Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

40th session

European Commission on Agriculture

27-28 September 2017 | Budapest, Hungary

SIDE EVENT 3.

Disease occurrence tracking, strategic response to TADs and informed decision making

(linked to agenda item 5 and ECA document ECA/40/17/5)

Date/time: 27 Sep 2017; 13:45 h – 15:00 h

The side event will look at examples of disease tracking and reporting schemes used in the REU region and available tools that can support national and regional efforts. Presenters will highlight the importance and need for systematic collection of other epidemiologically relevant information, such as host population data, production systems, vector distribution, risk factors and environmental variables. Discussions will be held on the need for the international sharing of disease occurrence information and other broader range of data to ensure that epidemiological monitoring and assessment of disease risks and their implications can be made more robust, reliable, but at the same time more accessible to the end users.

Proposed leading questions for the discussion

- What are the main disease threats and how are priorities decided in your region or country?
- Are surveillance systems for animal diseases including zoonoses in place collecting the proper and needed data for supporting decisions?
- How do you conduct risk assessment and support decision making?

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
13:45 to 13:50 (5 mins)	Introduction to the objectives of the side event	Julio Pinto (FAO HQ)
13:50 to 14:00 (10 mins)	Using a multi-hazard early warning tool to inform decision making: the global spread of avian influenza H5N8 in 2016/2017	Helen Roberts (Defra, UK)
14:00 to 14:10 (10 mins)	Animal Health Information, Risk Assessment and Surveillance: Approaches and Tools	Julio Pinto (FAO HQ)
14:10 – 14:55 (45 mins)	Discussion	Moderator
14:55- 15:00 (5 mins)	Session close	Julio Pinto (FAO HQ)

Side event will have English and Russian translation.

Executive Summary

Outbreaks of trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) such as Avian Influenza (AI), African swine fever (ASF) or lumpy skin disease (LSD) have in the last ten years been causing epidemic emergencies in the REU region, requiring an emergency response and regional cooperation to improve disease control.

TADs will continue to emerge driven by changes in vector, pathogen and host distribution patterns, which may be brought about as a result of climate change, increasing trade and globalisation and increased demand for animal protein-rich diets. Climate change-associated increases in TADs will also impact on trade, and conversely changes in trade flows which may be used as an adaptation measure, may increase the likelihood of TADs.

Modern technologies, such as whole genome sequencing, improved vaccines and diagnostics, modelling outbreaks and mapping risk factors are available but are rarely linked to policy development or risk management decisions.

A regional approach to TADs and risk assessment / prioritisation is an absolute requirement and needs to be promoted through access to shared resources, training, common strategies using new technology and be aimed at all the sectors, including smallholders, farmers, private veterinarians and the public.

FAO brings multi-disciplinary expertise (from animal health surveillance, risk assessment, crisis management and preparedness tools) that is needed to address this cross-sectoral issue.