

NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH FORUM



Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security



COMMUNIQUÉ



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2024 NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH FORUM

PREAMBLE

The maiden edition of the National Animal Health Forum took place at the Shehu Musa Yar’adua Foundation Center in Abuja on the 18th of January, 2024. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, represented by the Director of Planning and Policy Coordination, Dr Tanimu Ibrahim, delivered a keynote address that emphasized the need to build partnerships for improved animal health and livestock productivity to address food and nutrition security in Nigeria. The event, which boasted a total number of 181 industry stakeholders across Nigeria, hosted three department Directors and representatives from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the leadership of two animal health FAO-funded projects, twelve State Directors of Veterinary Services, the Veterinary Council of Nigeria, the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, and private veterinary service providers. The organizing committee ensured the heterogeneity of stakeholders by inviting and ensuring the active participation of private livestock farmers and veterinary practitioners.

The forum encompasses six sessions, comprising goodwill messages from key industry stakeholders, a keynote address on building partnerships for improved animal health and livestock productivity, a presentation on the overview of the Nigerian animal health sector, a technical presentation on current trends in prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging animal disease, two-panel discussions and five breakout groups.

The six sessions clearly focused on striking discussions and developing recommendations and commitments that will

enhance partnerships for improved animal health and livestock productivity in Nigeria. The forum also allowed stakeholders to review the existing animal health policies and strategies, identify bottlenecks, and develop recommendations to improve the animal health sub-sector.

The summit has five specific objectives that directly address the theme of the forum. The following are the outcomes.

OUTCOMES

- The event facilitated meaningful discussions around the limitations to sustainable animal health care delivery at the last mile. Stakeholders from the public and private sectors, government agencies, development organizations, veterinary research institutions, and veterinary regulatory bodies participated actively and came up with the following recommendations and commitments.
 - The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will work with animal health stakeholders to communicate and publicize the national animal health policies to increase public awareness and adoption.
 - The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will finalize the development of a framework aimed at enhancing the delivery of veterinary services to the last mile through the provision of incentives, routine capacity development, logistics, and infrastructural development support to veterinary service providers and Community-based Animal Health Workers.

- National Veterinary Research Institute will work with the National Agricultural Development Fund and Propcom+ to build on the existing partnerships to scale the production and distribution of vaccines to smallholder farmers, especially those in the hard-to-reach community.
- The National Agricultural Development Fund will invite key animal health and livestock stakeholders to discuss the critical areas of investment and partnership.
- Propcom+ will work with the private sector and development partners to replicate their vaccination model in other states. In addition, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture will increase its budgetary allocations for routine vaccination to institutionalize the process.
- The National Veterinary Research Institute will partner with the Agricultural Development Fund to replicate the success of the mass production of the I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine across other vaccines to enhance livestock health and productivity.
- The Veterinary Council of Nigeria will collaborate with animal health stakeholders to amplify the impact and quality of service delivery of the Community-based Animal Health Workers.
- Ambuvet Konsult will continue to work with development partners, government agencies, and other private sectors to train Community-based Animal Health Workers and deliver quality animal health services to the last mile.
- The forum also brought together industry stakeholders from development agencies implementing animal health-inclined projects, veterinary medical associations, the public sector, and government agencies to discuss bottlenecks limiting multisectoral partnerships to achieve sustainable livestock productivity. These stakeholders came up with brilliant recommendations and commitment to achieving this objective.
 - NIRSAL will facilitate funding for interested livestock enterprises, including animal health service providers, by leveraging NIRSAL's existing business model and strategies.
 - Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association will identify and collaborate with animal health and husbandry professionals to introduce the one health approach to enhance the quality of animal health service delivery.
 - NIRSAL will partner with the National Agricultural Development Fund to ensure funds are available for agriculture enterprises.





RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMITMENTS FROM THE BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXISTING ANIMAL HEALTH POLICIES, THE CHALLENGES, RESOURCES REQUIRED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Facilitator – Dr Shehu Shamshudeen – The Country Coordinator (Nigeria) Veterinary Paraprofessionals Project

This session assessed the level of implementation of the existing animal health policies, the bottlenecks limiting the successful implementation, and recommendations for a successful and sustainable implementation.

Commitments

- The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will ensure the buy-in of critical political officeholders on the National Animal Health Policies and Strategies to facilitate funding and budgetary allocation.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to ensure sufficient and timely release of budgetary allocation for animal health services.
- To ensure continuity, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will partner with private sectors to institutionalize animal health services intervention.

- The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will partner with private sectors and development agencies implementing livestock projects to develop appropriate communication strategies to cascade and educate all livestock stakeholders and the public about the content and implications of the National Animal Health policy.
- The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will work with the State Department of Veterinary Services to establish a policy implementation and monitoring task force team to monitor, guide, and enforce the implementation and adoption of the animal health policies.
- The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services will partner with Sahel Consulting, Ambuvet Konsult, other animal health private sectors, Propcom+, and other development projects to track and catalogue livestock diseases, including transboundary diseases, to enhance national intervention and policy revision.
- The Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services and the National Veterinary Research Institute partner with Propcom+ and the National Agricultural Development Fund to produce more vaccines and drugs to increase availability and accessibility.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND SYNERGY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS TO ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS AND PROMOTE COORDINATED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NIGERIA'S ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY



Dr Joe-Iruobe Chinnaemeka – The Chairperson, Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, Abuja Branch

This session focused on the solutions to the bottlenecks limiting collaboration and synergy among livestock stakeholders and providing critical recommendations.

Commitments

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will holistically map all livestock stakeholders along the value chain.
- Poultry Association of Nigeria, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, and Pig Farmers Association of Nigeria to facilitate the formation of cooperative societies to facilitate collaboration and joint ventures.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will work with industry stakeholders to establish efficient communication and knowledge-sharing channels between ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, and private sectors.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will coordinate a bi-annual multisectoral livestock forum where livestock stakeholders can share ideas and explore partnership opportunities.

FACILITATE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES AMONG RESEARCHERS, VETERINARIANS, LIVESTOCK FARMERS, AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS



Facilitator: Dr Emmanuel Iton – Director of Veterinary Services, Akwa Ibom State

This session focused on understanding the best ways to share knowledge and innovation among livestock stakeholders to enhance animal health and productivity.

Commitments

- The Veterinary Council of Nigeria will lead the update and review of the Community-based Animal Health Workers to include the latest findings and innovations to enhance animal health and livestock productivity.
- The Veterinary Council of Nigeria to collaborate with the State Department of Veterinary Services and private sectors to routinely retrain the Community-based Animal Health Workers to update their knowledge on the latest research findings, innovations, and technology to enhance sustainable animal health service delivery.
- The National Veterinary Research Institute and Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association will jointly organize an annual convening to bring livestock stakeholders together to share the latest research advancements and innovations focused on enhancing animal health and livestock productivity.
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- The Department of Veterinary Services to work with Sahel Consulting, Livestock247.com, Propcom+, Ambuvet Konsult, Zoetis, and other actors to develop technology that would aid the dissemination of new research findings and innovative ideas that can improve the animal health service delivery and livestock productivity.

MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Facilitators: Fisayo Kayode, Senior Manager, Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited

This session discussed the strategies to mobilize resources and secure funding for sustainable animal health programs to ensure the availability and affordability of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools for smallholder dairy farmers.

Commitments

- NIRSAL will prepare and link livestock farmers to access funds from commercial banks and other financial institutions.
- Livestock247.com will modify its platform to provide information on livestock productivity, animal health, and livestock project funding.
- The Bank of Agriculture and National Agricultural Development Fund will provide guidelines for accessing funds for animal health service delivery in media platforms.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TO INCREASE THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL HEALTH PRACTICES



Facilitators: Dr Joshua Olorungbemi, National Regional Manager, Zoetis

The session developed effective communication strategies to raise public awareness about the importance of animal health, engage the media, and leverage digital platforms to disseminate information, success stories, and best practices.

Commitments

- The Departments of Veterinary and Pest Control Services and Animal Husbandry Services will work with private sectors and international development organizations to develop comprehensive content to educate the public on the importance of animal health to the people and the planet.
- Sahel Consulting, Livestock247.com, Ambuvet Konsult, and Propcom+ will develop social media content and engage in innovative methods to educate the public about animal health policies through their social media platforms and other means of stakeholder engagement.
- Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association and Veterinary Council of Nigeria to encourage veterinary professionals to undergo agricultural communication and journalism courses to enhance animal health information sharing for best impact.



Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited is committed to transforming Africa’s agriculture and nutrition landscape. We partner with government agencies, private sector companies, and leading international development organizations to conduct in-depth market research on key value chains, analyze and shape policies, develop business restructuring and governance strategies, launch innovative businesses and ecosystem solutions, organize convenings and provide training programs that promote sustainable agricultural development across Africa.

We understand that sustainable impact can only be delivered through private sector-led initiatives, and collaboration with the various stakeholders along the value chain to execute evidence-based solutions.

We collaborate with and support the work of donor partners intervening in policy, innovation, and technology to foster growth. Sahel has a robust team of development experts who co-create and implement long-term projects focused on transforming the agricultural landscape.



Advancing Local Dairy Development in Nigeria (ALDDN) is a five-year program that is catalysing the emergence of a vibrant local dairy sector in an inclusive way that improves the livelihoods, productivity, nutrition, and empowerment of smallholder women dairy farmers and the communities in which they live. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ALDDN aims to reach at least 210,000 beneficiaries in Adamawa, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Taraba and Bauchi States. ALDDN is being implemented in partnership with private sector companies with the support of the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry Trade & Development, Health, Women Affairs & Social Development, Water Resources, and the Governments of Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Plateau States.

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