

Recommendations of the Third Congress of the African Veterinary Association (AVA)

Yaounde, Cameroon 28-30 September 2009,

The third African veterinary congress was held in Yaounde Cameroon from 28th to 30th September 2009. After debates and discussions; the following recommendations were formulated by participants:

A) Recommendations to Governments

Considering the livestock contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of each African country, the Congress recommends:

- Implementation of recommendations of the Maputo Declaration on increasing allocations to agriculture and livestock;
- Recruitment of new veterinarians in the public service.

B) Control and / or eradication of some domestic animals diseases

1) Rabies

Considering:

- The increase of human deaths due to rabies in Africa;
- The poor coordination of services in charge of Rabies management and the unavailability of statistical data on the disease;
- The need for an integrated multidisciplinary approach in the management of Rabies;
- Insufficient funds to control this major zoonosis;

The third AVA congress recommends:

- The mobilization of national and international communities for the formulation of a concerted strategy of control and eradication of the disease through the establishment or strengthening of national and / or regional monitoring;
- Adoption of regulations governing the ownership of dogs;
- The constant awareness of the population, especially youth, about impact of rabies ;
- Strengthening the collaboration between national public health services (human and veterinary) and mobilization of funds to implement strategies.

2) One World One Health (One World, One Health: OWOH)

Considering the OWOH strategy already developed by the International Organizations;

Considering that the control of each zoonosis shall be conducted from the base;

Considering the emergence and re-emergence of certain animal diseases of which 70% can be transmitted to humans,

The 3rd AVA congress subscribes to and supports this concept and therefore recommends:

- The setting up of a OWOH consultation framework at national level between Veterinary and medical associations ;
- That as for avian influenza and other transboundary diseases, international organizations, donors and governments mobilize necessary funds to implement this concept into actions in accordance with the new millennium goals;
- That a special importance be accorded to zoonosis such as tuberculosis, trypanosomiasis, cysticercosis, etc. ... some of which could be considered as orphan diseases.

3) Other transboundary diseases

The Congress notes satisfactorily the progress in the eradication of rinderpest and appreciates the decisive involvement of both national veterinary services and private sectors in the eradication of this major panzootic. It recommends:

- The collaboration of African countries under the aegis of Africa Union, OIE and FAO in order to secure all the vaccine strains;
- That achievements on Rinderpest are consolidated and exploited for the control and eradication of other transboundary diseases, such as the PPR, which is a good subject for eradication. Regional or continental strategies for the control of other diseases (FMD, CBPP, RVF, parasitic, NC ...) should be developed and funding for its implementation ensured;
- That the experience of Sanitary Mandate be extended to all African countries to effectively involve the private sector in veterinary health protection;
- That collaboration already existing between FAO, OIE, WHO and AU- IBAR be enhanced for the formulation of a continental strategy for control and eradication of rabies;
- That under aegis of GF-TADs, strategies to control the above diseases be made taking into consideration specificities of each ecosystem or each African economic community.

C) Public health and safety

Considering:

- The lack of control of veterinary drugs and the disorganization of their distribution network and delivery;

- That for OIE, the issue of veterinary drugs is a key link in the public health system,

the 3rd AVA congress recommends:

- The adoption of a comprehensive and appropriate legislation on veterinary drugs;

- The fast harmonization of sub-regional laws on AMM procedures and control of drugs distribution;

- The creation or strengthening of laboratory for quality control and residues research in products of animal origin;

- The strengthening of the skills of staff in charge of development and implementation of regulations.

- Research and reinforcement of international cooperation.

D) Animal products

Considering:

- The need for African countries to develop a plan for sustainable development of livestock;

- The need to preserve biodiversity and genetic resources;

- The problematic of climate change and the need for environmental protection, a prerequisite for sustainable livestock production;

- Insufficient statistical data on animal and fisheries resources;

- The issue of greenhouse gas emissions by livestock,

the 3rd AVA Congress recommends:

- that African countries, through better collection of data on fisheries establish standardized programs, enabling better management and assessment of halieutic resources stocks;

- That livestock waste be converted to reduce environmental pollution;

- That the inventory and characterization of genetic resources are made In order to optimize breeds out put and tailor specific programs of intensification for each livestock sector;

- That states focus attention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal origin and that a recycling plan as renewable energy be implemented;
- That special attention is paid to the protection and enhancement of wildlife.
- That special protective measures are taken for endangered species.

Research and Veterinary training

Considering the importance of research and training for the veterinary profession

The congress recommends:

- The strengthening of research centers and national or regional veterinary schools.
- To search Twinning South / South and North / South to upgrade and exchange of experiences.
- To search continuing training opportunities for African veterinarians.
- That specific training aspects on domains of veterinary public health, legislation and respect of international standards is organized for veterinarians of public services.

F/2011: WORLD VETERINARY YEAR

Considering the 250th anniversary of veterinary profession in 2011, The 3rd AVA congress subscribes to the concept: “2011, world veterinary year”. The African Veterinary Association promises to encourage veterinary institutions in Africa to organize activities and events to promote veterinary profession to the public and decision-makers.

Yaoundé September 30, 2009

The CNVA president

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Dr Maurice MAKEK

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