“Assuring Caribbean food and nutrition security in the context of climate change”

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T-STAR Sponsored Invasive Species Symposium

Toward a Collective Safeguarding System for the Greater Caribbean Region:
Assessing Accomplishments since the first Symposium in Grenada (2003)
and Coping with Current Threats to the Region

Special Symposium Edition
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ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARIBVET AND THE WAY FORWARD

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Objectives of CaribVET

- Structure, reinforce and harmonize national surveillance networks;
- Improve and harmonize the control of animal diseases and implement an early alert system;
- Reinforce the technical skills and support the development of tools necessary for surveillance and control including diagnosis capacity;
- Improve the knowledge on animal diseases and their distribution in the Caribbean.

Definition of a regional strategy

Building and strengthening of CaribVET

- All Caribbean countries and territories: members
- Adoption
  - Institutional adoption by 20 Caribbean CVOs and international organizations
  - Political adoption by CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
- Development
  - Technical activities (West Nile, AI, CSF...)
  - Trainings and meetings in epidemiology
- Origin of CaribVET
  - Technical projects involving some countries:
    - Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP territories)
    - CSF Control (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic)
  - Sanitary crisis: CSF reintroduction in Hispaniola
CaribVET in 2011

- Members: 32 countries and territories (Dutch & US territories included)
- Adoption of CaribVET by Caribbean CVOs including CARICOM CVOs and COTED by formal resolution
- Trilingual Charter, tool for institutionalization

Organisation of CaribVET

- Chief Veterinary Officers of 32 countries/territories
- Decisions, orientations
- Regional level
- Steering committee
- 6 working groups
- Identification of regional priority diseases
- Mutual trust between countries and partnerships
- No hierarchical nor technical competence on the national networks
CaribVET: a structured and operational network

- Roles and relationships between individuals/institution are organized, & well formalized (5-10 yrs experience, Charter)
- Full coverage of region: network and not system
- Information: circulates regularly among members (Bottom → up)

CaribVET Website (new version 2011)

CaribVET information bulletin

Other tools
- Soon finalized
  - Forum
  - Newsletter, electronic digest of information posted online

CaribVET Activities and Achievements

- Technical & scientific support for Caribbean members
- Reinforcement of national surveillance activities / networks
  - Evaluation of surveillance activities → towards country assistance
  - Evaluation of laboratory → toward a Caribbean laboratory network
- Capacity building
  - VEP Project – training of Caribbean professionals in epidemiology
  - Trainings in diagnosis, simulation exercises, GIS, ...
- Research applications: increase knowledge of epidemiology of diseases in the Caribbean (West Nile virus, heartwater and TBT distribution, ...)
- Communication & management of health information

SNAT: evaluation tool

Regional RA Framework

Scientific & technical documents

Risk assessments conducted in technical WG
- AI and fighting cocks (AI WG)
- Caribbean
- CSF, Teschen and swine (Swine WG)
- Cuba & Hispaniola
- FMD and imported meat (Epigroup)
- CARICOM countries and Brazil
CaribVET, the Way Forward

1/ Role of connecting project carriers & countries
2/ Regional Network sustainability
3/ Role in emergency situation

1/ CaribVET: connecting project carriers with Caribbean countries

BACKGROUND
- The New-world Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax)
- Myiasis in animals and humans; important direct and indirect losses
- Several Caribbean countries infested
- The COMEXA
  - Mexican - American Commission for the eradication of Screwworm
  - Central role in the eradication of NWS from Mexico (1991), and subsequently from Central America

CaribVET Steering Committee meetings: linkage between COMEXA and Caribbean countries
- 2010: First contact between CaribVET and the COMEXA
  - Presentation of the COMEXA and screwworm situation in the Americas
- 2011: First ad-hoc meeting: COMEXA + 10 infested and interested countries
  - Presentation of the Caribbean Strategy
    - Objective: implement eradication programs in the Caribbean
    - Preliminary Steps/Projects
  - 2nd Ad-hoc meeting planned in June/July 2011
- Link with the Coordination Unit of CaribVET
Role in Disaster Reduction Risk in the Caribbean
Experience in collaborations and coordination

**Assistance in pre-disaster emergency preparedness**
- Hazard identification, risk assessment
  - Epidemiology WG: swine diseases WG, Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease WG
  - Emergency preparedness plan:
    - VEP project: diseases specific WG for AI, TBT and tick-borne diseases
- Building capacities of all animal health stakeholders
- Reports on Cuba Experience: an example to adapt nationally
- Prepare manuals and brochures on disaster preparedness (Cuban manual)
- Disseminate relevant information on disaster reduction risk

**Assistance and coordination in emergency response**
- Review national emergency protocols
- Training: simulation exercises: Desk-top/Field, Risk (Crisis) Communication
- Ease international assistance
  - Identify country focal points
  - Make alliance with international organizations, NGOs to ease international assistance
  - Create groups/directory of experts
  - Develop common platform for the preparation of the human resources for common action
  - Mobilization of an emergency team: VEP group?

**Capacity Building: benefits for the national surveillance networks**
- Laboratory (ILCT, training, simulation)
- GIS, Databases
- Emergency preparedness
- Harmonization, improvement and reinforcement of national surveillance systems
- Surveillance Systems, Emergency response

- Epidemiology, questionnaire validation, data interpretation,...
2/ CaribVET Sustainability

- Activities funded by projects
  - Interreg IV Caraïbes (2009-2012)
  - USDA-APHIS-IS
  - FSP

- 6th Steering Committee (March 2011) recognized the need for strong advocacy at the national level for the support of participation in the activities of CaribVET

- Exploration of other possible sources for assistance

- Increase promotion and awareness of the CaribVET network
  - Develop communication package
  - CaribVET bulletin, press release

3/ CaribVET role in emergency situations

The Caribbean, a region at risk and prone to hazards.

High risk of transboundary animal diseases: endemic and exotic through movements of animals, mites, people, products of animal origin, ...

- Hazards
  - Natural disasters: storms (wind/rain), earthquakes, hurricanes, fire, smoke
  - Diseases outbreak...

- Threats
  - Life, diseases outbreak, animal loss
  - Flooding and insect proliferation
  - Diagnostic pool, equipment & supplies

- Direct & indirect impacts
  - Need for shelter, ill animals/cadavers
  - Accessibility to farms, facilities damages
  - Staff & supplies shortage
  - Socio-economical/political instability

Breakdown in health services and infrastructure, increased vulnerability
Distinct role of NEMO and CaribVET
Capacity Building – training of Caribbean veterinarians and paraveterinarians in epidemiology

Trainings
- Concepts in Basic Epidemiology – July 2008 and September 2009
- Live birds market system – August 2008
- Rapid response system – May 2009

Simulation exercises
- Swine diseases outbreak simulation training – April 2010 – DR
- Rift Valley Fever outbreak simulation – May 2010 – US Virgin Islands

Follow-up of activities
- Continued training in Epidemiology by a software « RANEMA »
- Follow-up of surveillance activities: review of surveillance plans, questionnaires...

Reinforcement of national surveillance systems
Support a national & regional emergency response task force

Thank you for your attention

Caribbean CVOs + members of the WG

Coordination unit
CaribVET chair, Co-Chair; USDA
CARICOM; CI RAD Guadeloupe

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