



Southern African Development Community



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**Promotion of Regional Integration (PRINT)
in the SADC Livestock Sector**

9 ACP SAD 002

LIMS Adoption Mission to Malawi

By

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the mission was to launch the Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) as part of a roll-out plan to SADC Member States during the period July to December 2008.

The LIMS Adoption Mission to Lilongwe, Malawi was carried out by Dr. Welbourne Madzima (Project Coordinator) and Dr. Gift Wanda (Veterinary Epidemiologist) from 4 - 10 October 2008.

This followed the basic structure of a prototype LIMS Adoption Mission comprising:

- a one-day Stakeholder Workshop for identified livestock personnel in the public and private sectors; including representatives of farmers' unions / associations, marketing and processors of livestock and livestock products, National Statistical Office, Economics & Marketing Units in Ministry of Agriculture
- a three-day Training of Trainers Course for ca. 10 personnel in the Ministry of Agriculture involved in the collection and processing of data on Animal Production, Animal Health, Livestock Marketing & Trade
- Collection of retrospective livestock data, available publications and current legislation in the livestock sector
- formation of a provisional National Taskforce for LIMS
- Meetings with Senior Officials in Ministry of Agriculture and National Statistical Office

2. Stakeholder Workshop

The "LIMS Malawi Chapter" was launched on 6 October 2008 by Dr. Andrew Daudi, Secretary for Agriculture and Food Security during a Stakeholder Workshop which was attended by a wide cross-section of agricultural personnel comprising ca. 50 participants (Annex II).

In his address (see press release in Annex I), the Permanent Secretary pointed out that information is required to make informed decisions in planning and devising strategies to improve livestock production. He also stated that data generated by LIMS would be used to monitor progress made towards achieving indicators set by the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

Presentations on the SADC PRINT Livestock Project and its Livestock Information Management System (Appendix III) appear to have been well

received judging by the amount of discussion generated. The LIMS brochure and other visibility items were distributed to participants.

Mr. Richard Mgomezulu, Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer, was chosen as the convener of the National Taskforce for LIMS to be in place by December 2008, and an outline of its composition was discussed.

3. Training of Trainers Course

The Training of Trainers Course was held at the Centre for Tick and Tick-borne Diseases (CTTBD), Lilongwe on 07, 08 and 09 October 2008 for 8 participants as shown in Annex IV.

The LIMS application was generally perceived as being user-friendly although still requiring fixing of a few bugs. Similarly, the templates were well received. However, it was observed that additional support was expected from the PRINT Livestock Project in order to roll-out LIMS to provinces and districts before any meaningful data collection can be expected.

There is a need to reconcile Partition Levels as Swaziland recognizes four Regions and 28 Districts; whereas the LIMS Application recognizes four districts only and no Regions.

4. Collection of Retrospective Livestock Data and Documents

Retrospective Animal Health, including livestock census data is available and has since 1996 been routinely made available through Sub Committee on Epidemiology & Informatics and since June 2007 directly to SADC Secretariat. However, livestock census is largely estimated using random surveys. Linkages with the National Statistical Office are informal and there are formal exchanges of data.

In contrast, data in Animal Production was not easily accessible partly due to the lack of a systematic programme for its collection and processing.

5. Meetings with Senior Officials

Only brief meetings were held with members of the Directorate of Animal Health and Livestock Development as other stakeholders e.g. the Economic & Planning section in the Ministry of Agriculture, Central Statistical Office, Bunda College of Agriculture, had been visited during the previous situation analysis visit.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The initial training provided by the three-day Training of Trainers Course may need to be followed by a refresher course at SADC Secretariat for two participants per Member State, once all the bugs in earlier versions of the LIMS Application have been fixed.

There is also a glaring need for a follow-up programme to roll-out the LIMS Application and Templates to Districts.



SADC PRINT Livestock Project
in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Malawi

PROGRAMME FOR LIMS TRAINING OF TRAINERS

07, 08 and 09 September 2008

Venue: CTTBD, Lilongwe

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 07 October 2008

8:00 – 8:15	Introduction - Training objectives
8:15 - 9:00	Installation <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First time installation2. Key files and folders3. Uninstalling4. Re-installing
9:00 – 10:30	Basic concept of LIMS operation <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening, navigation and closing the application2. Menu and sub-menu structure
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK
11:00 – 11:30	Basic concept of LIMS operation <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Standard tool bar and other GUI
11:30 – 12:00	Administration: Access Control <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Creating users2. Assigning roles and granting rights
12:00 – 12:30	Data entry, modification and saving <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Livestock numbers and composition (Module 1)
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 14:30	Data entry, modification and saving <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Livestock numbers and composition (Module 1)

14:30 – 15:30 Assign roles for the collection of retrospective data for various modules

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 08 October 2008

8:00 – 9:00 Revision of day 1 - Discussion

9:00 – 10:30 Data entry, modification and saving

2. Livestock Products (Module 3)
3. Livestock Trade (Module 5)

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

11:00 – 11:30 Data entry, modification and saving

4. Livestock Infrastructure (Module 6)
5. Meat Inspection (Module 7)

11:30 – 12:30 Data entry, modification and saving

6. Laws, regulations and acts (Module 9)

Data entry, modification and saving

7. Disease Report (Module 10)
8. Vaccination Report (Module 11)

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 16:00 Building queries, generating reports and exporting query results
(Module 1)

1. Livestock numbers and composition
2. Livestock Products (Module 3)
3. Livestock Trade (Module 5)

DAY 3 – Thursday, 09 October 2008

8:00 – 9:00 Revision of day 2 - Discussion

9:00 – 10:30 Building queries, generating reports and exporting query results

- 9. Meat Inspection (Module 7)
- 10. Disease Report (Module 10)

10:30 – 11:00 TEA BREAK

11:00 – 11:30 Building queries, generating reports and exporting query results

- 5. Disease Report (Module 10)

11:30 – 12:30 Data export for further analysis

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30 Administration

- 1. Data Management: sending and receiving files (electronic reports)
- 2. Data Management: backup and restore

15:30 – 16:00 General Discussion

Installation and configuration of clean copy of the database

End of training course