

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 (CVOs)**, **research institutes**, **universities** and **regional / international organizations**.
- **Improve Animal & Veterinary Public Health** in the Caribbean
- **Reinforce & harmonize surveillance & control** activities

CaribVET development: countries' initiative

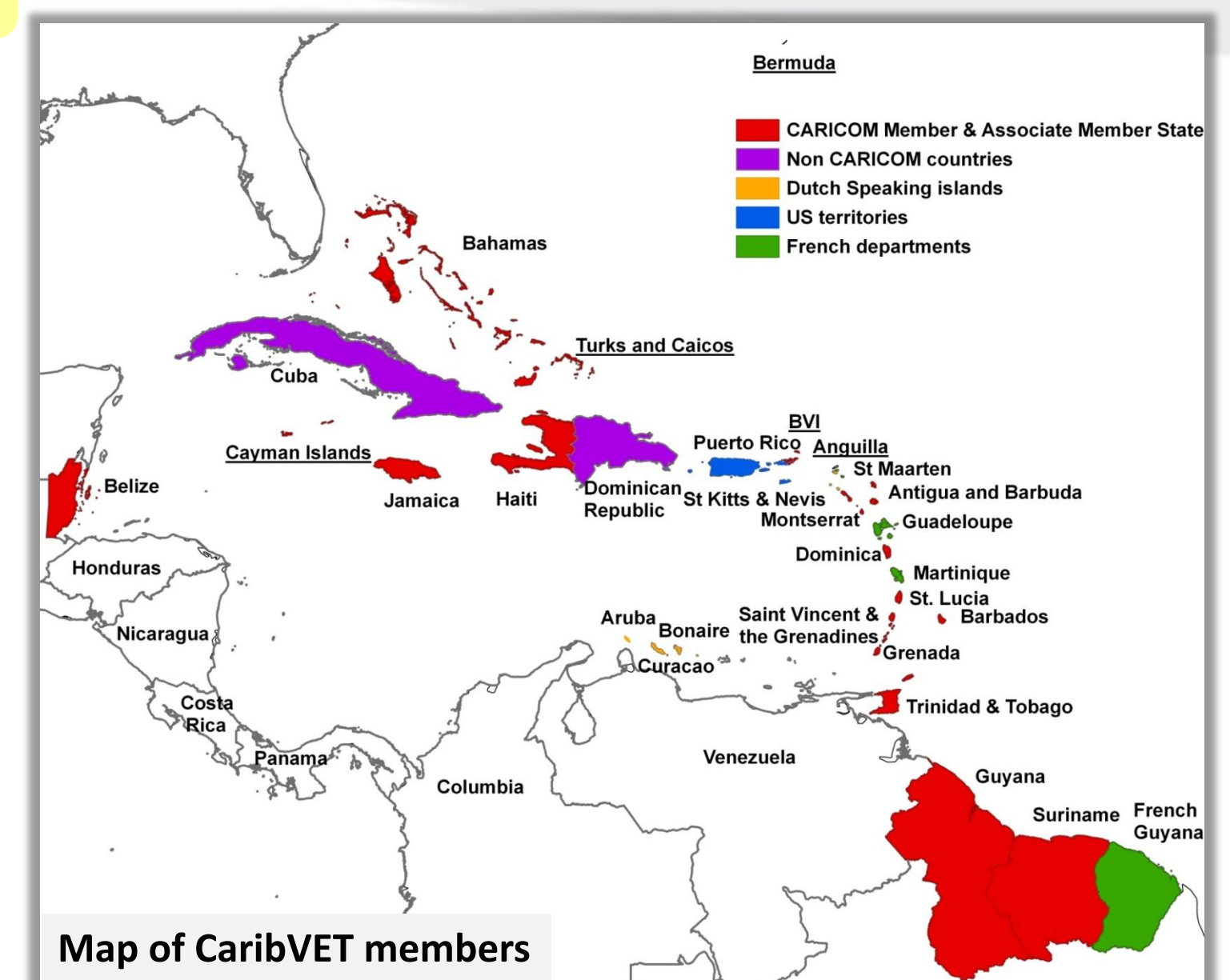
- **1995-2005: Technical activities** triggered by sanitary crisis : CSF reintroduction (Hispaniola), TBT spread (Lesser Antilles), WN virus introduction (Guadeloupe, Hispaniola,...)
- **2006: CaribVET endorsed** by CARICOM*, COTED* & 20 CVOs
- **2012: Well-established:** 32 countries/territories (map) & 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**

European Union (Interreg Project), France (FCR, FSP, FIC); US (VEP Project, USDA-APHIS-IS),...



Map of CaribVET members

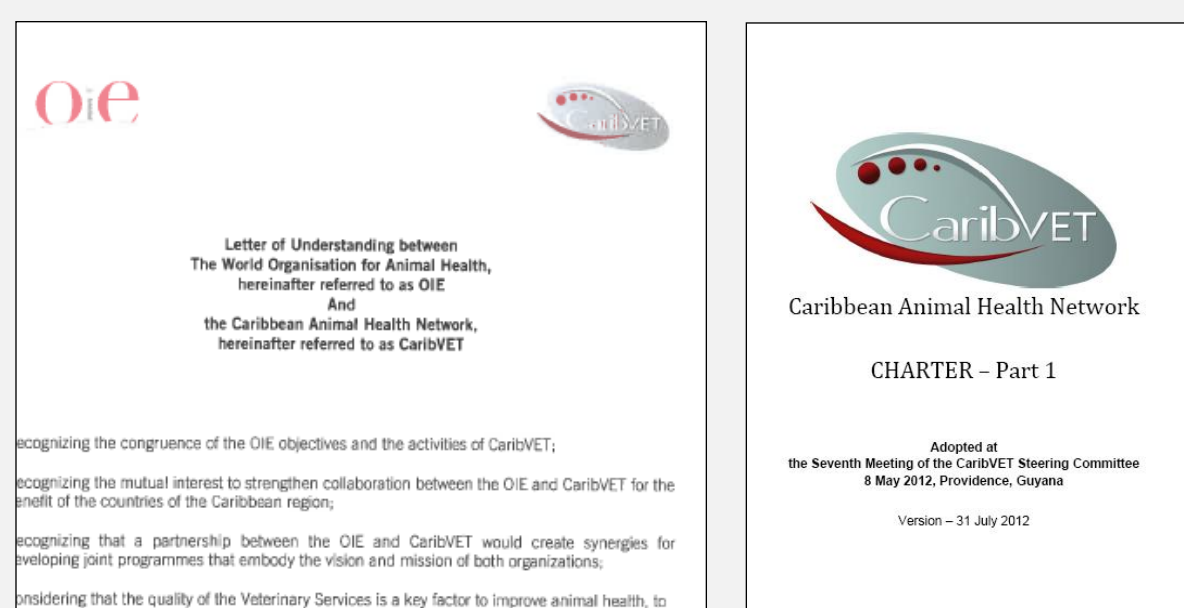
OBJECTIVE

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 Formalisation

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



Network establishment & operation reinforced

Advocacy at Highest Levels

- **Political endorsement** by regional organisation (CARICOM),
→ Facilitate regional integration
- **Communication for decision makers in countries:**
Leaflets, specialized pamphlets, trilingual website, bulletin, etc.
→ Facilitate national endorsement & members' commitment
- ⇒ Toward inclusion of budget for annual SC Meetings in the governments' annual budgets
- ⇒ Facilitation of implementation of network's activities



Fundraising and endorsement by members

Responsibility Sharing & Handover

- **Coordination Unit:** CaribVET Chair and Co-chair, WGs Chairs, CARICOM, CIRAD, USDA, VEP coordinator
- **Multidisciplinary coordination**



Coordination Unit, Georgetown-Guyana, February, 2012

Relevancy, motivation, continuity

Reduce Networking Costs

- Organise work on **regional priorities**
- **Share resources, co-fund meetings** : USDA, CIRAD, FAO, PAHO, 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

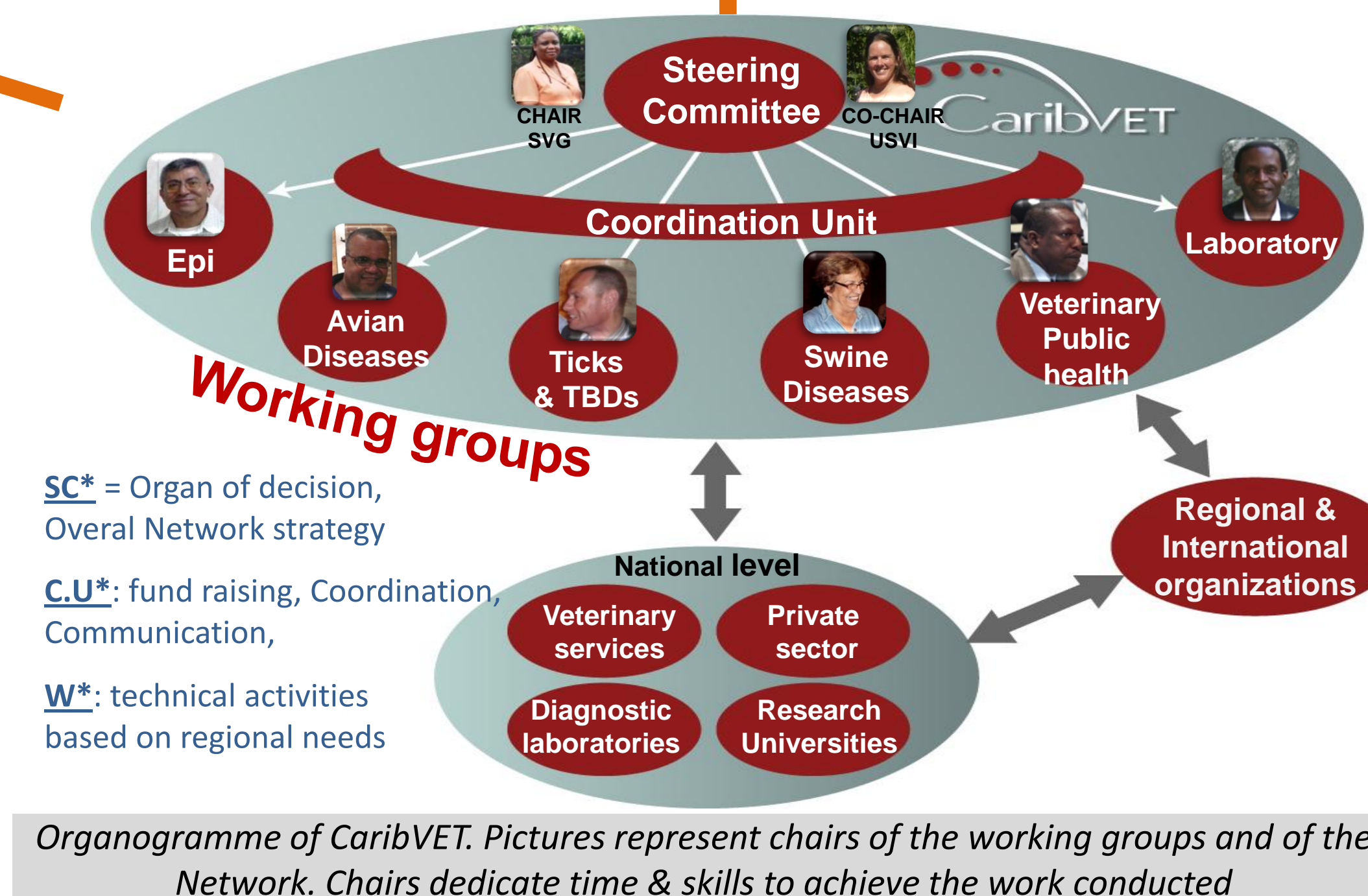
Cost-efficiency

Coordinated Set of Activities

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



Sustainable collaborations



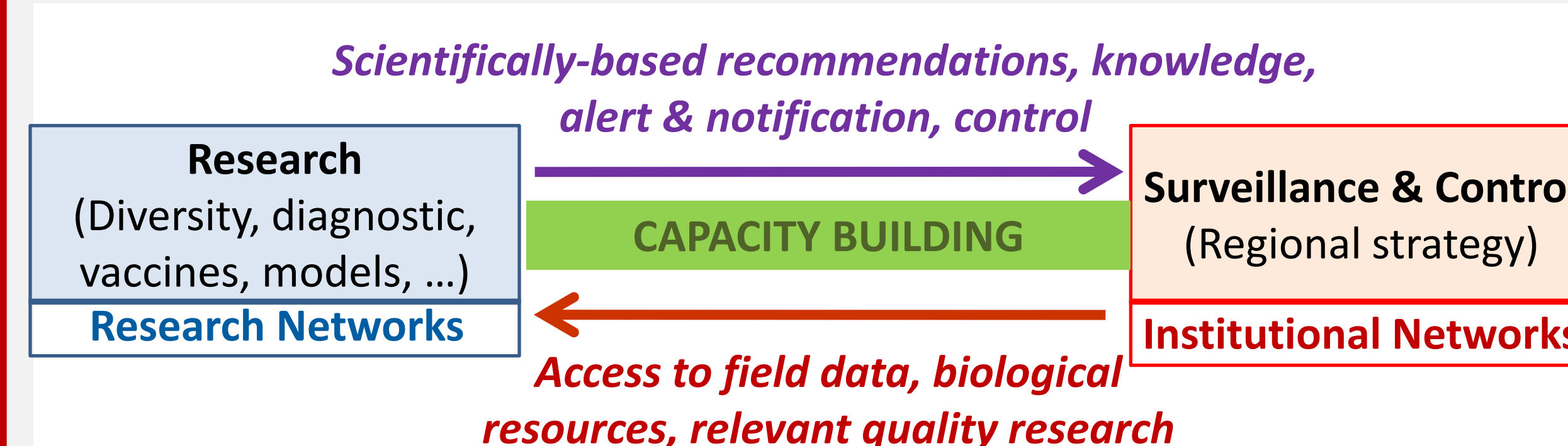
Application of Quality Assurance Principles

⇒ **level of the Coordination Unit**

- 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

Integrated Research, Surveillance, & Capacity Building



- Research actors involved at all CaribVET levels and work closely on animal health priorities
- Training in epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics, emergency preparedness
- ⇒ **Improve disease detection, prevention, preparedness & mitigation**

Implementation of research outputs by decision makers

Project Continuity

Close collaboration between CaribVET and Project coordinators
 → **Better integration of recommendations and follow-up**

- **CAP* Programme (1995-2005)** → T&TBD WG: Tick control
- **VEP* Project (2008-2012)** → Epigroup: Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness
- **Interreg Project (2009-2012)** → **Coordination Unit**: Network management, formalisation, and coordination
- **FAO TCP* H1N1 (2011-2012)** → **Lab & Swine Diseases WG**: Laboratory diagnostic capacities, sample shipment

Synergistic activities

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**

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

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