

**SADC/LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE/VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH –
FOOD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Presented by:

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On behalf of

Director of Veterinary Services (Botswana) – Chairperson of Veterinary Public Health and Food
Safety Sub-committee of the SADC Livestock Technical Committee

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToRs) FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY (SADC) LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (LTC) SUB-
COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (VPH and
FS)**

- **INTRODUCTION.**

- In 1994 World Trade Organisation (WTO) was established by world's trading nations including SADC Member States (MS) to oversee international trade liberalisation.
- WTO established set of agreements, negotiated and signed by the member countries and ratified by their governments.
- The Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Agreement is one such agreement.

- **WTO Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Agreement**

- WTO-SPS Agreement obliges WTO member countries to develop measures:
- *for the protection of animal or plant life or health within a territory from risks arising from entry, establishment, or spread of pests, disease, disease-carrying organisms, or disease causing organisms.*
- *for the protection of human or animal life or health within a territory from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins, or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages, or feedstuffs*
- *for the protection of human life or health within a territory from risks arising from diseases carried by animals, plants, or products thereof, or from entry, establishment or spread of pests.*
- *for the prevention or reduction of the risks of other damages within a territory from the*

entry, establishment, or spread of pests.

- **The SADC Protocol on Trade:**

- *Overall objective is to effectively establish Free Trade Area within SADC MS.*
- *The Protocol on Trade calls for harmonisation of SPS measures based on international standards and conformity with the WTO Agreement on Application of SPS in order to facilitate regional trade.*
- **Livestock Sector Unit (LSU) of the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of SADC Secretariat has been mandated:**
- To promote regional integration and sustainable livestock development.
- The EU funded PRINT Livestock Project has been mandated to support LSU in its endeavour through a variety of activities.
- It is in this regard that the Livestock Technical Committee revived Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety (VPH-FS) under the Chairmanship of Botswana at meeting held in Lesotho early 2007 to ensure it benefits from the PRINT project.
- VPH-FS has been mandated to come up with its Terms of Reference and *Modus Operandi*.
 - **Proposed Terms of Reference of VPH-FS**
 - Facilitate development and implementation of regional - national food safety policy with involvement of the highest political support.
 - To facilitate development and or review of SADC MS national legislation with a view to strengthening and harmonisation of veterinary public health and food safety control systems in line with international standards as espoused by WTO-SPS Agreement.
 - To advise on capacity building in veterinary public health, food safety controls and risk analysis.
 - To promote collaboration of all stakeholders in the strengthening of veterinary public health and food safety control systems.
 - To advise on the development and implementation of national monitoring programmes for food additives, chemical contaminants, residue of pesticides and veterinary drugs, antimicrobial resistance and prohibited substances.
 - **Proposed Terms of Reference of VPH-FS Cont...**
 - To advocate for good veterinary governance in veterinary public health and food safety controls based on sound science and risk analysis.
 - To advise on development of national and regional emergency preparedness and response plans to effectively address veterinary public health and food safety risks.
 - To advise on establishment of effective Codex and OIE organizations at the National and SADC levels and to encourage active participation in Codex activities by SADC and its MS.

- **To adopt and implement the SADC Livestock Information Management System component on veterinary public health and food safety best practices with respect to the health of consumers, and advise on risk management strategies**
- To advise the Livestock Technical Committee of SADC on risk assessments on livestock and livestock products traded or to be traded in the SADC region.

• **COMPOSITION of VPH-FS Sub-Committee**

- Heads (or their representatives) of Veterinary Public Health.
- Ministry of Health representatives.
- Standard setting bodies representative.
- Private sector representatives (primary producers, processors, traders, etc).
- Consumer representatives.
- Co-opted members.

• **REPORTING**

The Chairperson should report the activities of the Sub-committee at the LTC meetings.

• **COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

It is proposed that the Sub-committee meetings be held once a year and when necessary.