



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-fifth Session

Hobart, Australia, 27 April – 1 May 2019

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS

(Report of OIE)

World Organisation for Animal Health's Contribution to the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and certification Systems

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) for the opportunity to contribute to its standards development process.
2. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius regularly participate in each other's standard-setting activities to ensure an integrated approach to standard setting for the entire food chain. A collaborative approach to standard-setting on key topics is important to ensure harmonisation of our respective standards and recommendations, when relevant, while avoiding duplication of effort, overlap and gaps.

OIE participation in work of CCFICS

3. The OIE has participated in:
 - Electronic working group on the development of Codex Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates. This work is closely linked to the STDF project on electronic veterinary certification which the OIE is managing (see item below).
 - Electronic and physical working groups on the development of Codex Guidance for the assessment and use of Third-Party Assurance programmes.
 - Electronic and physical working groups on the development of Codex Guidance on recognition and maintenance of systems equivalence of National Food Control Systems.

OIE work relevant to the CCFICS

Electronic veterinary certification

4. The OIE has been managing the implementation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility project on the "Development of a framework to facilitate e-veterinary certification for international trade on the basis of a single window system" (STDF/PG/609)¹.
5. The project aims to collect comprehensive information about the state of play of implementation of SPS e-certification and challenges for implementation. The project has been structured around four pillars: 1. Identification of drivers and challenges for e-veterinary certification implementation; 2. Description of basic features of currently operating e-veterinary systems; 3. Analysis of e-certification in other SPS areas; and 4. Recommendations.
6. The project will have three Outputs:
 - Output 1: Development and implementation of in-country surveys in eleven countries (5 developing and 6 developed countries), including, in-country visits in the developing countries;
 - Output 2: An analysis of relevant work being undertaken by other international organisations, including Codex and IPPC, in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary certification; and

¹ This STDF Project is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-609>

- Output 3: Development of recommendations and plan on how to move forward.

7. Building on the experience of current e-veterinary certification of some Member Countries and those of similar systems in plant health, food safety and customs authorities is key for the successful development and implementation of e-veterinary certification, especially for developing countries.

8. The final report including recommendations will be published on the OIE website prior to June 2020.

OIE Observatory project

9. While the development of sanitary standards is a central mission of the OIE, the OIE has determined that it must also look at how they are implemented.

10. In May 2018, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates adopted Resolution No. 36 recommending the establishment of an Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards by Member Countries.

11. Through the Observatory, the OIE will be better able to determine the effectiveness and practicability of its standards in order to propose solutions to Member Countries. The expected outcomes would be more effective implementation of OIE standards and to assist the OIE to develop a more strategic focus to its capacity building activities

12. To explore the potential solutions for the design of the Observatory, in July 2018, the OIE entered into a specific collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), that provided an analysis of key features of implementation of OIE standards and, as well as a review of the existing mechanisms supporting the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OIE standards. The final report of the OECD study is expected to be published in February 2020.

13. The OIE has considered the OECD recommendations for the development of the next phase of the project, which is the preparation of a roadmap to make the OIE Observatory operational. The deployment of the roadmap will start in 2020 with the launch of a pilot phase.

14. For more information, refer to the OIE website at: <https://www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/overview/oie-observatory/>

The OIE PVS Pathway and the Capacity Development Programme

15. As a flagship programme of the OIE, the OIE PVS Pathway has been an unmitigated success over the last decade. A total of 141 (19 for Aquatic) Member Countries actively engaged via requesting an OIE PVS Evaluation mission, with 123 of those also requesting the next step, an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission, and 80 requesting a second round through an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission. There has also been strong engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway Targeted Support activities including 73 Veterinary legislation identification missions and 20 PVS Pathway Laboratory missions.

16. There is growing evidence of the OIE PVS Pathway's major global impact on strengthening national Veterinary Services in areas as diverse as improved government and donor resourcing, clearer governance structures and national coordination, improved inter-sectoral collaboration, and enhanced animal and veterinary public health surveillance, disease control, emergency response, border control, food safety, laboratory, educational, legislative and animal welfare systems.

17. The OIE continues to expand the OIE PVS Pathway activities and has developed some new elements that form part of the OIE PVS Pathway Evolution including PVS Pathway trainings to support country self-evaluation, new specific content on priority topics such as AMR and Rabies within PVS Evaluation missions, strategic planning support, and WHO International Health Regulations (IHR)/PVS National Bridging Workshops bringing together animal and public health sectors to identify areas for improved collaboration under the One Health approach.

The OIE World Animal Health Information System

18. The World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is an intrinsic and fundamental part of the OIE's mandate and a vital tool for its 182 OIE Members. The WAHIS 'Ensures Trust through Transparency and Communication' of the global animal disease situation in a timely manner. WAHIS enables the collection and the dissemination of data on animal diseases of epidemiological significance in both domestic species of terrestrial and aquatic animals, and wildlife and is vital for the global dissemination of information on animal disease events, including zoonotic pathogens. Since 2016, the OIE has embarked on a ten-year process of modernising its existing animal health information system. The modernisation will constitute a complete redesign of the platform and will incorporate a transdisciplinary and holistic approach to data collection, analysis and dissemination – not only addressing animal diseases – but also public health. The new platform will be called OIE-WAHIS.

19. OIE-WAHIS will have a faster and more intuitive user-friendly system with new features, which will include extended data analytics, customisable data queries and enhanced mapping and data visualisation capabilities. The dynamic, interactive, ergonomic national dashboards will have integrated analytical capabilities and enable data to be extracted and uploaded in a wide range of formats (e.g. PDF, Excel, CSV and as an image). Building bridges between OIE-WAHIS and national/regional databases will support this endeavour and regional initiatives are already underway.

20. The new system will be launched in two Releases. Release 1 will be delivered in the first trimester 2020, covering App Configuration, Immediate Notification and Follow Up Reports, User Management, Home Page and Online Help, Reports Management, Alerts App, Dashboards, Public Interface, Lifecycle, Interoperability, Six-monthly reports, GIS and mapping; Release 2 is anticipated for the summer of 2020, covering Annual Report, Wild Annual Report, Local Report, Wild Public Interface and Usage Statistics.

21. In preparation for go-live of Release 1, a new e-learning platform was developed and launched in January 2020 and an extensive face to face training programme will be rolled out in February 2020. Further e-learning modules will be developed covering Annual Report and the Voluntary Report for non OIE-listed diseases of Wildlife in anticipation of Release 2.

7th Strategic Plan (2021–2025)

22. The OIE has been engaging with OIE Members, partners and staff to define future expectations in order to develop the 7th Strategic Plan (2021-2025). The ambition for the 7th Strategic Plan is to build on the intent and success of past strategic objectives.

23. The 7th Strategic Plan identifies five areas of strategic focus that are key for the OIE to respond effectively to forthcoming challenges: (i) scientific expertise; (ii) data governance; (iii) responding to Members' needs; (iv) collaboration with partners; and (v) efficiency and agility. Some of the focus areas are an extension of the previous strategy, while others respond to new challenges. For each of these focus areas, a long-term overarching goal has also been defined and articulated through Strategic Objectives.

OIE Training Platform

24. Since 2008, more than 150 training workshops have been delivered by OIE around the world addressing the needs of the Veterinary Services of its Member Countries. The number of requests for training and the evolution of the relevance of the training topics has led the OIE to renovate its approach to training. To date a number of actions have been taken.

25. In September 2018 the OIE Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services (OIE Training Platform) was launched and a consortium of OIE Collaborating Centres for Training and Education was created to provide their technical and pedagogical expertise on this topic. The OIE Training Platform will be the mechanism through which future OIE training activities - whether in-person or online - will be coordinated. An OIE Training Portal should be operational by mid-2020.

26. The development of a Competency Based Training Framework has also been launched with the objective of organising future trainings for OIE Members in a coherent and comprehensive manner, based on key Competence Packages in line with OIE standards for aquatic and terrestrial animals. This Framework will be populated with existing or new training modules and material.

27. Through this new approach and with the support of its Collaborating Centres and partners, the OIE will build a stronger training system to deliver training programmes that are fit for purpose, with the overall objective of improving global veterinary governance.

Technical Item for the OIE General Session 2020

28. Each OIE General Session includes a Technical Item on a topic of relevance to Members and delivered by an expert. The Technical Item for the 88th OIE General Session in May 2020 will be "Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges". Dr Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security at the FAO will be the Rapporteur.

29. The Technical Item will be presented in four main parts: the International Regulatory Framework; the role of Veterinary Services in trade negotiations and in maintaining trade; challenges faced by the Veterinary Services in a trade context; and finally, how to build Veterinary Services capacity to facilitate and secure international trade.

30. As for every OIE Technical Item, the discussion following the presentation will inform the development of a Resolution to provide direction for OIE work to support this topic for the coming years.