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Editorial



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In North Africa, livestock populations are national capital resources with great economic value. Unfortunately, they are threatened by highly virulent diseases affect cattle, sheep, goats, camels and poultry which do not recognize borders. These disease outbreaks have a direct impact on the health and welfare of animals but also result in significant economic losses. Some of the diseases are common to man and animals, zoonoses, which also threaten human health. Eradicating transboundary animal diseases is, therefore, a priority requiring a regional approach and a combination of efforts by governments, farmers and the sector's professionals working in the provision of animal health and laboratory services. Preventing and managing epidemics also requires the establishment of reliable and efficient information systems. Through a variety of projects, the sub-regional FAO office for North Africa is mobilizing a high level technical expertise to provide support to government policies and strategies. The office is also collaborating with the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to establish an information system based on a network, REMESA (Mediterranean Network of Animal Health), which will help combine the efforts of both North African and European Mediterranean countries. It is a good example of North-South partnership, but also of a public private partnership.

Enjoy reading!



Transboundary animal diseases : diseases with a strong social and economic impact

Livestock in the Maghreb countries constitute a vital resource (see table below) for poor rural populations and local economies. Livestock and their output provide these people with an important source of income. In North Africa, livestock contributes on average about 40 to 80% of the Gross Agricultural Product. However, despite the importance of the sector, on-farm productivity remains low and cross-border trade between the countries of the region are very limited.

Several socio-economic, administrative or technical constraints are impeding the full performance and the development of livestock sector in the sub-region. Transboundary animal diseases are identified as one of the major constraints to the economic development of the sector. They, along with zoonoses (diseases common to animals and humans), constitute a threat to countries of the sub-region as well as to the entire region of the Mediterranean.

Livestock production systems in the region are characterized by extensive management, in some cases by nomadic or

transhumant systems, which exacerbate the spread of these diseases. Disease spread also stems from uncontrolled movements of cattle due to trade, in particular imports from infected countries. All transboundary diseases are economically important both for Maghreb and most of the Mediterranean countries with some of these diseases are a constant threat to the region.

It should be highlighted that fish diseases also merit special attention. Cooperation proposals within REMESA network were submitted to the aquaculture sub-regional days in North African countries.

The sub-regional FAO office for North Africa has just carried out a mission in Libya with the Ministry of Agriculture to provide technical assistance in the management of the Newcastle disease, a pervasive disease which heavily affects poultry populations. The recommendations proposed enhancing communication and strengthening awareness-raising campaigns; hygiene and biosecurity, the organization of the veterinary sector and its services, the management of vaccine circuit and vaccination strategy.

Animal population (1.000 heads)

country	cattle	sheep	goats	camels	poultry
Algeria	1.650	20.000	3.800	290	125.139
Libya	130	4.500	1.265	47	25.000
Mauritania	1.690	8.850	5.600	1.600	4.200
Morocco	2.814	17.078	5.118	70	157.500
Tunisia	1.400	7.616	1.550	200	50.000
Total	6.979	57.729	17.279	2.214	386.939

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- Strengthening prevention and control systems of transboundary animal diseases in the Maghreb and Egypt to establish a Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) (GCP/RAB/010/SPA)
- Capacity building of the Maghreb countries to eradicate the Rift Valley Fever (GCP/SNE/001/FRA)
- Control of Rift Valley Fever in Mauritania (OSRO/MAU/204/CHA)

New Projects

Two new projects are being formulated for Libya:

- One on Capacity building of Veterinary Services for the prevention and the eradication of transboundary animal diseases;
- A second one on the development and upgrading of veterinary laboratories.

Tunisia - Libya

Agreement on the eradication of transboundary animal diseases

Under FAO patronage, Tunisia and Libya signed, in November 2012, an agreement for the establishment of a joint action plan to monitor and eradicate transboundary animal diseases, especially the peste of petits ruminants (PPR) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The agreement aims at developing a cooperation programme between the veterinary authorities of both countries to identify livestock in border areas, harmonize the procedures to monitor and control PPR at the Tunisian-Libyan borders and establish a schedule for the monitoring and vaccination against FMD in those regions. This action plan will help support the veterinary authorities of both countries in undertaking and evaluating the risks of FMD and other transboundary diseases due to animal movements. It will also identify options for an effective risk management system which implements surveillance in high risk areas, especially in the southern region identified as regions with large grazing areas and transhumance livestock populations.

An expertise to protect public health and guarantee food security

In compliance with the Department of Animal Health (AGAH) of the Production and Animal Health Division (AGM), the FAO Sub- Regional Office for North Africa is striving to preserve public health and food safety through the implementation of appropriate policies and programs for animal health. Thus, projects have been launched and have generated results at the national, sub- regional and Mediterranean levels. The sub-regional office is working on public awareness-raising on the risks of zoonotic diseases and mechanisms for prevention. An awareness-raising toolkit on major zoonoses was designed and will be published soon in French and Arabic. Among the important contributions of the Office expertise are the implementation of information systems and the establishment of a Mediterranean Network for Animal Health (REMESA).



Networking, a mechanism to eradicate animal diseases

The Mediterranean Network for Animal Health (REMESA) was established by the Heads of Veterinary Services (CVO) of 10 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia from North Africa, Egypt from the Middle East, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal from Mediterranean Europe. Cyprus, Greece and Malta joined the network in 2013.

CVOs are responsible for the focus and the functioning of the network. In particular, they developed a list of diseases that should be targeted carefully at the sub-regional level (considered as priority diseases). They are: Foot-and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Rabies, Bluetongue (BT), West Nile fever and Brucellosis.

Different projects are being undertaken which contribute to the implementation of activities which ultimately should strengthen national disease control efforts. FAO, OIE, EU and UMA are providing financial and technical support to the network. REMESA falls within the framework of international agreements such as the Global Forum for

the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF- TADs).

The Forum's structure and mode of operation supported the organisation of many collaboration activities, particularly focused on strengthening capacity building to prevent and eradicate priority animal diseases. These activities may, as appropriate, be specific to a disease or an area (laboratory, epidemiology, etc.) or cross-cutting (risk analysis, biosecurity, inspection methodologies, sampling, development of emergency plans, etc.).

Activities are conducted through thematic sub-networks among specialized correspondents of each member country (focal points) (see box). The meetings of these sub-networks will facilitate exchange information on national strategies, aim for their convergence and harmonization, whenever possible, and generally strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of relevant countries.



Area of intervention

<http://www.remesanetwork.org/remesa/fr/>

REMESA Sub-networks



Animal Health Laboratory Network



Animal health communication Network



Veterinary epidemiological surveillance network



Socio- economics for production and animal health Network

Sub-regional News

Signing an agreement between the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and FAO

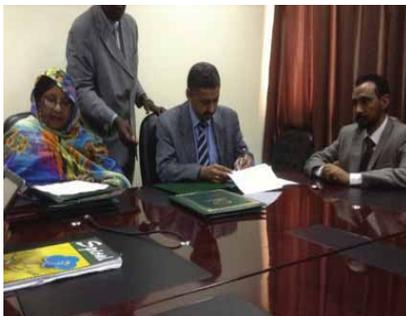
This project responds to a UMA Secretariat request to undertake a survey on prospects and procedures required to harmonize agricultural policies of member countries and their integration into the Maghreb policy space. Given its expertise and neutrality, FAO was asked to undertake this study in close collaboration with the Secretariat and member countries. This program reinforces the efforts made by the Office to assist Maghreb countries to achieve their economic integration in the Maghreb and Mediterranean zone.

Mapping Agricultural Professional Organisations



Mr. Horemans and Mrs. Fatma Ben Rejeb signing the agreement

An agreement was signed with the Maghreb Farmers Union (UMAGRI) to design a map of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the sub-region's countries. The Office will provide support through the design of the methodology and the supervision of national consultants. A summary report will be drafted and submitted to a workshop for validation.



CPF signing ceremony

Signing a Country Programming Framework 2013-2016

Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development, and Ms. Mariam Mahamat Nour, FAO Representative in Mauritania, signed on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013-2016. The Minister said that CPF was

a welcome change in development programming and that it was in tune with the vision of the Mauritanian Government, its priorities in the eradication of poverty, food security and the development of the rural sector. The funding for the next three years amounts to US \$16.4 million with US \$ 6 million already identified. The Representative of FAO said that the CPF was a reference document for the Government of Mauritania and the FAO and a jointly conceived medium-term response to the priority needs of the country for assistance. It should also be considered as a tool for resource mobilization. The defined priorities are consistent with those identified for the sector in the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication, the National Food Security Strategy - 2015 and Vision 2030, the Development Strategy for Rural Sector (DSRS) and the Agricultural and Pastoral Orientation Act as well as the PDDAA Charter. The four priority areas are (i) the promotion of a viable rural and peri-urban economy, diversified and adapted to climate change, (ii) improving commercial channels and intra-national, sub-regional, regional and international exchanges; (iii) improving access of vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas to a sustainable, healthy and balanced diet and (iv) strengthening mechanisms for the prevention and management of food crises on central and decentralized levels and at the level of wilayas.

The FAO Office in Algeria participated in the first exhibition of medicinal and aromatic plants "AROMED" held from 1 to 3 October in the province of Bouira. This exhibition was conceived within the framework of the rural revival policy in Algeria, and provided an opportunity to showcase and promote the importance, the diversity and the quality of the Algerian floristic potential. This fair helped promote and enhance the specific activities of this sector, namely those relating to SIPAM Algeria project. In fact, the oases of the Oued Souf region are composed of several "Ghouts" that have existed for a long time and have sheltered a rich heritage of local biological resources.

The FAO Office in Algeria will organize jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the World Food Day on October 21, 2013 at the National Agriculture Chamber under the theme: "Sustainable Food Systems to Serve Food Safety and Nutrition". Trophies will be awarded to individuals and institutions that are particularly recognized for their contribution to improving food security in general and the development and promotion of food systems in Algeria in particular.



The FAO Office in Algeria will participate to the International Fishing and Aquaculture Exhibition (SIPA) scheduled for November 6 to 9, 2013 in Oran. This exhibition aims at promoting activities related to fisheries and aquaculture as well as enhancing fisheries production factors and means.

New project for sustainable land management and preservation of oasis in Libya

An ambitious project, valued at \$ 4.5 million, was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with Libya. The Office worked actively with Libyan officials to elaborate the project's preparatory document and will support the elaboration of the full document. This project will focus on sustainable land management and oasis conservation in Libya. It will be run over a five-year period and FAO technical support will supplement the expertise of several partners, including the General Authority for Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Resources, the Centre for Agricultural Research and the Wheat Production Authority.



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DEPEND ON HEALTHY
FOOD SYSTEMS**

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World Food Day • 16 October 2013



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<http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/home/en/>

Tunisia

Mauritania

Algeria

Libya

Agenda

 <p>October</p>	Training	Camel breeding in Maghreb countries : present situation and development prospects	7 - 12	Sub-regional	Nouakchott Mauritania
	Workshop	FFS Approach and integrated struggle	28-01	National	Rabat Marrakech Morocco
	Workshop	Training on phytosanitary measures (IPPC)	28-01	Regional	Agadir Morocco
 <p>November</p>	Workshop	Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition	4-6	Regional	Tunis Tunisia
	Workshop	FFS Approach and integrated struggle	4-8	National	Rabat Morocco
	Workshop	Monitoring the effects of pesticides on human health and on environment in cooperation with Rotterdam Convention	11-13	Regional	Marrakech Morocco
	Conference	Regional Dialogue on family farming	20-21	Regional	Tunis Tunisia
	Conference	Food safety and loss reduction after catches and bycatches in fishreies	24-26	Regional	Nouadhibou Mauritania
	Workshop	Research Institutes Networks	28-29	Sub-regional	Nouadhibou Mauritania

Latest issues

Report on the sub-regional aquaculture fair in the North African countries

The sub-regional FAO Office in Tunis organized these events in order to assess the “state of art” of the aquaculture sector in the countries of the sub-region. In particular the discussions focused on highlighting the weaknesses and strengths that distinguish the sector, focusing on its technical, institutional, legal and financial characteristics. In addition it strengthened sub-regional cooperation through the identification of mechanisms to exchange best practices and successful expertise 🌱

