

WOAH Regional Training for Animal Disease Notification Focal Points (including WAHIS use) in Asia and the Pacific

[Introductory Session for non-WOAH Members of the Pacific Islands countries and territories]

SAMOA

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1. Governance and Structure

Who is the Competent Authority?

Organizational Structure: “Animal Production & Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries”



Decision Making:

- National – In case of an outbreak, CEO has the final say based on the advice provided by the APHD team. DMO activation is under the respective ministry's discretion.
- With everyday normal field work, Principal AH makes the decision
- On the field, it's usually the Snr officer who makes the decision – diagnosis and choice of drug to be used
- International – It's always the CEO-MAF

The Role of Non-Vets:

CEO-MAF – Makes final decisions on national and international matters. Example – Declares a state of emergency pertaining to MAF. He notifies our DMO in case of a zoonotic disease.

- Also finalises disease reports and updates to be submitted to WOA.

ACEO-APHD – Decisions within the division pertaining to Animal Health work plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- Approval of AH annual work plan

Principal AHO – Designs appropriate annual implementation plan execution, compiles AH Section's reports and updates and provide sound advice to ACEO APHD for decision making, planning, budgeting, etc

Senior AHO – AH section work plan execution, provides reports and updates of field work weekly to Principal AHO

Animal HO/Paravets – Daily field work and data collector

Animal Production and Advisory Section Personnel:

- Staff are also qualified paravets

- Deals mainly with farmers technical requests – nutrition, husbandry works, field visits, health checks, management, data collection.

- Any disease related problem identified during herd monitoring program is reported by the Production/advisory team directly to AH Section for immediate action.

- Production/Advisory team also does, drenching, castration, etc.

2. Detection and Information Flow

Passive vs. Active Surveillance:

- Both but more on Passive system.

Is your surveillance system primarily passive (relying on farmers to report sickness) or active (scheduled visits and sampling)?

The Journey of a Report:

- Farmer calls our APHD office either by phone, messengers, whatsapp, emails, etc. Principal Officers sort out all call-ins and refer it to different respective sections including AH section.
- These reported cases are then sorted according to the urgency of a case

Connectivity:

- For Samoa, It's more on "lack of awareness" problem. Some people can't tell that their animals are sick, and some do not know that there is a clinic for both livestock and pets.

3. Laboratory and Confirmation

Diagnostic Capacity:

- Do you have internal (or 'in-country') capacity for rapid testing (e.g., rapid kits), or is confirmation entirely dependent on overseas laboratories?
- There is a capacity to use rapid kits when available. ASF and HPAI (from MPInz)

Sample Dispatch:

What is your mechanism for dispatching samples to reference laboratories (e.g., in Australia or New Zealand)? What are the logistical bottlenecks (e.g., flight schedules, permits)?

- Similar across the pacific
- Australia/NZ
- NZ has restriction on samples due to diseases – no more
- Aus – Depends on Permit from aussie (CSIRO)
- No place in cargo for samples to be stored.
- New Caledonia – time consuming
- Airline – Restriction on certain samples (IATA regulations, etc)
- Packaging

4. Data Management

Internal Records:

- Data are collected from the field manually and is entered into a spreadsheet database at the office daily.
- These are compiled, analyze and submit to APHD's management meeting for decision making monthly
- And are submitted in a quarterly basis to the Policy and planning Division for parliamentary discussion

Wildlife Interface:

- Although APHD focuses on livestock, we do extend our services to other wildlife species depending on which kind of animal that comes in.

These includes;

- Birds – owls, and other species.

Others include;

- Donkeys
- Horses
- etc

5. Emergency Response

Early Warning:

- We do have a national Early Warning System and that is activated under the authority of the CEO MAF.
- Our DMO has the budget for any kind of disaster. APHD needs to prepare ERPs and submit to DMO. Once there is a natural disaster, disease outbreak, DMO will use the ERP to activate all – National DMO committee, budget, etc
- All ERPs are approved by CEO before submitting to DMO
- APHD also works in collaboration with it's partners that provides assistance when needed immediately. (SPC, NZ MPI)