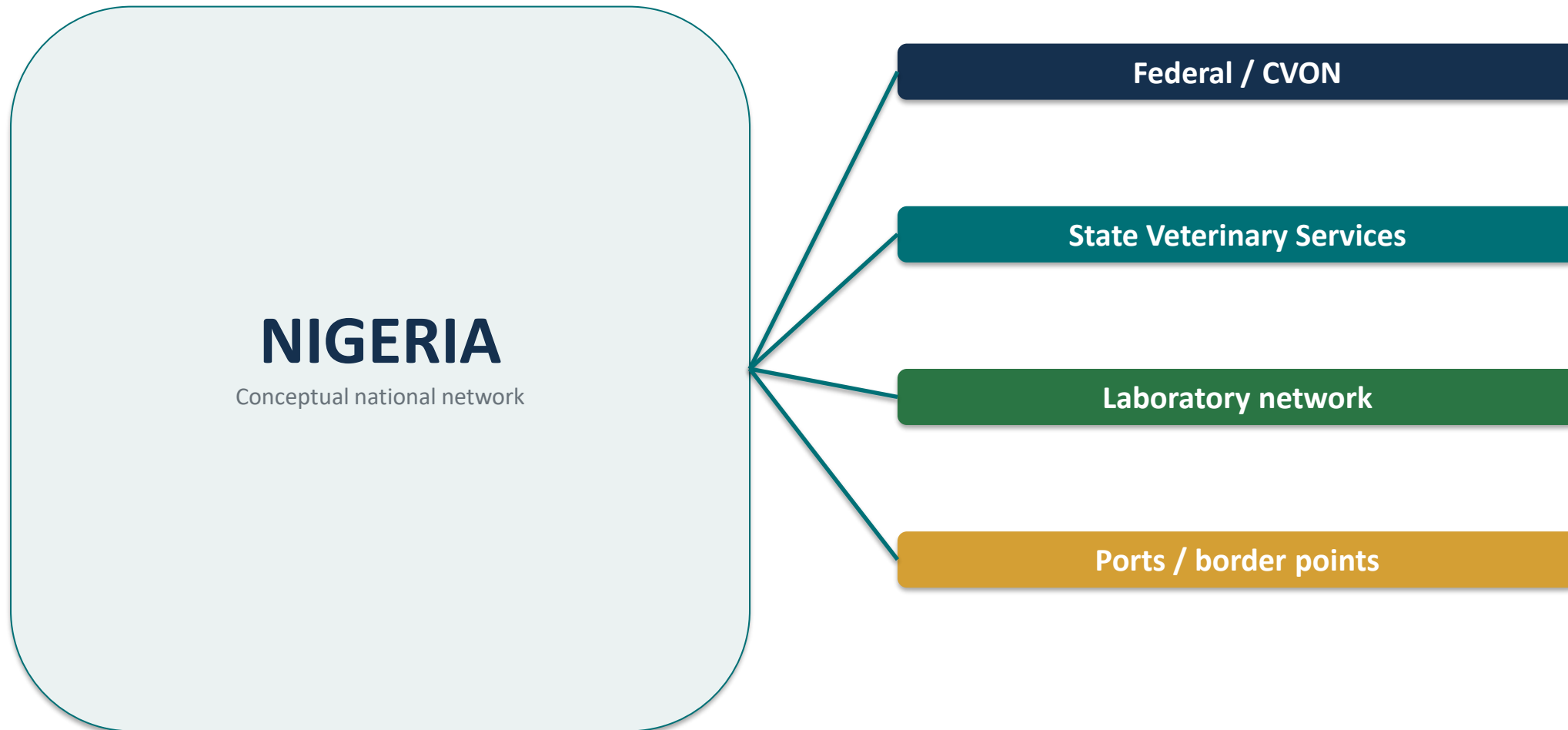
Key take-home messages

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-  **WOAH standards can enable safe, predictable trade.**
-  **The assurance chain is stronger than the certificate alone.**
-  **Regionalisation and compartmentalisation can support risk-based trade.**
-  **Surveillance, laboratories, biosecurity and traceability build confidence.**
-  **Nigeria is committed to modern Veterinary Services and export readiness.**

Nigeria: a connected Veterinary Services assurance network

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SAFE TRADE REQUIRES CREDIBLE ASSURANCE

- Our ambition is to move from a system that primarily controls disease to one that also demonstrates, with credible evidence, that Nigerian animal products meet the sanitary expectations of international markets.
- Thank you