5th Conference of the O.I.E.
Regional Commission for Africa
Nairobi (Kenya), 18-21 January 1983

The zoo-sanitary situation in Africa
Avian diseases*

Summary: The zoo-sanitary situation in respect of avian diseases in ten countries of Africa is reviewed in this report. The incidence of important avian diseases differs significantly in the reporting countries. Control measures against viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases depend greatly on the availability of vaccines and adequate vaccine storage and distribution facilities in rural areas. In some countries there is a shortage of veterinary personnel and transportation, while a third handicap is lack of foreign exchange.

This report on the zoo-sanitary situation should be read with the other two reviews in this series, namely: “The Incidence of Avian diseases in Africa” and “Laboratories for Avian diseases in Africa”, both relating to the 1983 Nairobi Conference. It is considered that the 5th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa provided an opportunity for a number of O.I.E. Member Countries to exchange a considerable amount of information on the incidence and control of avian diseases together with the work of the avian diagnostic and vaccine production laboratories.

INTRODUCTION

The information on avian diseases presented at the 5th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa was considered under three main headings, namely:

1. The zoo-sanitary situation in Africa in respect of avian diseases. The information presented under this heading is the subject of the present report;

3. **Laboratories for avian diseases in Africa**, based on the O.I.E. “Questionnaire on Diagnostic and Vaccine Production Laboratories for Avian Diseases”.

In the zoo-sanitary reports to the Nairobi Conference, ten Countries provided information relating to diseases of poultry. A number of countries reported freedom from certain important avian diseases. Other countries described the incidence of avian diseases and the control measures in place. The overall picture of the zoo-sanitary situation supplements the more detailed information provided in the survey on Diagnostic and Vaccination Production Laboratories for Avian Diseases.

The reports presented at the Conference indicated that in the majority of countries of Africa, a number of poultry diseases remain an obstacle to the growth of this section of animal production. It was emphasized that the potential of the local indigenous breeds of poultry must be studied, in order to assist in increasing the protein available to the populations of Africa.

**RESULTS**

This review is based on the information provided by ten Countries, supplemented with statistics presented at the 50th General Session of the O.I.E. held in Paris in May 1982, or in other reports of the 5th Conference in Nairobi.

**CAMEROON**

The estimated poultry population of Cameroon is eleven million. Outbreaks of Newcastle disease have been associated with a high mortality. However, the provision of veterinary products together with improved hygiene on the farm have resulted in a very significant reduction in the incidence of poultry diseases.

**ETHIOPIA**

The estimated poultry population of Ethiopia is fifty million. A number of cases of fowl typhoid (*S. gallinarum*) were reported in one administrative region (Shewa). The regional laboratories provide additional diagnostic and epidemiological assistance. However, there is a shortage of veterinary personnel and equipment. Nevertheless, 313,600 vaccinations against Newcastle disease were conducted.

**IVORY COAST**

The estimated poultry population of the Ivory Coast is twenty million. The main poultry diseases are intestinal parasites, Newcastle disease, Gumboro disease (infectious bursal disease) and chronic respiratory disease. There is a rapidly developing poultry industry and this is being supported by the
Animal Pathology Laboratory, at present under construction at Bingerville. Newcastle disease is present in the Country and one million poultry were vaccinated against the disease. This represented a significant increase in vaccinations compared with the number for 1981.

KENYA

The situation in respect of poultry diseases is satisfactory. The incidence of Newcastle disease remains stable and this disease was uncommon in organized commercial flocks. There has been an improvement in the control of fowl typhoid (*S. gallinarum*) which had caused serious outbreaks in 1981. As a result of the control of fowl typhoid, the hatcheries have resumed production of day-old chicks. Only one small hatchery remained under suspension. Pullorum disease was eradicated in 1965 and fowl plague ("*peste aviaire*”) and Gumboro disease (infectious bursal disease) have not been recognized in the Country.

MADAGASCAR

Among the diseases of poultry, Newcastle disease continues to be widespread in Madagascar. Vaccinations against this disease at the rate of one million vaccinations per year, only assists the improved breeding farms or those located near to a veterinary station. Fowl cholera continues in sporadic outbreaks, especially during the winter months (May, June and July) in spite of regular vaccinations. In contrast, pullorum-typhoid disease has not been recognized since 1977.

Coccidiosis is widespread. This situation is present in the majority of countries with a significant poultry population. In Madagascar, the coccidiosis problem is increased by the shortage of coccidiostats and the lack of foreign currency.

MOROCCO

Newcastle disease is an important disease in the Country. Outbreaks are notifiable and the control measures are under legal authority. The specialized farms follow a vaccination programme.

Pullorum disease continues to be important. The disease is notifiable and control measures are based on a blood testing programme for the detection of carrier birds.

NIGER

Important poultry diseases in the Country include: Newcastle disease, fowl typhoid (*S. gallinarum*) and coccidiosis. Mycoplasmosis and infectious bronchitis are increasing in significance.

Control measures are hindered by vaccination failures. In addition, control measures depend on an exact knowledge of the causal agents.
TANZANIA

Newcastle disease is enzootic in all parts of the Country and is a serious problem. Vaccination is the main method of control and two million doses of Newcastle disease vaccine were imported during 1982.

Fowl typhoid (S. gallinarum) occurs sporadically and has involved one large commercial hatchery. Control measures, including test and slaughter, and hygienic procedures have resulted in a reduction in the incidence of this disease. No vaccination was used against fowl typhoid.

ZIMBABWE

This Country was free from a number of serious poultry diseases including pullorum disease and Newcastle disease. Vaccinations against Newcastle disease were 711,000 in 1981.