**FAO AUDIO NEWS PACKAGE
Emergency Regional Meeting in Harare -SCRIPT
ENGLISH (only)**

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**INTRO**

A three day emergency meeting dealing with issues of emerging pests and diseases in Southern Africa concludes today in Harare, Zimbabwe.The region is experiencing an upsurge of new crop and livestock diseases that are threatening the livelihood of a big portion of the population that depends on agriculture for subsistence.

The region is also on alert for a possible outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza that has already been confirmed in Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda.

To elaborate more on what has come from these expert discussions is David Phiri, Subregional Coordinator for the Southern Africa Region for the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What pests and diseases are posing the biggest problems right now the region?
2. Is there a sense of how much damage the region has seen so far as a result of these issues?
3. What are the biggest concerns for experts trying to combat these pests?
4. Now that the conference is concluding, what next steps have been proposed?