The role of OIE and Veterinary Services in food safety

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OIE’s Objectives

• **Transparency**: ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation

• **Scientific information**: collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information

• **International solidarity**: encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases
OIE’s Objectives

• **Sanitary safety**: safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animals products

• **Promotion of veterinary services**: improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services

• **Food safety and animal welfare**: to provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach
OIE’s Objectives

• WTO-SPS mandate: safeguarding world trade by protecting human, animal and plant health

• 3 sisters:
  IPPC (FAO) → Plant health
  OIE → Animal health
  Codex alimentarius (FAO, WHO) → Food Safety

• OIE provides a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and helps to ensure safe food in the entire « Farm to fork » continuum
OIE’s Scope

- All matters concerning Animal health and zoonosis
- Terrestrial and aquatic animals
- Animal production food safety
- Animal welfare
- Diagnosis and Control of diseases, assessment of animal health status
- Sanitary safety in international trade
OIE’s Animal Production Food Safety Working Group

- Established 2002 to coordinate OIE’S food safety activities with focus in primary production
- Members from Codex, FAO, WHO, EC and OIE representatives from different continents
- Provides advice to OIE
- Close cooperation with the Codex alimentarius Commission to avoid duplication and overlap and to address gaps in standards
- Links between the food production phase and the food processing phase
OIE’s WG on Animal Production

Food Safety results

• **Guide to good farming practices** (joint OIE / FAO document published by FAO in 2008)

• **Animal identification and traceability** (chap. 4.2 of the Terrestrial code adopted at the 76th session)

• **Feed** (chap. 6.3 of the Terrestrial code adopted at the 77th session)
OIE’s WG on Animal Production
Food Safety results

• **Antimicrobial resistance** (surveillance programmes, use of antimicrobial …– chap. 6.7 to 6.11), participate to the Codex Task Force at Séoul

• **Food-borne risks** (Salmonellosis, E. Coli, Tuberculosis, Listeria… → different draft terrestrial Code chapter)

• **Biotechnology** (vaccines, nanotechnology in food….)
Role of Veterinarian in food safety

• « production to consumption » risk based approach to food control → integrated involvement throughout the food chain
• Overlap between public health and animal health objectives:
  
  **duality of veterinary functions**

• Prevention and control of food-borne zoonosis at farm level, or of other food-borne disease and chemical contamination of foods
Role of Veterinary Services

- Most reported outbreaks of food-borne disease are due to contamination of foods with zoonotic agents, often during primary production.
- Veterinary Services are the core of the system for the prevention and control of animal diseases.
Role of Veterinary Services

- Surveillance at all stage of animal production
  - On farm controls: animal health, feed, use of antimicrobial, identification and traceability, animal welfare
  - Meat inspection: Ante-mortem and post mortem inspections at slaughterhouses
  - Animal welfare at slaughterhouses

- Certification of animal products for international trade
OIE and Veterinary Services (VS)

- OIE considers VS as a Global Public Good
- Improvement of legal framework for VS: chap. 3.1, 3.2 and 6.1 of terrestrial Code
- Support to provide the necessary infrastructure:
  - Memorandum of Understanding signed with the World Bank in 2001
  - PVS Tool for the evaluation of performance
  - Gap analysis
EU regulation: Hygiene package

- Implementation of Codex and OIE standards
- General objectives:
  - High level of protection of human life and health
  - Free movement of food and feed in the EU
  - Separation between risk assessment and risk management
  - Responsibilities of all the operators
  - Global approach from the primary production to the final consumer (“from the farm to the fork”)
EU regulation : Hygiene package

• 6 regulations :
  – The food law = basement of hygiene package
  – 3 regulations for operators: feed hygiene, general hygiene on foodstuffs from farm to fork, specifics requirements
  – 2 regulations for official control and certification
Food Law (Regulation 178/2002)

Feed
- Regulation 183/2005
  Feed hygiene

All foodstuff
- R 852/2004
  Hygiene on foodstuffs

Food from animal origin
- Regulation 853/2004

Operators
- Regulation 882/2004
  « official controls »

Competent Authority
- Regulation 854/2004

Microbiological criteria on foodstuffs (R. 2073/2005)
Food Law (regulation 178/2002)

• General Principles:
  Transparency, risk analysis and precautionary principles

• General requirements:
  – Traceability
  – Operators responsibility and official controls under the responsibility of the competent authority
  – Obligation of withdrawal or recall of a product liable to present a risk, and information of the competent authority
Agriculture

Feed production

Farm

Processing

Food production

Transport

Storage

The WHOLE chain is concerned

From the farm to the fork

Retailers

Catering

TRACEABILITY

HYGIENE
Regulation for the operators: R. 852/2004 on primary production

- Traceability (178/2002)
- Guides to good practice of hygiene
- Notification and registration
- General hygiene requirements (Premises, vehicles, equipments, foodwaste)
- Record-keeping
- Primary production / Associated operations
R. 852/2004 Annex I: general hygiene provisions
On Primary production

- To ensure the cleanliness of animals going to slaughter
- To prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases including when introducing new animals and reporting suspected outbreaks
- To use feed additives and veterinary medicinal products correctly
R. 852/2004 - Annex I: Record-keeping

- Nature and origin of feed fed to the animals
- Veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the animals, dates of administration and withdrawal periods
- Occurrence of diseases
- Results of any analyses carried out on samples taken from animals
- Any relevant reports on checks carried out on animals or products of animal origin
Regulation for Competent Authorities: R. 882/2004

- Regulation on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules
- Define general obligations with regard to the organization of official controls
Organisation of official controls

identified risks associated with animals, products, plants or functioning

official controls carried out regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency

National

Risk analysis
Programming

[flowchart]

Local

business operators' past record

Past controls

any information that might indicate non-compliance

Past controls

Risk analysis

Programming
Broad scope of competences and missions

Policies
Inspection
surveillance
Audit

Animal health
Veterinary drugs

Food safety
Risk assessment and scientific support

Animal welfare

Traceability
Animal identification

Animal feeding

Approval of establishments and laboratories

Negociation of sanitary requirements for export - Certification of exports
French organization

functional separation between risk assessment and risk management

Risk assessment

French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA)

1999

Risk management

Ministry of Alimentation, Agriculture & Fisheries (DGAL)

Ministry of Public Health (DGS)

Ministry of Trade and Consumers (DGCCRF)

Definition of national policy

Enforcement, surveillance and control
French organization of Veterinary services

- integrated approach through the Food (and Feed) Chain
- Functional separation between risk assessment and risk management
- Centralised Organisation: one chain of command
- Supported by a National and Local Network of Laboratories
- Quality management based on ISO 17020
Conclusion

• Importance of veterinary services in food safety control

• Key-role of veterinarian:
  – Duality of their functions: animal health and food safety
  – Importance of a complete training and education in both sectors