

STDF 13 :

“A strategy and action plan for selected African regions to enhance public and private sector capacity in meeting international sanitary standards in international trade of livestock and livestock products”

First phase report and proposals for the achievement of the activities of the project

Presented by FAO and OIE

November 2007

1- Recall of the context of the study

FAO is the implementing agency for STDF 13 study on behalf of OIE, planned to be executed for 10 weeks, and comprising bibliographical analysis and several field missions. The budget is 305 000 US \$.

The study comprises 2 successive phases:

- Phase 1:

This phase will implement different activities:

- A field study in each zone to analyse the actual possibilities to put in place and run modernized veterinary services which respect OIE quality standards and the SPS sanitary standards for international trade.
- Desk review in each zone on available data on official and informal volume of livestock exports, different constraints impeding trade (notably sanitary constraints), and potential development for these exports.
- Following the outputs of the field studies and desk reviews, design of pilot projects that will boost the volume of exports by lifting the sanitary constraints.

This first phase will be implemented for eight weeks:

- two weeks for the desk review, planning of field missions and summary of collected data,

- four weeks for field mission in Africa, shared in 15 days for each zone of implementation of STDF 13 study, respectively ECOWAS and IGAD areas,
- two weeks for summary of outputs, design of pilot projects and proposal for sub-regional strategies.

- Phase 2:

This phase will implement different activities:

- In each zone, organization of a sub-regional workshop where will be presented :
 - the proposed pilot projects,
 - recommendations for sub-regional strategies.
- Finalization, following the results of each sub regional workshop, of pilot projects and proposals for sub regional strategies.

Four weeks are planned for this phase.

2- Report on activities performed for phase 1

Calendar of activities performed during phase 1:

	desk review	field study	
	Rome	Mali	Ethiopia
Coordinator	support		
International vet, Team leader,	27-30 October 2006	3 - 17 December 2006	21 January 3 February 2007
International vet, specialist of VS	20 -30 October 2006	3 - 17 December 2006	21 January 3 February 2007
International Economist on commodities	20 -30 October 2006	11 - 17 December 2006	21 - 27 January 2007
Regional Vet West Africa		not available at last moment	
Regional livestock Economist for West Africa		11 - 17 December 2006	
Regional Vet East Africa			21 January - 3 February 2007
Regional livestock Economist for East Africa			not available at last moment

Activity reports for this first phase are attached in annex of this document, they are:

- annex 1 : desk review report in 4 different documents 1, 2, 3, and 4 ;
- annex 2 : mission report for Mali from economist experts ;
- annexe 3 : aide mémoire of field mission in Mali from animal health experts ;
- annex 4 : mission report for Ethiopia from international economist;

- annex 5 : sanitary report for Ethiopia from animal health experts;
- annex 6 : aide mémoire of field mission in Ethiopia from team leader.

It has to be highlighted that it has been impossible to organize, in each area, the round tables planned in the methodological proposal of the study:

- in Mali, because of on going high level political dialogue between the two countries (Mali and Algeria) that impeded the technical services of both countries to negotiate on technical basis. It was then impossible for the Malians to organize the round table during the two weeks of the mission.

- in Ethiopia, because of a shift in the direction of VS. The new team was not sufficiently aware of STDF 13 file and could not obtain the political authorisation to organize a negotiation meeting at international level. In addition, the Saudi CVO was not able to come in Ethiopia for this round table.

These constraints to the organization of the round tables will be developed in paragraph 4 below.

3- Financial report

The financial report is presented in a table in annex 9.

In total, 87 228 US \$ have been disbursed for implementation of phase 1.

It is proposed, in this report, some alternative activities aiming to reach the objectives targeted in the round tables.

4- Major constraints encountered during the first phase

The project has been delayed because of:

- Difficulties to find experimented senior experts available at the same moment in 2006, because of the avian flu crisis: this impediment imposed to post pone the launching of project activities until October 2006.

- In addition, two regional experts have declared their unavailability some days before the missions (the animal health expert for Mali, and the regional economist for Ethiopia) and could not be replaced on short notice. For compensation, it has been possible to extend de regional economist mission in Mali for 3 days without any increase of the budget.

- Field constraints occurred in the course of the mission in the two areas of the study:

(i) In IGAD zone :

- Some reluctances have been expressed by the Ethiopian side to accept a dialogue with the Djiboutian Government on the promotion of the private quarantine settled in Djibouti in September 2006 bearing in mind that public and private quarantines are actually supported in Ethiopia.

- The shift of CVO in Ethiopia has had for consequence a lack of follow up of STDF 13 file in the VS.

- The absence, during the mission in Ethiopia, of the acting CVO and of his main deputy directors.

The lack of decision makers as interlocutors has drastically reduced the team's capacities to propose and adopt a strategic action plan with the Ethiopians. However, the in-depth desk review outputs and a good knowledge of the area by some team members, added to the meetings of the team leader with the Director of IBAR and the Djiboutian CVO, have given the opportunity to produce some tangible proposals on possible sub-regional strategies able to stimulate livestock exports from Ethiopia (cf annex 6).

(ii) ECOWAS area:

Political discussions on trade are still on going at highest level between Mali and Algeria. They have explained the current impossibility to organize the round table at technical level during the mission and even the new attempt tried later on during OIE general session (cf. STDF 13 mission Coordinator's and Team leader reports in annexes 7 and 8).

However, the fruitful discussion between STDF 13 team (Team leader and Coordinator), OIE representative, OCDC representative and Algerian CVO, have helped to a good understanding of Algerian requirements for an eventual (but highly expected) formalisation of livestock trade between the North of Mali and the far South of Algeria. Algerian demands will be the basis of a precise framework for improvement of sanitary quality of livestock raised for trade and to define some upgrading actions to be taken in Mali, both at field and VS levels.

A good understanding of STDF 13 objectives and obtaining of a consensus between exporting and importing countries have been deemed by the team of experts as prerequisites to draw up pertinent sub-regional strategies for each area. It is also following the same rationale that FAO did try to re launch the Mali-Algeria round table and to organise an informal meeting between Ethiopian and Djiboutian representative in parallel with OIE general session in Paris, May 2007.

5. Proposals for STDF 13 study finalisation:

5.1. In IGAD area:

An upgrading of international veterinary certification in the quarantines identified in Ethiopia during the field study conducted in phase 1 will be necessary. Taking into consideration the geographic enclosed situation of the country without maritime border, any export of livestock by sea route implies, according to the international regulations, an existence of reliable veterinary certification facilities in exit ports. In this context, it would be more realistic for STDF 13 study to focus in priority on the capacities of Djibouti that represents for the time being the most advanced port of the area, since the creation of a private modern quarantine area operational from October 2006.

Hence STDF 13 could propose a pilote projet for the compliance of livestock exports from Djibouti with international standards for trade. This implicates to equip Djibouti with all facilities and guaranties to perform an effective, reliable, and recognized in the sub-region international veterinary certification. Djiboutian VS are nowadays stating that the actual

logistics, man power and scientific equipment of the existing private quarantine allow the performance of all requested veterinary tests for detection of contagious transboundary diseases that could ban livestock exports. It is possible for the Djiboutian VS to give an accreditation to this private structure, and then international veterinary certificates could be delivered on behalf of official VS through a system of sanitary mandate. Nevertheless, it will remain the responsibility of Djiboutian VS to verify, control and certify the quality of the actions delegated to the private structure. The recent OIE PVS evaluation of VS in Djibouti report has shown that a substantial upgrading of its VS to reach the required international standards of quality is a necessary and unavoidable prerequisite to any capacity of putting in place an accreditation system.

Hence, the proposed activities for STDF 13 study in IGAD area will be to identify and propose the most adapted solutions (for the short and medium terms) to upgrade the Djiboutian VS in compliance with international standards, and evaluate the necessary investments

The outputs of the mission will be directly used to design a pilot project that will also be the first stone for a sub regional strategy to upgrade other export ports as Port-Soudan, Berbera, or Boosaaso... This sub regional strategy will present the advantage to secure the Ethiopian authorities that have clearly expressed their concerns in front of a risk of monopoly on livestock exports represented by Djibuti's private quarantine.

These sub-regional strategies will then be presented during a sub-regional workshop still planned for the second phase of STDF 13 study.

5.2. In ECOWAS area:

The outputs of the mission performed in November 2006 in Mali, and discussions held in Paris in May 2007 with the Algerian CVO have identified short term needs to first officialize and then develop live small ruminants exports from Northern breeding areas in Mali to the South of Algeria.

Recently, Malian authorities have expressed their interest in a technical negotiation aiming to upgrade the decentralized VS in the pastoralist area of the North of the country, despite some political sensitivity, and according to the Algerian requests.

There is now a good opportunity to resume in a more conducive environment the work began in the beginning of year 2007, and to identify and adopt, in collaboration with Malian authorities, the opportunities to implement, in the framework of a pilot project, actions to rehabilitate VS in order to provide a better sanitary in pastoral areas where small ruminants are raised for export. The proposed project will then serve as a model to elaborate sub-regional strategies targeting the lift of sanitary constraints impeding regional livestock trade.

Taking into consideration the proposed actions (one mission for each zone to complete phase 1, design of pilot projects and sub-regional strategies, and organisation of 2 sub-regional workshops) and the necessity to foresee the eventual political impacts of the technical propositions, it appears wise and necessary, to guarantee a fair implementation of the activities and the best conditions for their achievement, to extend the study performance until the end of the second term of 2008.

STDF 13 study deals with the improvement of the sanitary quality upstream the value chain on livestock and holds no incompatibility with other approaches targeting more precisely animal products. The implementing team will have the permanent concern to conciliate these different approaches when designing sub-regional strategies aiming to give access to new markets to animal products exporting countries,.

6- Probabilities to achieve all the project objectives

Taking into consideration everything that has been developed in the above part of this document, the probabilities to achieve all the initial objectives of the STDF 13 study still remain high.

The different constraints, notably political, encountered up to now have obviously imposed a different pace for the implementation of activities, but they have not jeopardized the expected outputs. In this regard, it has to be underlined that STDF 13 acts at international level of negotiation, where technical concerns are often affected by political considerations.

In addition, it is likely that unexpected delays undergone in the project execution have given new pathways to identify original strategies more adapted to the national political constraints encountered. They have also brought to the selected countries extra time for further reflection on all the perspectives offered by the study.

7- Action plan and agenda

The project coordination proposes a reallocation of the activities initially planed for both phases with an extension of the implementing period of the study up to the end of the second term of year 2008 (30 June 2008).

7.1. Completion of phase 1: design of pilot projects and sub regional strategies:

7.1.1. In IGAD area:

- Mission for an evaluation of the investments necessary to upgrade the Djiboutian VS on the basis of PVS results, in order to give them international veterinary certification capacities

Expected results:

Necessary data collected to design a pilot project to upgrade Djiboutian VS allowing them to guarantee the quality of private veterinary certification produced in the framework of an official accreditation system.

One week mission mobilizing:

- the international veterinarian (team leader)
- the regional veterinarian for East Africa
- a veterinary laboratory expert

- Design of a pilot project for capacity building in Djiboutian VS.

This pilot project will aim to build all the capacities in Djiboutian VS to guarantee the quality of veterinary controls and veterinary certification performed by the private quarantine(s) under official accreditation (sanitary mandate).

- First proposal for a sub-regional strategy allowing reliable certified livestock exports from IGAD area

The strategy will be in line with international SPS standards and take in consideration all the relations between the sub-regional quarantine structures, the national VS and the sub-regional exports ports.

7.1.2. In ECOWAS area:

Mission for an evaluation of the necessary investments needed to upgrade the VS in compliance with international standards for livestock exports from pastoral areas of North Mali to South Algeria.

Expected results :

List of the different point for improvements needed by the Malian VS. This list will be identified in close collaboration with the Malian authorities, according to the requests of the Algerian authorities that were expressed during the meeting in Paris (May 2007), and the conclusion of the first mission STDF 13 implemented in November 2006, and notably the result of the part PVS evaluation performed on a participatory basis with the Northern decentralised Malian VS.

One week mission mobilizing:

- the international veterinarian (team leader)
- the international veterinarian specialist for VS
- the Coordinator of STDF 13 study

- Design of a pilot project to backstop Malian decentralized VS.

This pilot project will aim to build capacities in Malian VS for veterinary control and sanitary certification according to the requests of the Algerian customer. The feasibility to follow the procedures described in the *code for terrestrial animals* (as, for example, zoning) will be scrutinised. Special emphasis will be brought to the compliance with international standards for VS in the Northern pastoralist areas of the country.

- First proposal for a sub-regional strategy allowing reliable certified livestock exports from ECOWAS area

This sub-regional strategy will aim to allow, in compliance with international standards of SPS agreement, livestock exports from other countries of the sub-region to countries where sanitary barriers are now impeding trade.

7.2. Phase 2:

7.2.1. In IGAD area:

- a workshop to validate the pilot project and the sub-regional strategy

The pilot project for upgrading Djiboutian VS will be presented during a workshop attended by all the potential exporting and importing countries of the sub-region. The proposal for a sub-regional strategy to upgrade the VS for other potential exporting countries and the

creation sanitary control capacities in the export ports will be presented, eventually amended, and validated.

- Finalisation of the pilot projects and of sub-regional strategies

Following results and recommendations of the workshop, the pilot project and the sub-regional strategy will be finalised.

7.2.2. In ECOWAS area:

- a workshop to validate the pilot project and the sub-regional strategy

The pilot project to create the veterinary capacities (in terms of structures and procedures) necessary to allow exports of live small ruminants from pastoral areas of North of Mali to the far South of Algeria will be presented during a workshop attended by all the potential exporting and importing countries of the sub-region. The proposal for a sub-regional strategy to create the equivalent veterinary capacities (in terms of structures and procedures) in other countries of the sub-region will be presented, eventually amended, and validated.

- Finalisation of the pilot projects and of sub-regional strategies

Following results and recommendations of the workshop, the pilot project and the sub-regional strategy will be finalised.

8- Agenda

	Completion of phase 1			Phase 2	
	Analysis of PVS results Design of pilot projects and sub-regional strategies			Workshop for validation of pilot projects and orientation of sub-regional strategies (part 1)	Finalisation of pilot projects and sub-regional strategies (part 2)
	Mali	Djibouti	Rome	Mali & Djibouti/Ethiopia	Rome
International veterinarian Team leader :	13 - 19 January 2008	9 - 15 December 2007	28 January - 10 February 2008	Two weeks in April 2008	14 days in May 2008
International veterinarian specialist of VS:	13 - 19 January 2008		28 January - 02 February 2008	One week in April 2008 (Mali)	
International economist :				Two weeks in April 2008	
International expert for laboratories		9 - 15 December 2007	28 January - 02 February 2008	Two weeks in April 2008	
Project Coordinator :	13 - 19 January 2008		28 January - 10 February 2008 (support)	Two weeks in April 2008	14 days in May 2008 (support)
Regional Expert veterinarian for East Africa :		9 - 15 December 2007		One week in April 2008 (Djibouti)	

