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EVA Newsletter

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A.L.P.H.A.

INFORMATION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

A.L.P.H.A. INITIATIVE FROM ZOETIS AND THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN ETHIOPIA

A message from Dr. Gabriel Varga, Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Zoetis



Zoetis is proud to support animal health in Ethiopia through our partnership with the Ethiopian Veterinary

Association (EVA) and other associates in conjunction with the African Livestock Productivity and Health Advancement (A.L.P.H.A.) initiative – a \$14.4M, five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, covering multiple countries.

The A.L.P.H.A. initiative was originally launched in Uganda and Nigeria in 2017, followed by Ethiopia in 2018, and has now also been extended to Tanzania. It will advance livestock health and

productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa through increased availability of veterinary medicines and services, and the implementation of livestock diagnostics infrastructure accompanied by intensive training sessions.

Sustainability is central to our grant activities, and as such we see the funding from the Gates Foundation as a ‘booster’ to elevate our previous activities in Ethiopia with all of our partners. It will allow us to support partners in building together training modules, services, the diagnostics network and a product portfolio to succeed in years to come without further grant funding.

As the leading global animal health company, we believe that we have the capability to rise to this challenge, through investment into specific activities to support the

Ethiopian veterinary and farming community, delivered in close collaboration with local partners.

We are proud to partner with the EVA to enable the launch of this inaugural newsletter, and we will be supporting the EVA to elevate the impact of future newsletter issues as part of a wider collaboration to advance the veterinary sector. We will share regular progress updates about the A.L.P.H.A. initiative in Ethiopia as well as in other countries from the region in this dedicated section in coming issues.

If you would like to find out more about the A.L.P.H.A. initiative in Ethiopia, please visit our website at: <https://et.zoetis.com/> or contact our team.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Gabriel Varga

A MESSAGE FROM THE EVA

This newsletter is brought to you as part of an agreement between the Ethiopian Veterinary Association (EVA) and leading animal health company Zoetis. We will disseminate it to veterinarians registered with us, and other relevant stakeholders, such as para-vets and community animal health workers, where feasible. The arrangement with Zoetis will also involve events and speaker opportunities. Working with the A.L.P.H.A. project will help us improve training and development opportunities in Ethiopia with a view to increasing the sustainability of the livestock industry.

THE HEARD PROJECT IN ETHIOPIA – PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVED VETERINARY SERVICE DELIVERY

By Solomon Gizaw¹, Hiwot Desta¹, Fasil Awol², Barbara Wieland¹

The veterinary service in Ethiopia is primarily provided by the public sector, with clinics in every district and health posts in almost every kebele. However, effective service to the livestock keepers is far from satisfactory. The participation of the private sector is highly limited owing to the inadequate policy support. A Veterinary Service Rationalization Road Map has been initiated to increase the participation of the private sector in the veterinary service sector.

However, its implementation has been in the pipeline for too long.

A new EU-financed project – Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD) – was launched in March 2019 with a central aim of addressing the challenges in the country's veterinary service delivery system. The project began with the assessment of the priorities and satisfaction of livestock keepers with the health services provided.

Simultaneously, a stakeholder workshop – involving service providers from the public and private sector – was organised in April to identify the gaps in veterinary service. For the public sector working group these related to limitations in policy and strategy (policy makers attention, legal and regulatory frameworks, vaccination strategy, extension service on animal diseases and veterinary service, and disease reporting system); poor sectoral coordination

between regional and federal offices – Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Ministry of Health, non-government organisations and government organisations – and between the private sector and government; lack of capacity among both professional and paraprofessional service providers, laboratory diagnostic service; and poor access to services and inputs (drugs in quantity, quality, variety and affordability). The private sector participants raised the illegal drug trade and use, drug sales without prescription, practice without license, and lack of incentives for professionals and service providers.

The HEARD project aims to tackle the challenges of veterinary service delivery from different angles. It is organised into three components:

- Result 1: the quality of public and private veterinary services is strengthened, and delivery optimized through the creation

of an enabling and rationalizing environment (implemented by Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions).

- Result 2: technical competencies and incentives for veterinary service providers is improved – implemented by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and EVA – to enable them to deliver better and rationalised services.
- Result 3: Food safety of primary products of animal origin is improved, and better control of zoonotic diseases achieved (implemented by the MoA).

The active involvement of the private sector through public private partnership (PPP) models is also constrained by lack of effective business models. It has been reported that private service providers, especially those working at the grassroots level, are struggling to provide

quality service and survive as viable businesses. The public and private stakeholders from the first workshop met again on 20 June 2019 to identify alternative PPP models. The modalities are expected to define business models and service delivery approaches that are founded on professionalism, high standard quality, innovative and economically viable veterinary services. The modalities will be identified based on the gaps identified in the first workshop, the roles of the public and private sector in providing public and private goods respectively and drawing on experiences from the OIE and other developing countries. The next step is to evaluate the identified PPP models for their economic and operational feasibility and test them in Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions.

¹ International Livestock Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

² Ethiopian Veterinary Association



IT'S LATE, BUT WE HAVE TIME TO STEP UP

By Dr. Abdela Edao

The world is facing a problem in feeding the fast-growing human population; it is expected to rise from 7 billion to 9 billion in 2050. It is time to take action to make a suitable environment for sustainable people, politics and pollution (the 3ps).

A good start involves laying down a high standard policy framework that provides a favourable environment for the workable ages, balanced technology utilisation, sustainability condition, feasible environment and avoiding pollution through participatory approaches. With regard to this, most of the African, Asian and South American countries still reside in the hands of foreign support, which in turn is exhausting donors.

To alleviate poverty, it is important to move towards the efficient utilisation of technology. One of the key players in the technology demand-supply channel is the government which provides policies setting boundaries for technology supply and demand satisfaction. The modern technology innovation industry, such as technology product suppliers, is another main player in the development of national self-sufficiency.

Based on the level of technology consumption, the west leads and the rest of the world follows. Most of the low and middle-income countries are dependent on more developed countries due to lack of initiative to create self-support system through a scientific approach or the utilisation of new technology. It is time to take a more active approach.

The level, width and depth of scientific information varies from country to country, and continent to continent. It is

influenced by the knowledge level of individual players, the educational curriculum of the country, the availability of skilled manpower, utilisation of technology and policy implementation by the governing body.

Research in the livestock sector is tiresome, time consuming, requires a strict control system and advanced technology because changes take a long time compared to other agricultural sectors. For example, the use of cross breeding requires a maximum of 12 years for variety release for crops, while it takes a minimum of 30 years to get stable gene of 50/50 per cent of crossed blood for cattle.

Most research reports in developing countries are shallow, contain only highlight information, are descriptive, based on physical observation and full of redundancies. For instance, the animal disease reporting system is limited to prevalence, is less informative than it should be, lacks full coverage of geography, covers a limited number of diseases and uses simple study approaches. It also lacks new investigation, so is totally dependent on previous approaches and not synchronised.

A lack of systemised approach, poor design and non-scientific layout in the administration of livestock and its management brings a great loss in productivity. This in turn affects the income of individuals, as well as national gross domestic product (GDP).

The increasing human population in Ethiopia means we must utilise available technology, become competent in the scientific innovation, utilise our livestock resources wisely and preserve our animal stocks. To do so, full

packaged innovation-industry linkage is required.

Our current status in both innovation and related technology utilisation is limited due to various reasons such as the economy, human skill, lack of equipment, political issues, corruption, and administration and budgetary problems.

We ought to either compete or delete ourselves from the list of livestock resource owners. It is the pressure of one village technology that pushes us to come out of such traditional management of our animal resources. Unless we apply it, in a wisely manageable approach, we will be unknowingly losers of the resource.

Amongst the possible technologies to be utilised is biotechnology in disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention approaches. Another possibility is the use of advanced kits and other high technology instruments in the characterisation of disease. Innovation in the technology and utilisation of DIVA strategy is another approach to truly map livestock diseases in our country.

With advanced technology, the use of biosensors for animal originated diseases with high risk of zoonosis is also possible. Advances in scientific innovation also results in the rapid improvement in the productivity profile of our livestock resources in terms of increasing weight gain, quantity and quality of meat and milk and their products.

The level of technology utilisation puts the country in a transparent window which makes it independent.

Scientific industries must play their part in the improvement required for countries, such as Ethiopia.



ETHIOPIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Call for Papers

33rd Annual Conference on:

Livestock Development: Key to ensuring Food and Nutritional Security and Enhancing Export Earnings in Ethiopia

SUB-THEME I:

Livestock for food and nutritional security

SUB-THEME II:

Enhancing live animal and livestock products export trade

SUB-THEME III:

Implications of institutional arrangement on food and nutrition security and livestock and products export trade



Conference Date: September 18-19, 2019

Venue: UN-Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA)

Papers for presentation under the above sub-themes should be submitted both in full word texts and power point slides before July 15, 2019 through: fasilawol@gmail.com or ed-mealem.shitaye@gmail.com.

Please also send full texts of scientific manuscripts to Professor Kassahun Asmare, Editor-in-Chief of the Ethiopian Veterinary Journal (EVJ) through ka7588@yahoo.com.

For further information you may use: +251 9 52 67 77 94/ +251 9 13 16 59 21/ +251 9 11 53 37 24



TIME TO RESCUE VETERINARY EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSION IN ETHIOPIA

By Kassahun Asmare, PhD

Upon the domestication of animals, diseases previously unknown to mankind became apparent and widespread. The care and handling of sick animals logically fell to the mercy and curiosity of shepherds and herdsmen. The early herdsmen's weapons in tackling the diseased conditions confronting them were magic, prayers, incantations, and other ritual practices until the development of animal medicine.

Despite a long history and significant development of the veterinary profession, livestock disease remains one of the key challenges to our survival. We all are aware that diseases kill our animals and cost us the benefits we should reap from our stock. Moreover, there are also disease groups, 'zoonotics', that cross the species boundary and reach us (mankind). Over the past three decades the planet has suffered many disease outbreaks; of which over 70 per cent reportedly originated from animals. Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and a birth defect called Microcephalus, caused by the Zika virus, are among the recent incidents we all recall.

The confluence of human and animal health problems is not a new phenomenon for veterinarians and

animal health authorities; however, the scope, scale, and worldwide impact of zoonoses today have no historical precedent. Perhaps, the growing technology and mobility of people could explain why. Both have made our world smaller, meaning no part of the world is far away and absolutely safe from the economic and public health impact of such diseases.

In fact, the magnitude of the disease occurrence and its effect vary from continent to continent, and country to country. In Ethiopia the presence of epidemic and economically important endemic diseases deter many of our farmers and potential livestock investors from upgrading their stock. In addition, our livestock and livestock products cannot be supplied to the better paying markets of the world due to stringent WTO and OIE requirements. On top of the presence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and diseases of public health concern, our weak veterinary infrastructure and associated substandard service is not blameless, as it makes a meaningful contribution to the economic blows we are suffering.

Indeed, one can list a range of bottle necks, but in my opinion, the veterinary service limitation we have falls in one of the three categories:

1. The limited attention given to the livestock sector by the government
2. The absence standard and strategic veterinary service
3. The issue of professional competence from our side is pertinent.

In Ethiopia the first animal health related higher learning institution, School for Animal Health Assistants, was established in 1963 with the help of UNDP-FAO. In 1979, Addis Ababa University established the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) at Debre Zeit. Both institutions shared the same campus, which finally became one faculty in 1989 with two programs running in parallel until the diploma program of animal health assistants was phased out in 2002. The faculty at Debre Zeit remained the only veterinary education center in the country until 2003. For years it had been clear that the number of veterinary professionals available in the field were insufficient and opening additional veterinary faculties was logical.

Veterinary medicine, like public universities, has seen a large expansion. The Addis Ababa University faculty at Debre Zeit was the only one for many years, then by 2003 there were five and now 14

or more institutions have opened in different parts of the country. These institutions were built from scratch with curriculums adopted or adapted from the Addis Ababa University FVM. Staff recruitment and classroom allocation went on in the absence of necessary infrastructure and facilities for teaching/learning. According to a recent report, we have 28% (14/50) of the veterinary faculties in Africa and 43% (14/32) of those in Sub-Saharan Africa in just less than two decades.

According to Aragaw et al, 2015, the expansion of veterinary medical education in Ethiopia is dramatic and unparalleled in Africa, and probably anywhere else on the planet. This could be seen as a source of pride, but even though Ethiopia has huge livestock resources and diseases remain a critical challenge of the sector, the number of veterinary faculties we have appears too high.

Like any other hard science, training in veterinary medicine is expensive and demands, facilities, resources, highly skilled experts, technology and an accreditation system. Unfortunately, most of our faculties fall short of those basic requirements. Yet, over 500 veterinary doctors are coming out of these colleges/faculties/schools in the country annually.

The number is so large, and when coupled with the graduates' actual day-one professional competence and the few employment opportunities available, the challenge becomes enormous, first to the graduates, then their families, and finally to the nation.

In my opinion, the Veterinary Education Forum (VEF) in collaboration with Ethiopian Veterinary Association (EVA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Education (MoE), Higher education relevance and quality authority (HERQA) and other relevant parties – be it at federal, regional level – must give the issue top priority and work together to protect and safeguard the profession and the service before it is too late.

There is no single silver bullet that can fix the problem at once; however, solutions could involve:

1. Each and every veterinary faculty fulfilling the required minimum standard for clinical veterinary training, both in terms of facility and staff profile, and striving for excellence in a particular area.
2. Faculties only accepting competent and willing students.
3. An accreditation and/or a regulatory body that monitors and evaluates the quality of veterinary education needs to be established. That way only institutions that fulfil the necessary minimum requirements and strive for high quality veterinary education will be accredited.
4. The government must follow the progress and associated development with the national livestock strategic plan.

Stakeholders across veterinary education will have their own recommendations that will help improve the quality of veterinary education to the betterment of

the profession, to the benefit of veterinary students, professionals, livestock producers, and to the nation at large. We must ensure we listen to those who understand the issues and take the appropriate action.

This article is based on the keynote speech delivered at the National Veterinary Conference, Dessie, 2019

The veterinary profession is probably one of the earliest disciplines in the history of mankind. The knowledge, skills and attitude we have today have developed since ancient times.

For example, Hippocrates (460-337 B.C.) described pathological conditions like hydrothorax in oxen, sheep, and swine. Aristotle (384-326 B.C.) later discovered some of the diseases of swine, dogs, cattle, horses, asses, and elephants. In his description of the diseases of the dog he gave an excellent description of rabies. Gen. Xenophon (349-259 B.C.) wrote an essay on horses and horsemanship in which he emphasized diseases and care of the feet. These ventures were some of the stepping-stones on which our profession walked to arrive at the current concept of evidence-based medicine.

Following the advent of printing press and establishment of the first veterinary college in Lyons, France, the need to establish animal health colleges got wide attention in many countries. In Africa, such academic institutes were pioneered by colonial administrators in countries like South Africa, Sudan and Egypt.

All these and other evidences not mentioned here accrued over time, making us believe, veterinary science, is probably, one of the earliest disciplines recognised in the history of mankind.

NEW EDITION OF ETHIOPIAN VETERINARY DRUGS LIST

By Dr. Hailu Zeru, Senior Expert, Veterinary Medicines Registration and Licencing, Veterinary Drugs and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDFACA)

Successful animal healthcare relies on veterinary drugs which are safe, effective, and of required quality. In addition to their accessibility, the drugs should be prescribed, dispensed and used rationally. Domestic production and importation of these drugs depends on the prevalence of animal diseases in the country, availability of trained manpower, economic capacity of the country and users, and; infrastructure with full consideration of safety, efficacy, quality and cost.

According Proclamation 728/2011 Veterinary Drug and Feed Administration and Control article 20(4), preparing a list of veterinary drugs for the country, structuring the drugs in the list into different categories, and revising the list

whenever necessary is among the directives given to the Veterinary Drugs and Feed Administration and Control Authority of Ethiopia (VDFACA).

Guided with this mandate the VDFACA has now updated the list (1st edition), which has been in use since 2002. In developing the 2nd edition, the diseases prevalent in the country, current development of veterinary pharmaceutical industry and international experiences of veterinary drugs use were considered. Field veterinarians, researchers, academicians, and professionals from veterinary pharmaceutical industries and veterinary drug distributors were involved in the revision process. The new edition has a total of

484 veterinary drugs. The new chemical entities added to the list has reached 157, while 19 drugs have been removed from the list due to low demand.

The new edition also includes a list of 59 vaccines which reflects the growing demand of the livestock industry. The new edition is designed to help increase the choices of effective drugs available to livestock keepers, something previously lacking. It will also help minimise the availability of drugs which are posing safety problems and are banned or restricted from the international market. Manufacturers and importers will also benefit by getting to the market within a shorter period. It had previously taken too much time to include individual products not available in the list. The list is also important in developing other significant documents, such as veterinary drugs formulary, veterinary standard treatment guidelines and lists of prescription and non-prescription over the counter (OTC) veterinary drugs; and serves as a tool for procurement, distribution and prescription of veterinary drugs in the country.



AFRICAN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND HEALTH ADVANCEMENT

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