

Session 3:

Veterinary public health and 'Veterinary Services' concept

Veterinary Services concept and training of officials

V. Bellemain
Direction départementale
des Services Vétérinaires,
3 rue B. Palissy,
64230 Lescar, France

According to the international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the public Veterinary Services (VS) refer to the public policy conducted by the Governments in the fields such as the fight against regulated contagious diseases, animal-origin food safety, international health certification and related issues. VS are considered as International Public Goods. VS good governance means, inter alia, well-trained staff and public-private partnership.

It is estimated that, worldwide, about 10% of the veterinarians will be involved in fields linked to public VS activities. As most of them will not be given specific training, key concepts and tools of public action should be included in the common veterinary curricula. This would also widen the capacity of the veterinarians to react to new challenges.

The specific training of the VS staff is a major tool for human management and policy implementation in a given context. The common veterinary training can be completed by a post-recruitment initial training (vocational training) organised by the employer and regular continuous education courses. Contents include scientific and technical knowledge, administrative knowledge and professional know-how.

Veterinary competencies linked with VS activities are taken into account when evaluating the performance of national VS using the OIE-PVS Tool. The OIE could usefully set up guidelines relative to veterinary education (common veterinary curriculum and VS staff's specific training).

Keywords

Continuous education – Official Veterinarians – OIE – Post-recruitment training – Veterinary education – Veterinary paraprofessionals – Veterinary Services.

