

## OIE APPROACH

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In full recognition of the importance of Veterinary Products for the maintenance of animal health and food safety, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has established a comprehensive capacity building programme covering important aspects related to the prudent use of these products, including antimicrobials. The target group for this training programme is the national Focal Points for Veterinary Products, nominated by the OIE Delegates. They are key players in facilitating compliance with OIE international standards and in the harmonisation of national legislation pertaining to all facets of products for veterinary use.

The concept and content of the first cycle of training courses, delivered to all OIE regions in 2010 and 2011, was based on the recommendations by the two regional conferences, held in Africa and the Middle East in 2008 and 2009, respectively, that were specifically dedicated to Veterinary Products. Focus of these regional training courses for national Focal Points was to introduce OIE structure and standards as well as highlighting the need for good governance in the use of veterinary products.

The training contents were further developed for a second cycle of regional seminars held in 2011 and 2012. In addition to informing participants of OIE activities related to Veterinary Products, emphasis was put on explaining all steps, from production and registration to distribution of Veterinary Products. Another important part of the content were practical exercises on selected topics, in particular on data collection and the surveillance on the use of antimicrobial agents and antimicrobial resistance. In addition, the participants were informed on the current revision of the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.9. on *Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine* that was presented and discussed in detail.

This paper provides more details on the objectives, contents, partners and the long term expectations for the impact of the OIE capacity building programme.

