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**CARIBBEAN FOOD  
CROPS SOCIETY**

**47**

**Forty-Seventh  
Annual Meeting 2011**

**Bridgetown, Barbados  
Volume XLVII – Number 1  
T-STAR Invasive Species Symposium**

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Caribbean Food Crops Society  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
July 3–8, 2011

Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre  
Bridgetown, Barbados

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

**United States Department of Agriculture,  
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  
Edited by  
Edward A. Evans, Carlton G. Davis, and Fredy Ballen**

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## ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARIBVET AND THE WAY FORWARD

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**Achievements of CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health Network and the way forward**

**CaribVET**

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CaribVET Chair (2007-2009)  
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[svo@caribsurf.com](mailto:svo@caribsurf.com)

T-STAR Symposium, Meeting, 5th July, Barbados

FAO PAHO IICA OIE

**CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health network definition**

➤ **A collaboration network involving:**

- Veterinary services
- Laboratories
- Research institutes
- Regional/international organizations

Improve animal and veterinary public health in all the countries &/or territories of the Caribbean

**32 Countries and territories**  
English, Spanish, French and Dutch speaking  
**Members**

Various economical/political communities  
CARICOM; Europe; USA; Commonwealth

USDA CENSA cirad FAO OIE PAHO IICA



## 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**




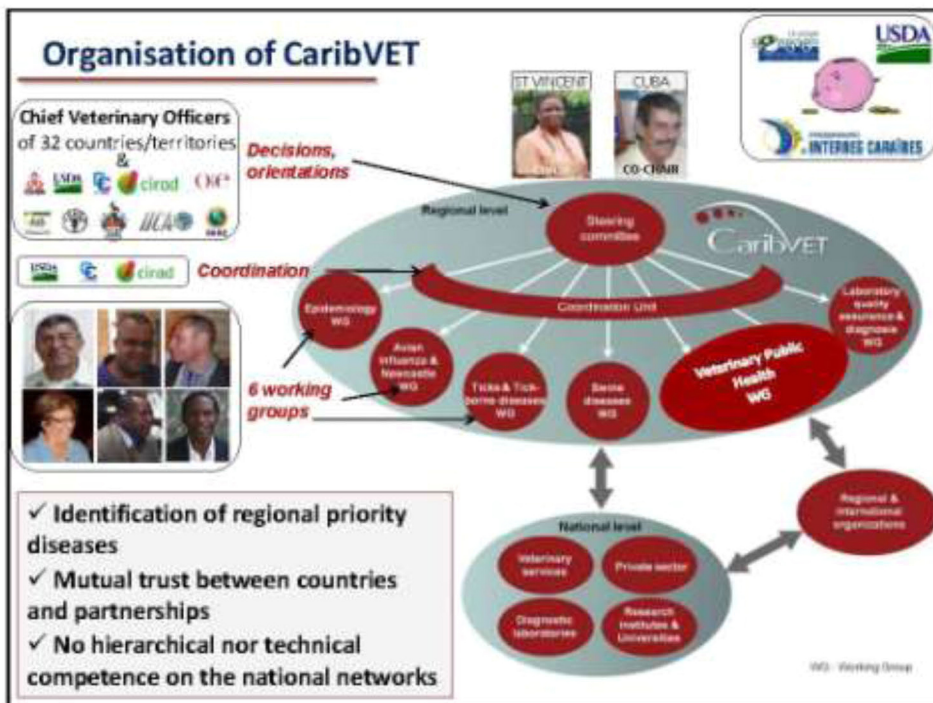
## Building and strengthening of CaribVET



- 2010** ➤ **All Caribbean countries and territories: members**
- 2006** ➤ **Adoption**
  - ❑ **Institutional adoption** by 20 Caribbean CVOs and international organizations
  - ❑ **Political adoption** by CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
- 2000-2005** ➤ **Development**
  - ❑ Technical activities (West Nile, AI, CSF...)
  - ❑ Trainings and meetings in epidemiology
- < 2000** ➤ **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 / territories** (Dutch & US territories included)
- **Adoption of CaribVET by Caribbean CVOs including CARICOM CVOs and COTED** by formal resolution
- **Trilingual Charter, tool for institutionalization**





## 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

[www.caribvet.net](http://www.caribvet.net)  
[caribinfo@caribvet.net](mailto:caribinfo@caribvet.net)

## 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
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a
  - 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?






## 2/ CaribVET Sustainability




- **Activities funded by projects**
  - Interreg IV Caraibes (2009-2012)
  - USDA-APHIS-IS
  - FSP
- **6<sup>th</sup> 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, fomites, 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**



CSF reintroduction in Hispaniola (1996)  
Haiti Earthquake (2010)  
Hurricane Tomas (2010)

**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
  - Sampling, conditioning, shipment of AI samples – Dec. 2009, **June 2011**
  - ...
- **Follow-up of activities**
  - Continued training in Epidemiology by a software « RANEMA »
  - Follow-up of surveillance activities : review of surveillance plans, questionnaires...
  - Monthly action report – evaluation of activities – **performance indicators**



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

## Thank you for your attention



**Coordination unit**  
 CaribVET chair, Co-Chair; USDA  
 CARICOM; CIRAD Guadeloupe



**Caribbean CVOs + members of the WG**



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