OIE Conference
Veterinary medicinal products in Africa
"Towards harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control"

Dakar (Senegal), 25–27 March 2008

Recommendations

Harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa

CONSIDERING

That at least 90% of the OIE-listed diseases of livestock and poultry are present in Africa thereby necessitating veterinary intervention for their prevention and control using vaccination, treatment and other control methods,

That the current registration and distribution practices for veterinary medicinal products in some African countries results in the proliferation of poor quality or counterfeit veterinary medicinal products on the Continent,

That the uncontrolled movement of veterinary medicinal products poses a major threat to animal health, public health and the environment,

That good veterinary governance, which includes the compliance of Veterinary Services with OIE international standards on quality, is instrumental and an essential prerequisite for establishing effective legislation and its efficient enforcement for the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products,

That an effective common market authorisation system for veterinary medicinal products within and between countries can best be achieved through a harmonised regional approach and a regional network of laboratories for quality control,

The major economic advantages associated with the quality and safety of veterinary medicinal products for the development of livestock production, food security and food safety in Africa,

The importance of regional cooperation in the registration, quality control and usage of veterinary medicinal products so as to overcome the inability of some individual countries to effectively institute and maintain such mechanisms because of the high costs for countries working alone,

The existence of international standards regulating the quality assurance, registration and usage of veterinary medicinal products,

The OIE PVS evaluation tool for supporting quality of Veterinary Services,

The importance of controlling residues from veterinary drugs in food products of animal origin,

THE OIE CONFERENCE ON VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN AFRICA RECOMMENDS:

FOR ALL THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TO PARTICIPATE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS MARKETED IN AFRICA.

THAT OIE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Promote with political decision-makers in their respective countries the importance of good veterinary governance and compliance with OIE international standards on quality of Veterinary Services as an important requirement to facilitate the harmonisation and improvement of registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products.

2. By using the appropriate high level human resources upgrade and adapt their veterinary pharmaceutical legislation to enhance the regional harmonisation of registration, quality control, distribution and market authorisation procedures.

3. Promote national, regional and sub-regional testing laboratories to develop and implement quality management systems based on ISO standards to enable harmonisation and standardisation of test methods.

4. Promote regional networking and appropriate training among laboratories and authorities responsible for the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products to improve excellence and reduce the cost of analysis.

5. Develop national institutional, administrative and financial mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of the quality control process starting from good manufacturing practices to the sale and usage of those products under the supervision of Veterinary Services or of the authority responsible for veterinary medicinal products.

6. Allocate appropriate human and financial resources to Veterinary Services to correctly implement their control responsibilities in the entire national territory in collaboration with the other relevant public authorities.

7. Seek partnerships and collaboration with the private sector including private veterinarians, the pharmaceutical industry, supplier laboratories, pharmacists and livestock associations to help regulate and harmonise the marketing and appropriate and sustainable distribution of safe and efficient veterinary medicinal products.

8. Collaborate with OIE Regional, sub-Regional Representatives and African Union Regional Technical offices (IBAR[1] and PANVAC[2]) to seek coordination between Regional Economic Communities such as WAEMU[3], SADC[4] and others to move towards regional harmonisation in particular for the improvement of registration by encouraging mutual recognition as well as distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products.

9. Stimulate relevant initiatives from the sub-regional organisations to develop regional initiatives in the veterinary medicinal products area.

---

1 Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
2 Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
3 Western African Economic and Monetary Union
4 Southern African Development Community

10. Promote the control of residues from veterinary drugs in food products of animal origin in agreement with standards developed by the Codex alimentarius and with support from donors and pharmaceutical industries if necessary.

11. Considering their national situation, to seek measures to find solutions to the problems caused by the administration of diclofenac in livestock.

12. Promote research and development in the use of indigenous medicinal plants for the treatment of animal diseases.

13. Should, in collaboration with OIE, continue to monitor and align with developments and progress within VICH[5], and endeavour to adopt and implement VICH guidelines into their regulatory framework for veterinary medicines.

THAT THE OIE:

14. Organise similar conferences in other regions.

15. Using the output of these conferences, continue to develop and update guidelines and tools to enable OIE Member Countries in Africa and worldwide to organise, manage and implement appropriate legislation and mechanisms for the registration, quality assurance and regulation of veterinary medicinal products, preferably using a regional or sub-regional basis, and promote twinning of Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Africa.

16. Update and reinforce the OIE PVS evaluation tool in the field of veterinary product registration and control.

17. Continue to follow closely the work of VICH and share the results with all the OIE Members Countries.

---

5 International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products