

DEPARTMENT OF PHPT TRAINS VETERINARY STAFF FROM THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

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Location / Venue:

Kenya School of Government (KSG), Lower Kabete

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The Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology won a consultancy to train veterinary staff from the Greater Horn of Africa on Surveillance and Epidemiology of trade-related Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs). The 28 participants attending the training are drawn from six countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. The three-month training will lead to the award of Certificate in Surveillance and Epidemiology of trade-related Transboundary Animal Diseases. The training is being facilitated by African Union- InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) with funding from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Training started on 24th February 2014 and will end on 23rd May 2014. [9]

Trans-boundary animal diseases threatens food security through serious loss of animal protein and/or loss of draught animal power for cropping, leading to increased poverty levels in poor communities that have a high incidence of dependence on livestock farming for subsistence. They cause major production losses for livestock products such as milk, meat and other dairy products, wool and other fibres and skins and hides thereby reducing farmer incomes. Zoonotic transboundary animal diseases such as Rift Valley fever and Brucellosis, cause public health consequences when transmitted to humans. Their occurrence therefore seriously disrupt trade in livestock and livestock products either within a country or internationally. This causes major losses in international export income especially in significant livestock producing countries

Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) constitute a constant threat to livelihood of livestock farmers in many African countries. Livestock play a key role in supporting livelihoods, food security and economic growth in most African countries particularly those made up of arid and semi-arid lands with many of its inhabitants depend on livestock resources. However, the region faces challenges of trade related Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) that impact on livestock production and trade. The impact of TADs is aggravated by differing animal health regulations amongst the countries of the region, uncoordinated disease surveillance and control programs and recurrent livestock trade bans by importing countries for fear of introduction of TADS.

There is need to build capacity in disease surveillance, epidemiological investigations and reporting, laboratory management, diagnostic capability and safety for communication, information sharing and regional cooperation, strengthening of disease control interventions, implementation of Standard Methods and Procedures for priority TADs and enhancement of emergency disease response. The Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) approach aims harmonize the work of Departments of Veterinary Services in the GHoA region in their approach to the control of trade-related Transboundary Animal Diseases. The goal is to establish region-wide baseline disease control protocols so that implementation of control programs is better coordinated, efficacy of a regional approach is enhanced, and communication among veterinary departments improved. The interventions will provide building blocks for harmonized and coordinated animal health program across national borders to prevent transboundary animal diseases.

Capacity building in the area aims to update the knowledge and skills of animal health professionals in surveillance and epidemiology of TADs. This will ensure that traded animals are healthy in order to protect the health of human and animals in importing countries. This training aims to contribute to

the reduction of poverty, enhance regional economic growth and integration through improved access of live animal and animal products to regional and international markets. The training program has the following specific objectives:

1. Equip veterinary professionals with knowledge and skills in functional use of surveillance and epidemiology to manage and control trade related trans-boundary animal diseases.
2. Train veterinary professionals on Standard Methods and Procedures in the management of transboundary Animal Diseases
3. Enhance participants' knowledge on collaborative and cooperative approaches in the management of the TADs at regional level
4. Strengthen communication and corporation between personnel of epidemiology units throughout the region.

Prof. Jackson N. Ombui

Chairman.

Expiry Date: Sat, 2017-12-30 12:00

Contact Person:

Prof. Jackson N. Ombui

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