Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

for a world without hunger

OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East

Damascus – Syria

2-4 December 2009

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

for a world without hunger

Current practices for sale and distribution of Veterinary Biologicals in the Middle East

Presented by:
Dr. George KHOURY
FAO Coordinator
Regional Animal Health Center for the Middle East

Introduction

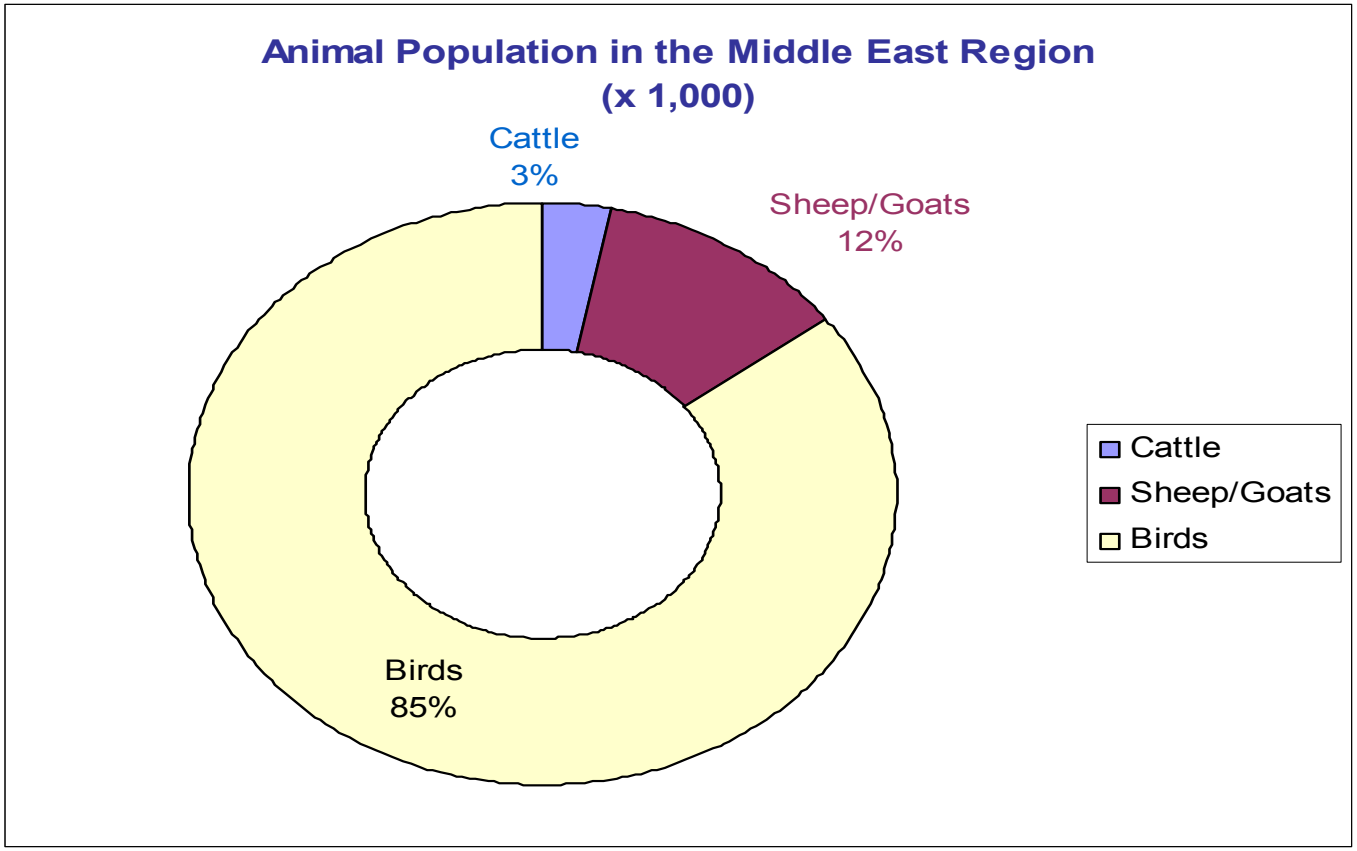
- Bioligicals / vaccines :
- Are all products designed to stimulate active immunization of animals against diseases.
- Vaccines may contain inactivated or live microorganisms (bacteria-viruses or protozoa) or its products (toxoids-antigenic parts……..)

- It is obvious that the middle east own a huge number of animals of different spices.

Animal Species	Cattle	Sheep/Goats	Poultry
Number (x 1,000)	71,000	276,000	2,000,000

Introduction (Cont.)

- The estimated numbers of animals are:



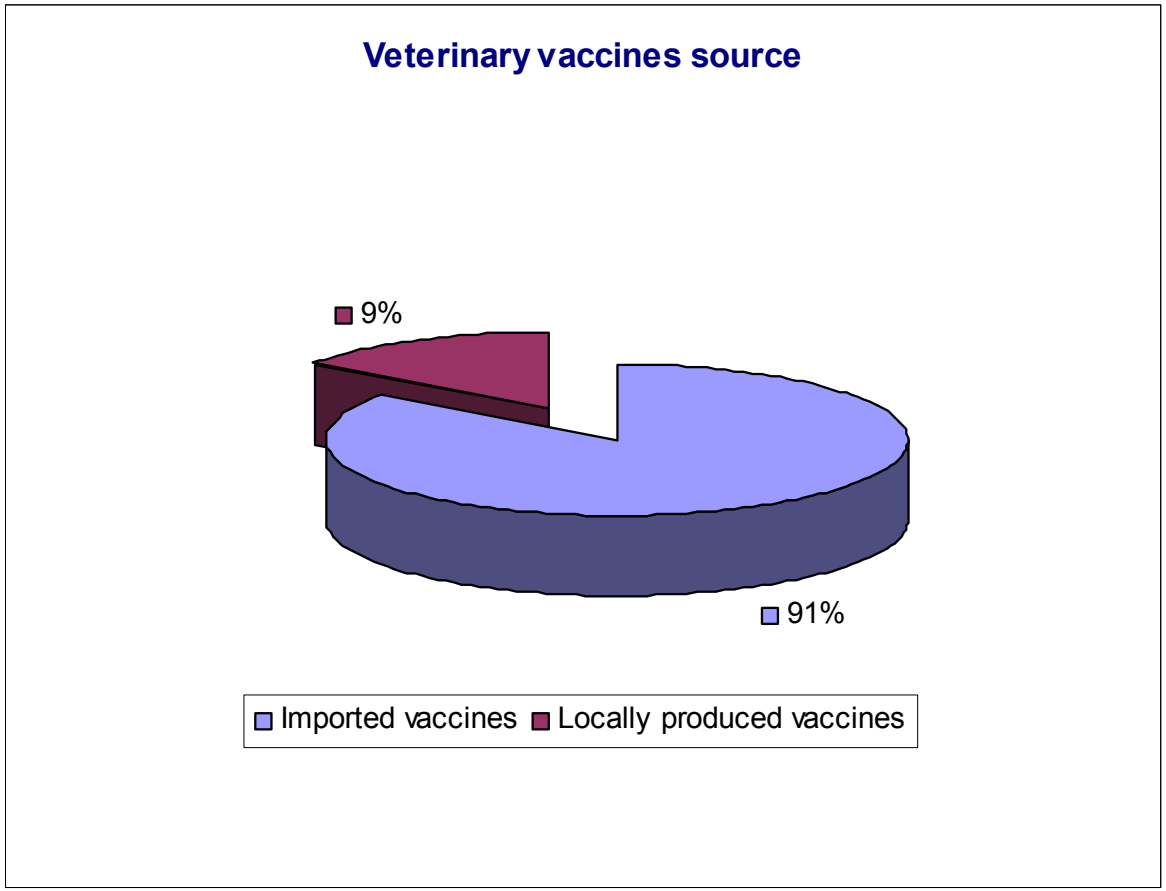
Introduction (Cont.)

- The concept of prevention from animal diseases has been developed during the last years: vaccination programs became the most practical and efficient tool to control animal diseases, as stamping out policy is not applicable in the region due to several reasons. Consequently the demand on veterinary vaccines has been grown.

  - The estimated quantities of vaccines needed are:

Animal Species	Cattle	Sheep/Goats	Poultry
Number of vaccines (x 1,000,000 doses)	200	950	8,000

Source of veterinary vaccines



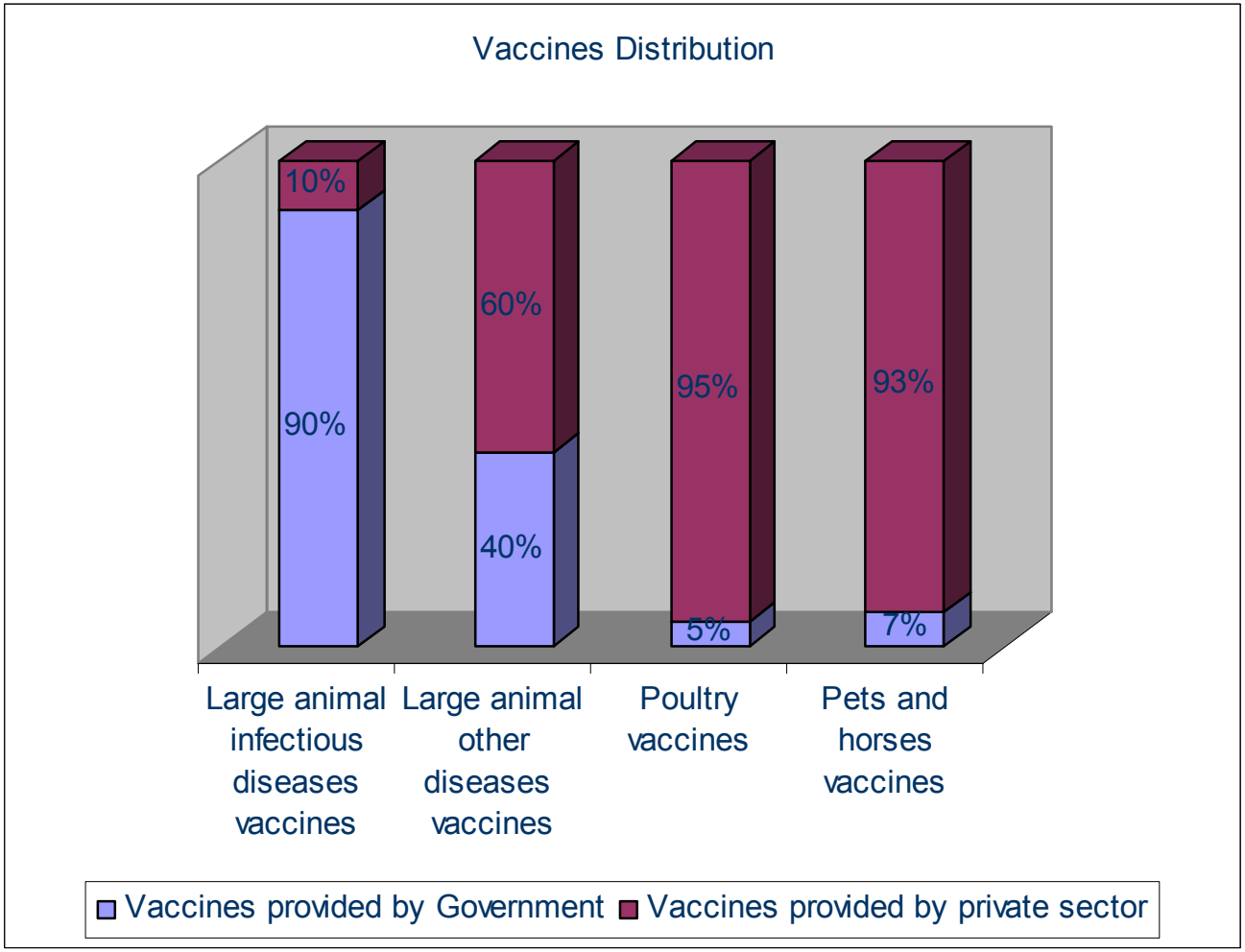
Registration of veterinary vaccines

- Most of countries have registration mechanisms.
- Registration authorities differ from country to another.
- Registration procedures differ from country to another.
- Registration usually take place in offices , upon submission of dossiers from the producers.
- Most of the countries have no competent Q.C Laboratories .
- Quality assurance is questionable.

Who distribute the vaccines?

- Most Vaccines for infectious diseases of large animals provided and distributed by the Veterinary Authorities for free (FMD- PPR – Anthrax-RVF …).
- Vaccines of large animals for other diseases provided by the state in some countries and the private sector in others (Brucella- Pasteurella…).
- Most of pets and horses vaccines provided and distributed by private sector.
- Most of poultry vaccines provided and distributed by private sector.

Who distribute the vaccines? (Cont.)



Existent situation relating to vaccine distribution

- Weakness of legislations , not updated , and not applied in most cases.
- Providing and distribution of vaccines doesn’t considered as priority and dedicated staff is limited.
- Distributors in many cases are not veterinarians and not qualified.
- Capacity of Importers and distributors is limited and can not assure good storage and distribution conditions.
- Cool-chain is not guaranteed, due to electricity failure and the lack of refrigerated vehicles.
- Smuggling of vaccines creates a serious problem.
- Weakness of the after sale inspection

Consequences of mal-distribution of vaccines

- Circulating of bad, inefficient vaccines in the country.
- Failure of vaccination programs.
- Spreading of animal diseases.
- Threaten public health, ecosystem and economy.

What has to be done

- Veterinary authorities have to:
  - Dedicate the required staff of inspectors.
  - Rehabilitate staff through training.
  - Update legislations to provide legal coverage for inspectors.
  - Establish modern legislation and procedures for licensing of distributors.
  - Implement after sale inspection policy.
  - Establish / develop the Q.C laboratories.
  - Awareness campaigns to encourage farmers to obtain vaccines from guaranteed sources.
  - Consider international standards when developing legislations.

- Importers and distributors have to:
  - Provide the right facilities for storage and distribution of vaccines.
  - Recruit trained and competent personals most likely veterinarians.
  - Respect the sensitivity of biologicals.

What has to be done (Cont.)

- Regional and international organizations have to:
  - Assist the rehabilitation of national personals through trainings.
  - Improve the communication through workshops and training courses.
  - Support twining with Q.C laboratories in the region.

Conclusion

In spite of the improvements and progress achieved during the recent years, there is a lot to be done yet in order to achieve our goals, when we guarantee that animals are receiving an efficient and safe vaccine.

Recommendations on regional level

- Harmonized legislations for registration, importation and distribution of vaccines should be established in the region; this step will sort out the problem of smuggling.
- Q.C laboratories should be dedicated in the region, resources and provisions should be assured to develop these laboratories in order to establish twining with reference laboratories.
- Support of the role of veterinarians in the national registration and decision making bodies.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

for a world without hunger

Thank you for your attention