

Strengthening Surveillance At The Regional Level: A Multi-Focal Approach

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Abstract

With regards to the last major epizootics (BSE, FMD due to PanAsia strain, Avian Influenza...), the relevance of regional approaches to address animal diseases is undeniable. Several experiences like for instance Panaftosa in South America, the Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign, or CaribVET in the Caribbean region have demonstrated the interest and difficulties of this approach.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded a project, the FSP on regional Epidemiosurveillance, to promote this concept in three regions anchored on political regional organisations: the Indian Ocean, North Africa and the Caribbean. Countries belonging to each of these regions share common epidemiological situation and are threatened by the same diseases but they clearly have different national surveillance systems. This heterogeneity within a region and between regions is felt to be an advantage rather than a constraint. Starting by an evaluation of the animal health situation and an assessment of the national veterinary services according to the framework currently developed by the OIE, comparison between countries was made. Then, exchange of information and experience through a website, share of investments and capacity, common surveillance projects and development of performance indicators and risk analysis is promoted within the FSP through seminars. Training within the regions is organised through regional courses and e-learning to build up local capacity in epidemiology and surveillance.

Three aspects will be developed: i) favouring the construction of regional strategies in animal health, ii) strengthening and standardising national surveillance networks iii) developing tools useful at the regional level.