More than 40,000 veterinarians work in the Arabic region dealing with more than 364 million farm animals in addition to hundreds of millions of broiler and layer chickens and millions of pet animals and equine animals.

There is a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of these veterinarians in the face of food shortages – 75 million tons of foods of animal origins are imported yearly to fill the gap in self-sufficiency; despite this, malnutrition is widespread and the percentage of people living below the national poverty line is high.

Many countries in the Arabic region are suffering from the above-mentioned problems, such as Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen.

In spite of the affluence of the Arabic and foreign investments, which is estimated at about 4.23 billion US dollars of foreign investment in 2000 and 89.5 billion US dollars of Arabic investment in 2004, still the amount allotted to the agricultural sector is very small – about 6%.

There are many obstacles and challenges facing the veterinarians, e.g. starvation, epidemiological diseases, drought, lack of water resources.

I would like to highlight the role of Government in regulating the veterinary profession in the public and private sectors through legislation and laws especially the registration and pricing of medical products (drugs, vaccines), their use in the field, and organizing their sale and distribution through pharmacies and clinics, and veterinary hospitals.

Veterinarians perform an important mission for the community concentrating on human health, protection of animals from diseases, protection of the environmental and animal welfare.

Finally, I would like to speak about the size of the private sector share in the agricultural sector and the role of government in encouraging the private sector to assist government through vaccination programmes, and drug and vaccine treatments on the farms, in hospitals and clinics.