

FUTURE NEEDS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION

Carmen Bullon - Ambra Gobena

Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office

Participatory approaches to veterinary legal drafting by the FAO Legal Office

The governance of the veterinary sector does not depend solely on having well-drafted laws. A full understanding of what comprises legislation and the relation between international standards and national legislation is essential in order for veterinary services to adequately implement legislation. For World Trade Organization Members, the OIE standards for animal health and zoonotic diseases are reference international standards for the implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

FAO's capacity-building activities to strengthen the veterinary sector not only include training on key points of implementation of the law, but also the development of in-country skills to formulate appropriate legislation by working together with national counterpart lawyers. The participatory approach for drafting veterinary legislation, based on the establishment of multi-stakeholder working groups, facilitates the understanding and the implementation of the legislation at a later stage.

As well as on the ground assistance, the Development Law Service is engaged in normative work through research and publications which serve as tools for law- and policy-makers. This Service is also responsible for FAOLEX, the largest online legal database for agriculture legislation that is user-friendly and freely accessible (<http://faolex.fao.org>).

Numerous examples of capacity building activities at the national and regional levels are included in the presentation from which countries and their veterinary services and legal experts can draw lessons.

Keywords: Veterinary legislation – Participatory approach – Capacity building – FAOLEX.
