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THE CARIBBEAN ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK (CARIBVET) HARMONISATION AND REINFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE FOCUSED ON EMERGING DISEASES

LEFRANÇOIS T.*1, HENDRIKX P.2, GONGORA V.3, TROTMAN M.4, ALFONSO ZAMORA P.5, MILLIEN M.6, MOLIA S.7, MARTINEZ D.7

1. Cirad, Control of Emerging and Exotic Animal Diseases Research Unit Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe
2. French embassy, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
3. BAHA, Cayo, Belize
4. Veterinary services, Ministry of Agriculture, St Michael, Barbados
5. CENSA, La Habana, Cuba
6. Ministry of Agriculture, Port au Prince, Haiti
7. Cirad, Control of Emerging and Exotic Animal Diseases Research Unit Campus international de Baillarguet, 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5, France

ABSTRACT

The Caribbean animal health network (CaribVET) is a collaboration network among veterinary services, diagnostic laboratories, research institutes, universities and regional/international organisations to improve animal health in the Caribbean. Its specific objectives are to foster exchange of information and collaboration among people involved in animal health, promote a regional approach for emergency preparedness and diseases control, develop and harmonise regional veterinary diagnostic capacities, and strengthen national epidemiological surveillance systems through training and skills building. The CaribVET website (www.caribvet.net) is a participatory website which encompasses information and data on surveillance systems, diagnostic laboratories, conferences, bibliography, and diseases of major concern in the Caribbean region. A steering committee of CaribVET, a coordination unit and six working groups were established to organize the collaboration on specific diseases or activities. Control of emerging, re-emerging and exotic animal disease threats have been at the forefront of CaribVET activities. The working

*Contact author: E-mail : thierry.lefrancois@cirad.fr

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