

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

AGENDA ITEM 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-fifth Session

Virtual, 31 May – 8 June 2021

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

(Information from 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

7th Strategic Plan (2021–2025)

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The 7th Strategic Plan (2021-2025) will be adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the upcoming 88th General Session.

Electronic veterinary certification

7. During 2018 to 2020, the OIE managed 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.

8. The project aimed to collect comprehensive information about the state of play of implementation of SPS e-veterinary certification and challenges for implementation. The project was 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.
9. The project had 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
 - Output 3: Development of recommendations.
10. The final STDF report is available on the OIE website at: [A-Veterinary_certification.pdf \(oie.int\)](#)
11. The OIE is in the process of considering the report together with other relevant information in order to develop a plan to progress work in this area.

OIE Observatory project

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 was published in February 2020 and is available at: <http://oe.cd/study-oie>.
16. Based on the OECD recommendations, the OIE prepared a roadmap to make the OIE Observatory operational. The deployment of the roadmap started in 2020 with the launch of a pilot phase.
17. The objective of the pilot phase is to test different aspects of the development of the OIE Observatory, such as the methodological approach, data collection, data analysis and data visualisation. For that purpose, small scale studies called “prototypes” are being developed. The prototypes focus on a subset of OIE standards and Members with the aim of learning more about how we can explore data accessible to the OIE to understand the processes of implementation developed by Members and investigate the various challenges Members have in implementing OIE standards.
18. For more information, refer to the OIE website at: [OIE Observatory: OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

The OIE PVS Pathway and Capacity-Building Strategy

19. 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 125 of those also requesting the next step, an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission, and 81 requesting a second round through an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission (including 2 for Aquatic Animal Health Services). There has also been strong engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway Targeted Support activities including 77 Veterinary legislation identification missions and 21 PVS Pathway Laboratory missions.
20. The OIE continues to expand and review the current format of OIE PVS Pathway activities as part of the OIE PVS Pathway Evolution, and for greater efficiency in the current pandemic context. In 2020, the OIE

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

contracted an independent consulting firm to undertake a comprehensive External Evaluation of the PVS Pathway's successes and shortcomings. Resulting recommendations are guiding the PVS Pathway Evolution. Remote PVS Orientation trainings and tools to support country self-evaluation, new specific content on priority topics such as Rabies and African Swine Fever within PVS Evaluation missions, as well as options for remote PVS Gap Analysis/Strategic planning Workshops, PVS Laboratory, and Veterinary Legislation Identification missions are being developed and piloted.

21. In terms of targeted support, 34 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 have already been implemented. The PVS Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) has strengthened the focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and is collaborating with the FAO and WHO on a global project for the development and piloting of a Tripartite One Health Assessment Tool for AMR-relevant Legislation. Following the publication of [OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals](#) (VPPs) in 2018 and [OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals](#) in 2019, pilot projects to support the integration of VPPs into the veterinary workforce have been launched and will provide sub-regional and national awareness-raising for effective VPP integration into the workforce, including supporting enabling factors such as appropriate legislation, regulation and education. Work on new targeted support and tools for Public Private Partnerships has also been initiated.
22. 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. To further document impact and facilitate the sharing of PVS Pathway data gathered during missions, the OIE is initiating a full digitalization of the PVS Pathway. As a first step, a PVS Evaluation System is being developed to capture key information from PVS Evaluation reports in a centralized database, standardize information gathering and facilitate country progress monitoring. The PVS Evaluation System will be linked to a new PVS Experts Database.

The OIE World Animal Health Information System

23. 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 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 involves 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 is called OIE-WAHIS.
24. OIE-WAHIS has a faster and more intuitive user-friendly system with new features, which include extended data analytics, customisable data queries and enhanced mapping and data visualisation capabilities. The dynamic, interactive, ergonomic national dashboards 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 through interoperability will support this endeavour and regional initiatives are already underway.
25. Release 1 of the new system went live on 9 March 2021, covering Application configuration, immediate notification and follow up reports, user management, home page and online help, reports management, dashboards, public interface, lifecycle, six-monthly reports, GIS and mapping. A new alert Application and basic interoperability is expected before the end of the first Semester of 2021. Several sub-releases are expected to improve the existing functionalities.
26. Important functionalities in OIE-WAHIS such as annual reports, the voluntary annual reports for non-OIE listed diseases in wildlife, local reports, the OIE-WAHIS wildlife public interface and additional evolutions are expected in the second Semester of 2021 and beyond. Further details on delivery dates are yet to be confirmed.

OIE Training Platform

27. 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.

28. In September 2018 the OIE Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services (OIE Training Platform) was launched, based on a consortium formed between OIE, its OIE Reference Centres and Partners to benefit from their extensive technical and pedagogical expertise to produce and deliver quality training programmes. The OIE Training Platform is the mechanism through which future OIE training activities - whether in-person or online - are coordinated. An OIE Training Portal is operational by mid-2020 and has been used by more than 4000 participants to date.
 29. 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 15 Competence Packages in line with OIE standards and guidelines for aquatic and terrestrial animals. This Framework notably sets the basis for OIE online catalog, which is being populated with existing or new training modules and material. OIE has set an objective of developing 15 e-modules per year, starting with e-modules relating to Veterinary Services leadership, trade, emergency preparedness and response and partnership. The modules will be developed along the new OIE pedagogical guidelines developed with the support of its Collaborating Centers on training and education.
 30. 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.
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