

# **Recommendations**

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1st June 2002**

**Endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 22 May 2003**

**20th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe  
Kuusamo (Finland), 10-13 September 2002**

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- Recommendation No. 1: The role of Veterinary Services in the food chain 'from the stable to the table'
- Recommendation No. 2: Cost-benefit analysis as a tool for decision-making to prevent the spread of infectious animal diseases
- Recommendation No. 3: Animal welfare

### **Recommendation No. 1**

#### **The Role of Veterinary Services in the Food Chain ‘from the Stable to the Table’**

##### CONSIDERING THAT

Food safety as well as animal health is a priority in all countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe,

There is a need to introduce a risk-based approach to food safety in all stages of food production from the ‘stable to the table’ covering animal health and public health,

Biological hazards in foods of animal origin are considered as the most common causes of food-borne diseases, while hazards caused by chemical contaminants also have to be taken into account,

Veterinarians are qualified to fulfil a leading role in the process of change from the traditional methods of food safety control to an integrated food safety approach,

The 68th and 69th General Sessions of the OIE International Committee adopted the Third Strategic Plan and the Work Programme of the Director General for the period 2001-2005 and gave to the Director General a clear mandate on food safety,

The OIE Permanent Working Group on Food Safety will establish official and informal cooperative links with the FAO, WHO, WTO and the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission to develop international standards, guidelines and good practices to facilitate risk-based approaches and the implementation of risk management programmes in all stages of food production from the ‘stable to the table’,

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

##### RECOMMENDS

###### A. THAT THE OIE:

1. Provide Member Countries with the necessary technical assistance and guidance for the development of effective food safety control programmes.
2. Encourage Member Countries to strengthen veterinary education and training in support of the integrated food safety approach.
3. Review the criteria for notification of diseases, pathogens and contaminants of medicinal, food and environmental origin, taking into consideration the risks for human health from hazards carried from animals into the food chain.

4. Develop standards and guidelines for surveillance, including monitoring, sampling and testing of pathogens and contaminants of food hazards.
5. Request the Permanent Working Groups for Food Safety and for Animal Welfare to establish priorities, taking into account a global approach to food safety issues.
6. Request the aforementioned Working Groups to take into account the urgent need for the development of programmes to promote food safety as well as animal welfare issues applicable at the farm level and during the transport of animals.

B. THAT THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Provide all the necessary legal and financial support to the competent authority, in particular the Veterinary Administration, for the implementation of risk-based approaches on food safety, including risk assessment, risk communication and risk management.
2. Develop reliable surveillance programmes for zoonotic diseases and food hazards and contaminants, including those that do not cause any obvious clinical symptoms to animals.
3. Request their Veterinary Services to actively participate in the preparatory work and other activities of the FAO, WHO, WTO and the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission for the development of international standards, guidelines and practices for food safety and trade.
4. Develop central intersectoral information databases on food-related hazards and food-borne diseases.
5. Develop rapid alert systems for the notification of direct or indirect risks to human health from food, feed and other products of animal origin.
6. Develop systems to trace and recall contaminated foods.
7. Promote and enforce integrated veterinary and intersectoral control of food safety in all stages of food production and products of animal origin.
8. Introduce quality control and evaluation systems of the above-mentioned activities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.3. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*.
9. Encourage and develop the implementation of Good Veterinary Practices in the use of medicines in animals intended for food production.
10. Contribute to the monitoring systems in animal feed used on farms.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 13 September 2002 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)

## **Recommendation No. 2**

### **Cost-benefit analysis as a tool for decision-making to prevent the spread of infectious animal diseases**

#### CONSIDERING THAT

The purpose of economic analysis of the spread of infectious animal diseases is to support decision-making, for example, by identifying and evaluating appropriate risk management strategies,

Outbreaks of many infectious animal diseases have a considerable impact on the countries involved, and the resulting economic consequences may be very high in absolute terms, but also as a percentage of gross national product,

The expected size of an infectious disease outbreak (in terms of number of herds infected, duration of the epidemic and size of the affected area), as well as the related economic consequences, depend in particular on the risk factors for introducing and spreading pathogenic agents; there are considerable differences between countries and between diseases,

The economic consequences of an outbreak can be subdivided into direct losses and consequential losses, including business interruption, losses related to established restriction zones, insufficient compensation for slaughtered animals, repopulation of the farm, price effects, and loss of consumer confidence,

The price effects are the dominant factor in the economic losses, and depend mainly on the relative import/export situation of the affected country,

Possible additional measures relating to welfare slaughter may have a considerable impact on the economic consequences of an outbreak,

Infectious disease outbreaks may have disruptive effects in all sectors of the production and distribution chain (feed, breeding, slaughter, transport, meat and milk processing, consumption) as well as in other parts of the national economy (e.g. tourism),

There is not a single strategy for all countries (and for regions within a country) to prevent the spread of infectious animal diseases, due to differences in herd structure, animal density, risk factors, disease monitoring systems, and the import/export situation,

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries develop scenarios in 'peace time' with detailed contingency plans of measures to be taken in case of threats or outbreaks, in order to execute strategies as effective as possible and to limit the economic losses, and that the OIE assist countries by developing suitable guidelines.

2. In addition to epidemiological analysis, cost-benefit analysis be considered as a useful tool in identifying and evaluating effective prevention and control strategies for infectious animal diseases. In this regard, new economic decision support methodologies be developed to constantly revise the optimal strategy during the course of an outbreak or threat of an outbreak using emerging information from that outbreak or threat, and to give strong economic incentives to reduce the chance of introduction and spread of a disease.
  3. Each country try to improve the traceability of infected or contact animals by establishing and maintaining an updated standardised set of data on herd structure, animal density and animal exchanges. This data will be used for determining the optimal control strategy in case of a threat or outbreak, and must be in compliance with guidelines provided by the OIE.
  4. An integrated epidemiological-economic framework be envisaged that can be used to evaluate current control strategies and to identify appropriate control strategies for the future.
  5. The OIE promote training and information programmes focused on the quantitative (epidemiological-economic) aspects of prevention and control of infectious animal diseases.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 13 September 2002 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)

### **Recommendation No. 3**

#### **Animal Welfare**

#### CONSIDERING THAT

Animals should be treated well and should be protected from unnecessary suffering and disease,

The 68th and 69th General Sessions in May 2000 and May 2001 adopted the Third OIE Strategic Plan and the Director General's Work Programme to implement the recommendations of the Third Strategic Plan for the period 2001-2005, and that Resolution No. XIV on the Animal Welfare Mandate of the OIE was adopted at the last OIE General Session in Paris in May 2002,

The aforementioned Resolution concluded that the OIE should establish a Working Group on Animal Welfare to coordinate and manage animal welfare activities, that the OIE should incorporate animal welfare considerations within its major functions and develop standards and guidelines leading to good animal welfare practice and that the OIE should, among other things, firstly address transportation of animals,

In the Council of Europe, the European Convention (ETS No. 65) for the Protection of Animals during International Transport adopted in Paris in 1968 has been revised and that the new Convention will enter into force in the near future,

Transport has an important impact on animal welfare and animal health and to a certain extent on food safety,

At present, there are only limited resources for the work of the OIE Working Group, which should thus focus in particular on animal transport,

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE give priority to work on animal welfare during transport.
2. The OIE establish a work programme in order to develop minimum standards and guidelines for the transportation of vertebrate animals, aiming to safeguard the welfare of animals, including animal health, during transport, and that the results be discussed at the next General Session of the OIE in Paris.
3. The OIE consider establishing one or more OIE Collaborating Centres competent for all animal welfare issues.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 13 September 2002 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)





**15th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa  
Maputo (Mozambique), 18-21 February 2003**

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- Recommendation No. 1: The importance of livestock identification and movement control to the promotion of animal disease control and facilitation of trade
- Recommendation No. 2: The role of animal disease control in poverty reduction and food security strategies in Africa
- Recommendation No. 3: Support to the African Union for programmes relating to the control of animal diseases
- Recommendation No. 4: Livestock production in support of NEPAD objectives



### **Recommendation No. 1**

#### **The Importance of Livestock Identification and Movement Control to the Promotion of Animal Disease Control and Facilitation of Trade**

##### CONSIDERING THAT

Livestock identification and effective movement control are important elements of animal disease control programmes and are also required to support international trade in livestock and livestock products,

Globalisation and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement result in significant changes to the international trading environment in livestock and livestock products to ensure food safety and to reduce the risk of spread of animal diseases; importing countries require evidence of effective disease control and traceability of animals and products to ensure that the risk to animal and public health in their countries is minimised,

In numerous African countries, many List A and B diseases are endemic and animal health services are hampered by inadequate resources and have poor capacity to implement effective animal health programmes, which poses a considerable challenge for disease control and is a major barrier for access to international markets for livestock and their products,

There is considerable variation between regions and sub-regions in Africa and therefore the next step will require a regional approach; this will enable more detailed consideration of all the issues including the needs and capacity of regional livestock systems and the potential for application of the OIE standards including zoning/regionalisation and the principle of equivalence; the approach taken should be to clearly define the objectives of any future work on livestock management and identification and then to use the most practical and cost-effective means to achieve the objectives; training of all stakeholders will be required,

A harmonised co-operative approach is needed because most countries have multiple neighbours and there are many legal and illegal movements of livestock within and between countries. In many cases, these movements follow longstanding traditional routes; this will require an integrated approach involving agreed procedures, education, incentives, legislation and penalties when required,

Countries wanting to benefit from increased exports will need to meet market specifications and these include measures for controlling movements and identification of animals and animal products; for countries in this region, cost and cultural acceptability could be major barriers to widespread adoption of identification methods and there is a need to develop effective and practical methods and to negotiate acceptance by other Member Countries,

Implementation of effective systems of livestock movement control and identification requires strong engagement of all stakeholders and this involves planned and coordinated consultation and communication activities,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Current approaches to livestock identification and animal movement management be reviewed.
2. Member Countries agree to develop standards for livestock identification and animal movement management that are practical and cost effective. Measures to include a balance between education, incentives, legislation and penalties.
3. Member Countries adopt zoning/regionalisation approaches to disease control, where relevant, and work with neighbouring countries to establish harmonised systems of livestock identification and livestock movement management where possible.
4. Neighbouring countries and stakeholder groups be encouraged to engage in the planning and implementation of programmes for livestock identification and movement control.
5. Negotiations be conducted with trading partner countries to gain acceptance of equivalent methods of livestock identification that are applicable and cost effective.
6. The OIE, AU-IBAR and other regional agencies jointly carry out regional workshops to develop regional or sub-regional plans for strengthening livestock identification and animal movement management.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)

**Recommendation No. 2**

**The Role of Animal Disease Control in Poverty Reduction  
and Food Security Strategies in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

Poverty reduction and food security represent the main priorities in Africa and that livestock play a crucial role herein,

Animal diseases are today a major constraint for preserving and developing livestock and present a major threat for poor people, national economies as well as those of neighbouring or importing countries,

National and regional operational capacity and resource allocation are still insufficient for an efficient control of animal diseases,

The socio-economic benefits of animal disease control programmes, in terms of securing assets, veterinary public health, access to formal markets, intensification and economic growth, are perceived as high, but have been insufficiently quantified,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Control of animal diseases listed by the OIE be considered as a 'global public good' and be under the responsibility of the Official Veterinary Services.
2. Greater efforts be made to inform the public, sensitise and convince policy-makers, involve all stakeholders, quantify and prioritise actions for prevention and control of animal diseases and integrate them in national poverty reduction strategy papers.
3. Substantial, appropriate, coordinated and sustained support be provided by the international community in the domain of animal disease prevention and control in Africa for poverty reduction through securing current assets, access to markets and sustainable growth.
4. The Doha Declaration, signed by the President of the World Bank and the Directors General of the OIE, WTO, FAO and WHO, be followed by the rapid implementation of national and regional programmes for the strengthening of technical, scientific and operational capacities of Veterinary Services in Africa.

5. The donors be encouraged, under the leadership of the OIE, possibly within the framework of ALive, to invest in Veterinary Services, their private partners and in strategic research.
  6. A pragmatic and medium-term action plan be set up for measures in policy formulation, institutional and organisational strengthening, research and investment, with a clear and articulated focus on poverty reduction, and access to formal regional and international markets.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)

### **Recommendation No. 3**

#### **Support to the African Union for Programmes relating to the Control of Animal Diseases**

##### CONSIDERING

The draft Agreement signed on 14 September 2001 between the Organisation of African Unity/Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE),

The importance of animal production and the benefit of animal disease control programmes in poverty alleviation, as recognised by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD),

The role of IBAR as a technical agency of the African Union (AU),

The relevance and the need for African countries to comply with OIE standards and guidelines,

The need to eradicate the last foci of rinderpest from the Somali ecosystem,

The urgent need to develop control plans for the priority diseases,

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

##### RECOMMENDS

1. Rapid implementation of the re-organisation of AU-IBAR.
2. Preparation by the IBAR-PACE team of a draft continental comprehensive programme associating the different regional organisations of the continent in accordance with the major orientations set by NEPAD.
3. Extending the PACE programme until December 2006 in accordance with the recommendations of the PACE mid-term Review (January 2003) and of IBAR.
4. Intensifying the actions of Member Countries with a view to complying progressively with international standards and OIE guidelines.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)





**Recommendation No. 4**

**Livestock Production in Support of NEPAD Objectives**

CONSIDERING THAT

Livestock plays an important role in socio-economic development, especially of the poor rural zones, 70% of which depend on livestock for their livelihood,

Livestock is a major contributor to the GDP of most of the African countries,

Veterinary Services contribute significantly to scientific information required for sanitary and zoonosanitary measures,

In many African countries, List A and B diseases are endemic and Veterinary Services are hampered by limited resources and scientific capacity for support of policy formulation and standard setting,

THE OIE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. NEPAD consider livestock production as one of the priority areas that can contribute considerably to poverty reduction in Africa.
2. Member Countries mandate the OIE, in collaboration with the AU-IBAR, to make representation at the NEPAD secretariat to highlight the importance of animal disease control in livestock development and poverty reduction and to consider ALive as a priority programme.
3. Member Countries make deliberate efforts to obtain support for institutional manpower development, improved infrastructure and capacity building for livestock development.
4. The OIE in collaboration with regional and sub-regional institutions, lobby for more professional, material and political support for livestock development.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 21 February 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)