

APPROACHES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ECONOMIC SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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L'établissement d'un tel service demande une formation préliminaire du chef d'équipe et de ses associés. Ensuite, l'unité principale pourra acquérir une assistance multidisciplinaire pour sélectionner les techniques analytiques appropriées, institutionnaliser les récoltes de données et accéder aux bases de données indispensables. Les études économiques préliminaires du contrôle des maladies et de la santé animale en général procurent dès lors, la matière initiale pour les programmes de formation. Ensuite, les besoins augmentant, des études complémentaires et une surveillance méthodique de la santé et de la production des troupeaux seront nécessaires. Les Universités pourront introduire des méthodes appropriées dans les programmes d'étude existant et établiront des programmes de troisième cycle suivant la demande. Plusieurs services ont déjà été établis dans différents pays démontrant leur utilité à tous les niveaux.

THE PURPOSE

To facilitate decisions on combating major animal diseases, optimising animal productivity and protecting human health.

THE APPROACH

1. Set up the initial Unit, preferably in the official service but possibly at an approved University.
2. Arrange training for the team leader and one or more associates at home or overseas.
3. Draw in expert assistance on animal production, agricultural economics and specialist fields of animal health as well as on data processing and statistical analysis.
4. Establish systems to collect essential data from farms, field services and laboratories, and arrange access to existing databases on populations, production systems, environmental characteristics, relevant trade statistics and economic information but restrict routine accumulation of data to a useful minimum.
5. Select appropriate analytical procedures.
6. Rationalise statutory reporting requirements.
7. Conduct pioneering studies on a major disease problem of recognised importance to illustrate the benefits and costs of more intensive control measures and on a herd health problem such as mastitis or infertility to illustrate the potentials, in financial terms, of improved treatment and management.
8. Using material from the pioneering studies, conduct seminars and practical workshops, at strategic points in the field to sensitise field workers and farmers, at regional centres to involve administrators and advisers and, in brief high-level seminars, to encourage support from key decision-makers in the state and private sectors.
9. Consolidate and expand the multidisciplinary team as demand for new studies grows and additional resources are thus justified.
10. Establish recording and analysis schemes which are of direct assistance to animal producers and service providers.
11. Create academic training and research activities at universities to introduce appropriate methodology into professional degree courses and establish postgraduate courses to meet staffing needs that are certain to emerge.

EXPERIENCE TO DATE

Such services have already been established in developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Success has depended on demonstrating the usefulness of the service, at every stage, in helping farmers and all organisations concerned to solve problems and to make creative decisions.

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