Regional animal health networks: Key factors for sustainability: CaribVET example

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BACKGROUND

- The Caribbean Animal Health Network
  - Collaborative Network of Veterinary Services (CVVs), research institutes, universities and regional / international organizations.
  - Improve Animal & Veterinary Public Health in the Caribbean
  - Reinforce & harmonize surveillance & control activities

CaribVET development: countries’ initiative
- 1995-2005: Technical activities triggered by sanitary crisis : CSEV; CARIN; TBT spread (Lesser Antilles), WNV virus introduction (Guadeloupe, Hispaniola…)
- 2005: CaribVET endorsed by CARICOM, COTED & 20 CVVs
- 2012: Well-established: 32 countries/territories (map) & 10 organizations

Challenges for CaribVET (and any regional networks)
- Diversity of animal production, farming practices, environments, and diseases
- Heterogeneity of socioeconomic development levels, health infrastructure
- Lack of funding, human resources, and competencies
- Variable short-term funding resources related to projects

OBJECTIVE

Identify the key factors for Regional Network sustainability & present how these challenges are addressed in CaribVET

Sustainable Network: a structured network, endorsed by members, with funding of annual Steering Committee Meetings by the members & with access to funding resources for implementation of relevant activities in the region. It should be managed so that the work is not duplicated and results are action-oriented.

Network establishment & operation reinforced

- Trilingual Charter: rules & operation, mutual trust, transparency
- Seek for mutual recognition by cooperation agreement: Letter of Understanding (OIE), under development with FAO

Reduce Networking Costs
- Organise work on regional priorities
- Share resources, co-funded meetings: USDA, CIRAD, FAO, PANO, CARICOM
- Joint activities, meetings, trainings: CARICOM CVO Meeting/CaribVET SC meeting, since 2006
- 4 WG meetings organized jointly with FAO and OIE in 2012
- Encourage savings and the use of virtual meetings: 6 webconferences, 2011-12

Coordinated Set of Activities
- Identification of priorities in the region
- Collaboration with regional and international organisations: OIE, FAO, USDA, IICA, PANO, CARICOM
- Seek complementary initiatives: Surveillance Network Assessments with CaribVET Tool
- Encourage use of other tools developed by OIE/LCA

Effigra, Grenada, Oct. 2011

CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES

Conclusion
- Overall strategy implemented by CaribVET is a long-term process aimed at reinforcing endorsement by the members, cost-effectiveness, & relevancy of activities for the region.
- Key factors identified: transfer of responsibility & competencies, coordination & consultation with partners essential to avoid redundancy and to foster mutual trust.
- Quality Assurance principles: of great help for Regional Network management!

Main Strength of CaribVET: Countries/territories are financially invested, through time and skills and through other in-kind commitments

Main challenge for CaribVET: Self-funding of SC Meetings by SC members...
To be improved/developed:
- Evaluate actions of the Network for corrective actions
- Develop performance indicators
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis

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To prove impact & efficiency to the decision & policy makers, governments & funding agencies

To support animation & coordination of the Network and Organization of the Work
- Traceability: documents, activities, competencies
- Continuous improvement: procedures, tools, documents, etc.
- Responsibilities definition

Efficiency of activities follow-up

Project Continuity
Close collaboration between CaribVET and Project coordinators
Better integration of recommendations and follow-up
Interreg Project (2009-2012) → Coordination Unit: Network management, formalisation, and coordination
FAO TCP* H111 (2011-2012) → Lab & Swine Diseases WG: Laboratory diagnostic capacities, sample shipment

Synergistic activities