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# **Practical Experience: Slaughter of Animals for Human Consumption**

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# Outline of Presentation

- **Introduction**
- **OIE achievements and objectives on Animal Welfare**
- **Problems associated with the slaughter of animals for human consumption**
- **Practical experience with the slaughter of animals in Africa**
- **Recommendations for improvement**
- **Conclusions**

# Introduction

- Delegates from African countries fully subscribe to OIE Animal Welfare standards
- Too 'busy' to ensure implementation
- Appointment of focal points for Animal Welfare is a good step in the right direction
- >70% of livestock production in Africa is semi-pastoral, away from major urban centers
- As a consequence animals are transported long distances to slaughter
- Slaughter of animals in Africa – cultural or traditional and regulated or conventional systems occur
- Many African countries do not meet basic sanitary requirements for regional or international trade
- Largely as a consequence they are not subjected to consumer animal welfare demands

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# Problems associated with the slaughter of animals for human consumption

## Extensive Animal Production System

- **Animals travel long distances to slaughter facilities – no rest, food or water**
- **Most roads are in a poor state**
- **Truck drivers drive without due care**
- **Most drivers lack training on transporting live animals to slaughter**

## Consequences

- **Distress, bruising, trampling – often resulting in severe injuries and at times death**
- **Accidents – resulting in injuries such as lacerations, fractures, bruising, horn loss, death etc**

# Problems associated with the slaughter of animals for human consumption

## Inadequate Slaughter Facilities

- Animals travel long distances to slaughter facilities
- Overcrowding
- Illegal slaughter, bush abattoirs

## Consequences

- Crowding and congestion of animals – not enough ventilation
- Equipment failure and postponement of slaughter for many hours, even up to days
- Injuries causing pain and suffering

# Problems associated with the slaughter of animals for human consumption

## Legislation

- The majority of African countries have not updated their laws in line with OIE Animal Welfare standards
- Supervision of slaughter facilities is fragmented under different control such as Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Local Government and Environment

## Consequences

- No centralized competent authority with oversight and supervision of slaughter facilities
- Wanton disregard of welfare standards and guidelines
- Lack of enough adequately trained personnel with relevant knowledge on animal science and animal behaviour

# Practical experience - slaughter of animals for human consumption

## Conventional Slaughter - regulated

- Most animal welfare violations occur when are moved form farms or other holdings where they are kept to slaughter houses
- Animals are driven long distances on poor roads and in vehicles not suitable for transportation of animals
- No provision for rest, watering and feeding of animals
- Power shortages and equipment breakdown
- Common violations are as already elaborated above

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# Practical experience - slaughter of animals for human consumption

## Non-Conventional Slaughter – traditional

- Largely un-regulated
- No stunning
- Practices to meet cultural and social norms
- Illegal slaughtering at 'bush' abattoirs
- Animals are not stunned prior to slaughter
- Game slaughter or culling
- Home consumption
- No proper animal restraining facilities
- Some times animal are slaughtered at night without adequate lighting



# Most common Animal Welfare Violations

## Non-Conventional Slaughter – traditional

- Cattle are shot with free bullets without stunning
- No immediate death – animals may get injured and often take-off with injuries

### Cattle

- Severing neck using an axe
- Spears often used to puncture the heart – may miss at times resulting in repeated stabbing leading to a very painful death

### Sheep and Goats

- Throat and major vessel severed

### Donkeys

- Although not very common at times they are just hacked

### Chickens

- Necks cut off or twisted

### Game Animals

- Free bullet or animals chased in bomas. Injuries as a result of poor shooting, animals trampling on each other, often escaping with injuries and dying later. Adults killed leaving suckling ones!

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# Recommendations

- **Capacity building through training, publicity, and in-country workshops for Veterinary Services, producers and other key stakeholders**
- **Include teaching of animal welfare in agricultural colleges and universities**
- **Developing and implementing appropriate legislative frameworks and policies**
- **Encourage construction of more slaughter facilities**
- **Building partnerships – government, producers and the private sector**

# Conclusions

- Meeting OIE Animal Welfare standards or guidelines for the slaughter of animals for human consumption remains a big challenge to many African countries
- The OIE has made excellent progress in addressing animal welfare concerns
- However, African countries need technical and financial assistance in capacity building to implement these standards
- Need for an aggressive publicity drive that reaches the majority of relevant stakeholders
- The OIE must assist with the development of appropriate model legislation to help countries come up with their own national legislation on animal welfare
- Then a better World for all!

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# THANK YOU

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