



DEFINING NEEDS IN CAPACITY BUILDING – A DONOR’S PERSPECTIVE

- **Tianna MacInnes¹, B. Evans¹ and J. Griffin²**

1 Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

2 Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Global Partnerships

Preventing, detecting and identifying diseases of animal and public health concern can be a challenge for numerous countries. This is perhaps an even greater challenge with aquatic animal health than with terrestrial animal health, due to technical and other issues. In addition, developing strategies to address such challenges can be equally taxing and, in some cases, may require the support and engagement of several Ministries of the national government as well the private sector in the transparent assessment of infrastructure and capacities (including human, financial and physical resources, legislative authority, etc.) in an effort to identify needs in capacity building and priorities for the donor community to support.

Use of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway established by the OIE to evaluate and identify needs for capacity building is a useful approach and could serve as the foundation for eliciting donor support either through financial commitments in specific projects and/or transfer of knowledge through technical and cooperative arrangements such as laboratory twinning.

Donors participate in SPS capacity building projects for numerous reasons: alignment with foreign aid and policy objectives, compliance with international standards for the protection of animals and animal products in a highly integrated global market place and, increasingly, recognition of the security implications for food supplies from deliberate attack (indeed there is considerable untapped potential for collaboration between the animal health and security communities). Whatever the case may be, establishing a coherent path forward based on an objective analysis assists in understanding needs and identifying key partnerships for addressing capacity challenges.

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