

CaribVET - Caribbean animal health network institutional organisation

The Caribbean animal health network (CaribVET) is based on the collaboration of national veterinary services, diagnostic laboratories, animal health projects (CAP - Caribbean Amblyomma Program), research institutes (CIRAD - French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and international and regional organisations (CARICOM, USDA, FAO, OIE, IICA) to reinforce surveillance and control of animal diseases in the region. It has been initiated in the late 90's and coordinated by CIRAD Guadeloupe, setting up and following up projects for different diseases (Classical swine fever, Tick and tick borne diseases, West Nile, Salmonellosis).

In order to continue the development of CaribVET, it is agreed to equip it with common structures of decision-making, coordination and collaboration, in order to reinforce its coherence, its effectiveness and its durability. This organisation has been discussed and accepted by the CVOs of the Caribbean region during the Joint meeting on animal disease surveillance and preparedness - focus on avian influenza in the Caribbean, in Port of Spain - Trinidad on April 3rd, 2006.

1. Institutional organisation

The agreed organisation is based on a steering committee, a coordination unit and several thematic working groups.

1.1. Steering committee

It gathers:

- the national officers in charge of animal health (Chief veterinary officers) of each country of the region,
- representatives of the regional and international organisations, the donors, and the scientific and technical support agencies which intervene in the field of animal health in the region,

Inclusion of representatives of regional association of private producers needs be further discussed by the steering committee.

A list of its members is given in appendix 1.

Its objective is the definition of a regional strategy for animal health surveillance and control

Its terms of reference are :

- To decide every year the main orientations of the network (priority diseases, priority actions to be undertaken),
- To review every year the composition of the coordination unit,
- To review the activities and results of the working groups and define the themes, terms of references and the composition of the working groups for the next year,
- To elect a chairman among its members,
- To promote regional projects to be submitted to funding agencies.

Its operational modalities are :

- Meeting once a year jointly with the annual CVO CARICOM meeting,
- Constant liaison with the coordination unit.

1.2. Coordination unit

Its objective is to coordinate the technical activities of CaribVET.

Its composition is defined by the steering committee and includes the coordinators of the thematic working groups implemented in this institutional organisation and the chairman designated by the steering committee.

The CIRAD, member of the coordination unit, is in charge of the work coordination of the unit.

The coordination unit doesn't exceed 8 members and its composition can be revised every year by the steering committee.

Its terms of references are :

- To follow-up the activities of the working groups,
- To communicate information among working groups,
- To regularly report to the steering committee.

Its operational modalities are :

- The presentation of an annual report during the steering committee,
- The organisation of regular technical meetings
- The organisation of collaborative working on Internet (email, website)

The composition of the coordination unit is given in appendix 2.

1.3. Thematic working groups

The objectives of the thematic working groups are to address the priority technical issues of CaribVET decided by the steering committee.

Their terms of references are to work out harmonised technical aspects (protocols, organisation, etc.) at the regional level. Specific terms of reference linked to the theme are assigned to each group.

Their activities are coordinated by the coordination unit and their results are validated by the steering committee.

Operation modalities are :

- Remote work (mainly on the Internet),
- Organisation of meetings if necessary,
- Implementation of expertise by members of the working groups,
- Communication, regarding the theme, with other CaribVET members.

The working groups are composed by resource persons (from the public and the private sector) with skills adapted to the theme and willing to devote time to the working group. A coordinator is designated for each group.

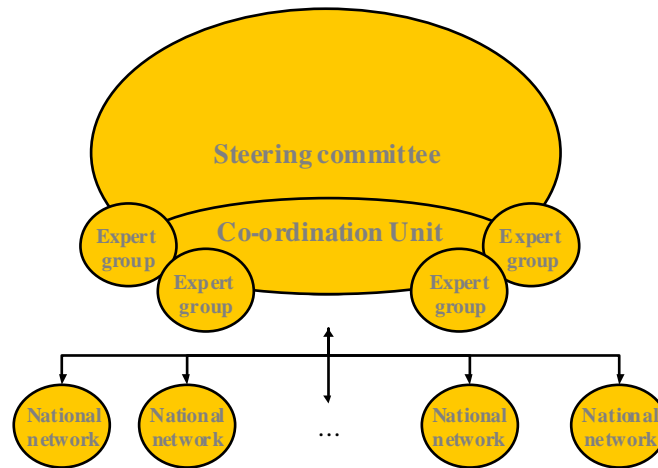
Six sets of themes are retained for the working groups :

- Laboratory diagnostic;
- Epidemiological surveillance;
- Web and information system;
- Avian influenza;
- Classical swine fever,
- Tick and tick borne diseases (CAP).

The proposal for the composition of the working groups is given in appendix 3, and has to be completed by the CVOs.

The agreed institutional organisation is summarised by figure 1.

Figure 1 : Institutional organisation of CaribVET



Each national animal health network has its own organisation and structure. CaribVET does not have any hierarchical or technical competence on the operation of each one of these networks, which are under the full and entire responsibility of national institutions. The national networks benefit from the services and supports brought by CaribVET (training, data exchanges, technical protocols, expertise) when they wish to. The possible constraints (data communication for example) are voluntarily agreed by each network represented within the steering committee.

Composition of the CaribVET steering committee

Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of :

Antigua;
Bahamas;
Barbados;
Belize;
Cayman Islands;
Cuba;
Dominica;
Grenada;
Guadeloupe;
Guyana;
French Guyana;
Haiti;
Jamaica;
Martinique;
Montserrat
Dominican Republic;
St Kitts & Nevis;
St Lucia;
St Vincent & Grenadines;
Surinam;
Trinidad & Tobago.

International and regional organisations :

OIE;
FAO;
CARICOM;
IICA;
USDA;
CIRAD;
MAE;
PAHO.

Composition of the CaribVET coordination unit

- Chairman designated by the steering committee
- CIRAD Guadeloupe representative
- Coordinator of the Avian influenza workgroup
- Coordinator of the Web and information system workgroup
- Coordinator of the Epidemiological surveillance workgroup
- Coordinator of the Diagnostic workgroup
- Coordinator of the Classical swine fever workgroup
- Coordinator of the Tick and tick-borne diseases workgroup (CAP representative)

Composition of the thematic expert groups

Theme 1 : Web and information system

Terms of reference :

Support to the development of the Web site.

Support to the development of regional databases.

Support to the development of national information systems projects.

Composition :

- Brian SANFORD (CAP Antigua)
- Sophie MOLIA (CIRAD Guadeloupe)
- Osbil WATSON (Jamaica)
- Jack AMEN (USDA Dominican Republic)

...

Theme 2 : Epidemiological surveillance

Terms of reference :

Contribution to the development of harmonised procedure for epidemiological surveillance networks.

Contribution to the development of performance indicators of epidemiological surveillance networks.

Assessment and support to epidemiological surveillance networks in the region.

Composition :

- Pascal HENDRIKX (French MoFA, Dominican Republic)
- Siméon PHANORD (Haiti)

...

Theme 3 : Diagnostic

Terms of reference :

Contribution to the development of the principles of laboratory quality insurance in the region.

Organisation of interlaboratory assays.

Implementation of new diagnostic techniques.

Follow-up of the laboratory diagnostic capabilities in the region.

Composition :

- Tracey CHALLENGER (St Kitts and Nevis)
- Maria-Teresa FRIAS LEPOUREAU (Cuba)
- Jocelyn QUIRICO (Dominican Republic)

...

Theme 4 : Avian Influenza

Terms of reference :

Development of harmonised avian influenza surveillance procedures in the region.

Development of harmonised avian influenza emergency plans in the region.

Regional expertise on avian influenza (clinical diagnostic, laboratory diagnostic, etc.)

Composition :

- Kirk DOUGLAS (Barbados)
- Robert BEST (CPA Trinidad)
- Dejelia GÓMEZ (Dominican Republic)
- (CENSA, Cuba)
- (Jamaica)
- (Antigua)
- (Trinidad and Tobago)
- (Surinam)

- (Guyana)

...

Theme 5 : Classical swine fever

Terms of reference :

Development of harmonised classical swine fever surveillance procedures in the region.

Development of harmonised classical swine fever emergency plans in the region.

Contribution to the control strategy of CSF (slaughtering, vaccination, etc.)

Regional expertise on classical swine fever (clinical diagnostic, laboratory diagnostic, etc.)

Composition :

- Angel VENTURA (Dominican Republic)

- Oscar RICARDO REYES (IMV, Cuba)

- (CENSA, Cuba)

- (Jamaica)

- Claudia BATHOTA (Haiti)

...

Theme 6 : Tick and tick-borne diseases

Terms of reference :

See CAP

Composition :

- Rupert PEGRAM (FAO)

- CAP officers