



A Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety for countries in the Middle East was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 14 to 16 January 2014. This seminar was funded by the OIE and the Abu Dhabi Food Control Agency.

Seven countries out of the 12 invited attended the seminar (Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Oman and UAE), however only 1 country was the nominated Focal Point. Participants also included a delegation from the UAE, the host country, mostly from the supporting institution, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Agency.

The seminar aimed at providing participants with knowledge on the rights, commitments and responsibilities of the National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety in the standard-setting process and compliance with the OIE international standards. It also included sessions focused on the specific tasks of National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety.

During the seminar several case studies related to the management of a zoonotic food safety issues in the region were presented and discussed. These included Verotoxigenic *E. coli*, *Mycobacterium bovis*, Brucellosis, Toxoplasmosis; Salmonellosis and Campylobacteriosis in poultry.

The work of the WHO and the Codex Alimentarius in food safety was presented and the areas of collaboration with the OIE. During a working group session participants discussed the ways they are implementing their responsibilities as Focal Points and also how they are cooperating with Codex in their country.

The seminar allowed experience-sharing and discussion between representatives from countries from the region. Focal Points attending the seminar highly appreciated the different subjects presented

and promised more involvement of their countries in the development and implementation of the OIE standards relevant to animal production food safety.

