Identification and Traceability

OIE regional seminar on food safety
Sofía, Bulgaria, 22-24 April 2009
Outline of this presentation

• Mandate OIE
• Background on OIE and Codex role
• Why do we need ID&T systems?
• Current standard
• Conference 2009
• Future challenges
**OIE mandate**

Historical: ‘To prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world’

*The 4th Strategic Plan 2006/2010 extends the OIE’s global mandate to:*

‘The improvement of animal health all around the world’

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- **Less developed countries**
- **More developed countries**

**Source:** US Bureau of the Census
Global demand for animal protein

A 50% increase in global demand for protein, esp. Developing countries, is predicted by 2020. Relevant trends include:

- Shift from poverty to middle-class (1 billion people)
- Increased number of daily meals
- Demand for more milk, eggs and meat

This demand can only be met by intensified animal production, which may lead to increasing threats for animal and public health and the environment.

- VS must have resources to reduce sanitary and environmental risks.
OIE mandate for standard setting

- WTO SPS Agreement recognises OIE as a reference organisation for international standards (3 sisters) on animal health and zoonosis

**International Standard Setting Organisations**

- Animal health: OIE
- Food safety: CODEX
- Plant health: IPPC
OIE international standards

• Based on science and risk assessment
• Democratic and transparent process:
  - acceptance by all OIE Members
• Safe trade, avoiding unjustified barriers, helps countries to access markets;
• Private standards threaten to undermine the SPS disciplines, if they are imposed without negotiation or transparency.
Coordination of animal health and food safety standards

- OIE and CAC collaborate to produce standards for the whole food production chain, avoiding gaps and duplication;
- At national level, the OIE has established animal production food safety focal points to facilitate coordination between VS and public health agencies, where the VS are not responsible for food safety.
OIE & Codex standards: general principles

- Outcome based, with flexibility in the approach to implementation
- Seamless system that prevents gaps and duplication between standards
- Applicable equally in all situations
- Appropriate for implementation by all Members, according to their socioeconomic circumstances
- In future, need to strengthen bridges between animal ID and product traceability.
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (1)
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (2)

Improve effectiveness of

1) Animal health
2) Public health
3) Animal production
4) Other national policies and activities
   - Inspection & certification
   - Fair practices in trade
   - Control of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (3)

Animal health

➢ disease prevention and control:
  • surveillance
  • early detection and notification of outbreaks
  • rapid response
  • control of animal movements
  • zoning or compartmentalisation

➢ certification of exports
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (4)

Public health

- Tracing & control zoonotic diseases:
  - 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic
  - 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic
  - 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens

- Tracing non biological contamination
- Providing guarantees in (international) trade
- Consumer confidence
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (5)

Animal production

- herd/flock health programmes
- management
- breeding or genetic improvement programmes
Why do we need animal identification and traceability? (6) 
support national policies and activities

- Inspection & certification
- Fair practices in trade
  - quality, organoleptic factors and origin of food
  - consumer confidence
- Control of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level
Animal identification and traceability: current standards
• **Animal identification**
  means the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.

• **Animal traceability**
  means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life
Current Standards (2)

Definition

• **Registration**

  Is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to utilised by the Competent Authority

  Note: Codex definition of *Traceability/Product Tracing:* the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution
• Animal identification and traceability are important management tools in animal health and food safety (Article 1)

• Link between animal traceability and traceability of products: Important to ensure a continuum in the food chain (Article 2 & 3)

• Objectives should be clearly defined through consultation with relevant sectors/stakeholders (Article 4)
Current Standards (4)

General Principles

• Consider various factors (outcomes of RA animal population, type of production) (Art. 5)
• Under responsibility of Vet Authority (Art. 6)
• Legal framework & consideration of basic factors (Art. 7&8)
• Outcome based, rather than identical systems (Art. 9): flexibility in system to allow for gradual implementation, especially for needs of developing countries
• Each Member should define:
  - Desired outcomes and scope
  - Performance criteria
• Consultation: VA and stakeholders
  - Producers
  - food processors
  - private sector veterinarians
  - research organizations
  - other government agencies
  - etc.

Current Standards (5)

Key Elements
Current Standards (6)

PROGRAMME DESIGN

• Registration/Documentation/Reporting:
  - Animals
  - Establishments/owners/keepers
  - Animal movements

• Legal framework
  - Obligations of the VS and other parties
  - Data confidentiality / accessibility
  - Data checking/verification
  - Inspections
  - Penalties
Current Standards (7)

IMPLEMENTATION

• Steps should include
  – Action plan
  – Checking and verification
  – Auditing
  – Review

• The principles of traceability as defined in the Code are universal and apply in all situations, whether using high-tech or simple paper-based filing systems
Animal ID &T: future challenges
Future challenges and needs

- ID&T for poultry and aquatic animals and their products present some technical challenges
  - But these sectors are key suppliers of high value protein

- Biotechnology, somatic cell cloning and DNA technology present both challenges and opportunities.

- The growth of private standards especially challenges developing countries, which may need to meet standards over and above those established by the OIE and Codex.

- Need to strengthen bridges between animal ID (OIE) and product traceability (CAC).
2009: 1st OIE International Conference on Animal ID & T (1)

- In Buenos Aires
- About 500 participants, including from international organisations, governmental authorities, the private sector, livestock producers and processors, consumer organisations, research and production groups.
- Speakers represent countries and industries that are leaders in the implementation of ID&T systems as well as representatives of developing countries.
- Presentations on all livestock and food production sectors
  - different technologies and tools available
  - developing countries’ perspectives on needs and tools
  - responses of international donors and capacity building organisations
Objectives

• to inform participants of the importance and benefits of identification and traceability
• to raise awareness of OIE and Codex standards and the bridge between the traceability of live animals and the traceability of products
• to provide advice and assistance in implementing standards, especially for developing countries
• to determine future requirements for standards, technologies and for applied research in this field
• To encourage international capacity building organisations and donors to support countries in their efforts to implement the OIE and Codex standards.
2009: 1st OIE International Conference on Animal ID & T (3)

Results

Recommendations for OIE Members:

• Implementation of OIE standards
• Concerns on using ID&T primarily for tax
• Support relevant education and research programs
• Nomination of APFS national focal points
• Encourage private sector to respect OIE and Codex standards
Results

Recommendations for OIE:

- Promote ID&T relevant to OIE & Codex standards
- Provide appropriate capacity building in collaboration with other organizations
- Continue developing arguments to convince donors and other IO to support VS in developing countries to implement OIE standards
- Promote research on ID&T
- Promote development of OIE collaborating centres on ID&T that could built and manage a global database
- Consult with the CAC in order to maintain permanent linkages and to ensure consistent standards throughout the food chain
- Strengthen OIE PVS tool with ID&T specific competencies
- Convey to donors the countries request for evaluation of policies and the regulatory framework
Thank you for your attention

Organisation mondiale
de la santé animale

World Organisation
for Animal Health

Organización Mundial
de Sanidad Animal