



WELCOME TO OUR SECOND NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

This is the second edition of the ECTAD Ethiopia Newsletter. Each issue will provide updated information on past, current and future events involving the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Ethiopia.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of all partners who made it possible to issue the second edition of our newsletter.

This newsletter contains major news, events, and programme progress covering the first quarter (January - March) of 2018. Major issues highlighted in this newsletter include information sharing on current cattle production systems and their impacts on public health, environment and livelihoods; and establishment of Emerging Pandemic Threat Technical Working Group. It also includes information on trainings, workshops and meetings organized for stakeholders/ partners on various topics. Furthermore, this issue provides some key facts on antimicrobial resistance and feedback from one of our partner organizations-Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA).

I hope you find the contents of this ECTAD Ethiopia Newsletter informative and interesting.

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter widely and provide us your feedback by e-mailing feleseta.woldtsadique@fao.org.

Gijs van 't Klooster
Head - Livestock and Pastoralism Thematic Program
FAO Ethiopia

ASL2050 project shares information on current cattle production systems, impacts on public health, environment, livelihoods



Workshop participants

ECTAD Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR), organized a midpoint workshop to facilitate information sharing of the results and the upcoming activities of the Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 (ASL2050) project.

Specifically, information was shared during the workshop focusing on current production systems of cattle dairy and beef, along with their impacts on public health, the environment, and livelihoods and presenting the work plan of this year to identify potential future impacts.

The one-day event was conducted at FAO Ethiopia Meeting Hall on 8 March 2018 in the presence of 35 participants drawn from relevant government, nongovernment and private institutions. [READ MORE](#)

Rabies, Anthrax TWGs Meeting

Rabies and anthrax TWG meeting was organized from 3 to 5 January 2018 at Asham Hotel, Bishoftu town to finalize the anthrax and rabies strategic documents and prepare the estimated budget plan for same.

Besides, the meeting integrated the monitoring and evaluation plans under the respective documents which were developed by the TWGs through the support of a subject matter expert from the regional FAO ECTAD; determined roles and responsibilities as well as possible sources of funding for the planned activities; and cleared the documents for the upcoming validation workshop. In total, 25 participants took part in the event.

Emerging Pandemic Threat Technical Working Group Launched

Following the establishment of the National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC), multi-sectoral disease-based technical working groups and the One Health Communication Network have been formed at country level in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, FAO and other One Health partners.

Similarly, an Emerging Pandemic Threat Technical Working Group (EPT-TWG) was established by the NOHSC and One Health Partners to strengthen preparedness and response plan for mitigating emerging pandemic threats such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, (HPAI) Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus and others. The TWG provides a multi-sectoral technical coordination

and guidance to enable the health system prevent, detect, and respond to emerging pandemic zoonotic threats. As a follow up to the establishment of the EPT-TWG, the first meeting was organized on 6 March 2018 involving 16 representatives from different government sectors and partner organizations.

The participants agreed to develop multi-sectoral preparedness and response plan for HPAI and prepare a work plan for future activities.

All the multi-sectoral disease-based TWGs, including the EPT-TWG, are accountable to the National One Health Steering Committee which oversees activities and advises the government in policy areas related to priority zoonotic and emerging disease threats.

Curriculum Development Workshop for Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPv)

Curriculum development workshop for Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPv) was conducted from 19 to 25 March 2018 in collaboration with the FETP Coordination Office of the Ministry of Health (MoH). The objective of the workshop was to review and harmonize curriculum for existing public health FETP and to develop curriculum for laboratory and veterinary field epidemiology tracks that will be integrated into the existing core FETP curriculum. In total, 28 participants attended the workshop represented from eight FETP hosting government universities, National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center (NAHDIC), FAO Ethiopia, Ministry of Education (MoE) and MoH.

Among the modules in the newly developed curriculum are Surveillance and Epidemiology of Priority Health Problems, Zoonosis and Food Safety, and Livestock Emergency Management. All the modules focus on supporting veterinarians that will work in animal health and production areas and



Partial view of the workshop participants during group discussion

contribute more to the mandates of MoALR. Specifically, the modules provide basic knowledge in the field of epidemiological applications focusing on effective animal disease surveillance and outbreak response through integrated inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approaches in order to improve effectiveness and timeliness of disease detection and response.

In addition to the course modules, five modifications have also been made to the resident's field output body of works: zoonotic disease surveillance data analysis, public and veterinary health profile description, surveillance system

evaluation in veterinary public health, outbreak investigation of zoonotic disease, and livestock emergency management situation.

The newly developed modules will be implemented by universities after getting endorsed by the MoE.

Training Workshop on Good Emergency Management Practices

Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) training workshop was provided for 19 participants drawn from MoALR, Regional Animal Health Services and Laboratories, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from 19 to 23 March 2018, in Addis Ababa.

The training workshop was financed by the Republic of Korea funded Project entitled, "Support to Address the Avian Influenza and other High Impact Animal Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa" in collaboration with FAO-ECTAD East Africa, ECTAD Ethiopia and the MoALR. The primary aim of the training was to introduce participants to the basic principles of GEMP and also guide them mount effective national response mechanisms against transboundary animal and priority zoonotic disease emergencies in the country.

The workshop was designed as an interactive participatory forum employing short presentations followed by group and plenary discussions on real problems. The GEMP training included a table top simulation exercise targeting RVF given the recent warnings suggesting an increasing risk of RVF outbreak in the East Africa region.

Accordingly, the participants were allowed to come up with possible measures against a hypothetical scenario, which involved unusually high rainfall and mosquito multiplication followed by abortion storms in animals and febrile disease in humans. In view of the elements of the GEMP manual, participants assessed the gaps of the existing RVF contingency plan for Ethiopia.

Training on ADNIS/DOVAR Surveillance System

FAO ECTAD supported trainings on Animal Diseases Notification & Investigation System/Disease Outbreak Report (ADNIS/DOVAR) surveillance system for 115 district animal health staffs (18 female) drawn from different districts of North Shewa and Wagmera Zones of Amhara Regional State and Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture.

The trainings were organized between February and March 2018 in three different places. The objective of the trainings was to expand the ADNIS disease reporting coverage in the highland part of the country through hands-on training on the system and engage district animal health staffs in the ADNIS reporting system.

The Words of Our Partners

Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA) is a public institution under the MoALR, legally established to regulate and administer veterinary drugs and feed thereby ensuring their safety, efficacy, quality and suitability.

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VDFACA and FAO ECTAD Ethiopia started partnership in 2017. Thus far, ECTAD Ethiopia has supported our Authority both technically and financially in order to sustainably strengthen existing systems for addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) containment in the country.

Below are some of the areas that FAO ECTAD has helped the Authority:

- Designing and implementation of a Baseline Assessment on Antimicrobials Use, Resistance and Containment gaps;
- Updating and revising of the One Health AMR Prevention and Containment Strategy for Ethiopia to address livestock production, aquaculture & fisheries, food, agriculture and the environment;
- Designing and implementation of follow up measures on identified institutional and behavioral gaps to contain the problem of AMR in the country;
- Reviewing legislations relevant for antimicrobial use and resistance in Ethiopia that will assist to sustainably address the long-term health and economic threats due to AMR;
- Initiating the updating and revising of the existing national veterinary drug list;
- Development of guidelines for safe disposal of veterinary drugs and feed;
- Development of veterinary medicines/pharmaceuticals management and user manual; and
- Provision of training.



*Dr Terzu Daya,
Director General of VDFACA*

Finally, on behalf of VDFACA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and forward my appreciation to FAO Ethiopia for its unreserved support provided to our Authority. I hope and wish that our partnership will continue in the future in order to address the challenges of veterinary drugs and feed quality, and to combat the threats of AMR in the country.

What Should We Know about Antimicrobial Resistance?

- Effective antimicrobials are critical for treating diseases in humans, animals and plants and help ensure food safety and security;
- AMR occurs when bacteria, virus, fungi and parasites become resistant to the drugs typically used to treat people or animals infected by them;
- Antimicrobial resistant-microbes may spread between people and animals either through direct contact, food of animal origin, or from the environment;
- Misuse and/or excessive use of antimicrobials in humans and animals are believed to accelerate the AMR problem;
- Currently, AMR is a major global health and economic threat causing a significant number of illnesses and deaths in both humans and animals; and
- AMR containment requires coordinated multi-institution and multidisciplinary actions across all countries and sectors.

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