

SADC DIAGNOSTIC SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS, LILONGWE- MALAWI-14-16, MARCH, 2007

1 Harmonization of laboratory activities (action: all member states and on going activity)

1.1 Improving communication among SADC laboratories

- 1.1.1 Identify one contact person per member state to be responsible for communication (*by June, 2007*)
 - 1.1.2 Need for commitment by all Heads of laboratories towards improving communication
 - 1.1.3 All SADC laboratories are to be connected on internet by end of 2007
 - 1.1.4 All SADC laboratories shall be required to circulate quarterly reports on their diagnostic activities on quarterly basis using the available reporting template.*(first quarterly report to be circulated by end of April 2007)*
- 1.2 Laboratory submitting samples for comparative testing should be responsible only for the costs of transporting the samples to their testing lab.

2 Diagnostic capacity building (action: all member states and on going)

- 2.1 The committee resolved that the labs should continue building capacity especially for TADS and emerging diseases.
- 2.2 In view of the lessons learned form the European experience and based on their Risk Assessments carried out over the past years pointing to BSE as a potential emerging risk in the SADC region, it is recommended that LTC/SADC set up a Task Force facilitating capacity building for awareness training, clinical identification and surveillance for BSE in the region.
- 2.3 In view of the importance of rabies, countries should make an effort to ensure the availability of a 24-hr diagnostic service for rabies by the **end of 2007**.
- 2.4 There is need to assess capacities in SADC labs to utilise biotechnology principles in veterinary diagnostic and research, animal production and vaccine development. Recommendations on way forward in the use of biotechnology to minimise reliance on overseas markets for reagents, vaccines and other biologicals should be proposed. The establishment of SADC biotechnology centre was suggested as one of the problems long term plans.

3 Strengthening Disease Surveillance Systems

- Having realised the need to strengthen disease surveillance systems in member countries, the committee resolves that the chairpersons of the SADC Vet. Diagnostic

and Epidemiology subcommittees should come up with discussion items by end of **June 2007** for submission to SADC/PRINT for a possible joint meeting.

4 Quality Assurance.

- The committee recognises the quality management weaknesses as identified by the PRINT consultancy and recommends that Dr Kangumba circulates the list of possible companies that services, calibrates, and repair critical equipment by end of **May, 2007**.
- Heads of Laboratories shall provide to the chairperson and Dr Kangumba lists and specifications of critical equipment that require servicing, calibration, and repairing by End of **April, 2007**.
- The chairperson in collaboration with Dr Kangumba to prepare a proposal for funding for servicing, calibration, and repair of critical equipment by end of **June, 2007**.
- The subcommittee to propose terms of reference for capacity building and harmonisation of Laboratory Information Management Systems within SADC laboratories for submission to PRINT for possible support by September, 2007.

5. Recommendations on Avian Influenza (AI) (action: all SADC labs)

- Need for strong collaboration between medical and vet labs supported by inter-laboratory and proficiency testing.
- Training in disease recognition and laboratory diagnosis. This should be implemented at three levels thus head of labs. Scientists and technicians.
- Research into the role of other species animal (pigs, cats, tiger, etc) in the transmission of AI and identification of serotypes.