Recent developments on regional epidemiology & laboratory networks activities in Africa

Joint EARLN/EAREN Annual Coordination Meeting
16 - 19 July 2013, Bujumbura, Burundi
Introduction

- Networks are for the purpose of sharing of expertise and data; facilitating cross-border collaboration
- Functional networks at the national level are key importance for ensuring the effectiveness of regional networks.
- First regional networks established during PARC & PACE were considered critical to the success of the Rinderpest eradication in Africa
Suggested setting of the Regional Networks

Regional Animal Health Network (CVOs)

Technical partners

Regional Communication Network
Regional Epidemiology Network
Regional Laboratory Network
Regional Socio-economic Network

Sub-Networks (for example FMD Sub-Network)

Ad hoc working group

Network coordinator

Regional Socio-economic Network

REC
SADC LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (LTC)

- Composed of heads of institutions responsible for national animal health and production.
- Different subcommittees (formed in 1997):
  - Epidemiology and Informatics
  - Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics
  - Animal Production, Marketing and Animal Genetic Resources
  - Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety
Lab & Epi Regional networks in Eastern Africa

- **Eastern African Regional Laboratory Network (EARLN)**
  - Established in 2008
  - Composed of focal points from the Central veterinary laboratories

- **Eastern African Regional Epidemiology Network (EAREN)**
  - Established in 2009
  - Composed of focal points from the epidemiology units
Recent developments in Eastern Africa

- Establishment of a Regional Animal Health Network (composed by CVOs) as an umbrella for the regional animal health related networks

- Appointment of Regional Networks Coordinators:
  - Regional laboratory network: Uganda & Ethiopia
  - Regional epidemiology network: Kenya & Tanzania

- First meeting of Regional Network Coordinators held in Nairobi, 29 – 30 November 2012.

- Establishment of ASF Working Group
Lab & Epi Regional networks in Central and Western Africa

- **RESOLAB**
  - Established in December 2007

- **RESEPI**
  - Established in December 2008 (Western Africa) and November 2009 (Central Africa)
  - 4 Subnetworks (PPR, FMD, Rabies, ASF, **CBPP**)
  - 2 Working groups (QA; Sustainability)

- Directors of Veterinary Services Committee established in ECOWAS region in August 2012
Since August 2012 (Accra meeting) and December 2012 (Dakar meeting), RESEPI and RESOLAB have been split into two separate regional epidemiology and laboratory networks.

- **RESEPI WA:** Nigeria & Senegal
- **RESEPI CA:** Gabon & Cameroon
- **RESOLAB WA:** Ghana & Mali
- **RESOLAB CA:** Chad & Gabon
Some challenges ....

- Country & REC ownership
- Sustainability/Funding
- Interaction between laboratory & epidemiology activities
- Establishment of RSL in Central Africa
- Operationalization of the RESOLAB and RESEPI in Central Africa
THANK YOU!