



Under the Patronage of H.E GHAZI ZAITER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

## Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle

In collaboration with



7-9 NOVEMBER 2017 - HILTON HABTOUR - BEIRUT LEBANON

### **Report of the Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (4th Cycle) Prepared by Dr Ghazi Yehia and Dr Ali El Romeh**

A Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points of countries in the Middle East, on Veterinary Medicinal Products was held in the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Beirut Lebanon 7-9 November 2017.

The Seminar is opened by Eng.Louis Lahoud, DG of the Ministry of Agriculture, representing H.E. the Minister, followed by the President and the Dean of the USJ who welcomed all the participants and wished them successful seminar and pleasant stay in Beirut.

8 countries out of 12 attended the seminar (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria with an important delegation from the Host Country (Lebanon) especially from the supporting companies in veterinary drugs industry and the students from both Institutions (University of Saint Joseph and the Lebanese Veterinary Faculty).

The seminar aimed at providing participants with knowledge on the mandate, commitments and responsibilities of the OIE National Focal Points in the standard-setting process and compliance with the OIE international standards. It also provided participants with information on registration, transportation and better use of the veterinary medicinal products.

The Seminar started with the general presentation on the activities of the world Organisation for animal health (OIE) and the main objectives of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the seminar. Dr Maria Szabo, presented the history and terms of references of the focal point for VMP.

The VICH general principles and the update on Outreach Forum activities are also well explained and discussed by Dr Philip Sabot.

The issue of antimicrobial resistance took a good part in the seminar. The WHO/FAO/OIE tripartite Action Plan is introduced and summarized by Dr Mark Henniger and Maria Zsabo, and followed by an active discussion from the audience as well as country reports on this subject presented by the delegations from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Lebanon. In summary the antibiotic-resistance issue is still to be addressed by the international organisations which should increase number of training in the region, especially on collection of data on the use of AMR.

Videos on the activities of the OIE, antibiotic-resistance and on WAHIS were presented. The PVS tool and its objectives to strengthen the capability of veterinary services is explained in details by Prof. Hassan Aidaros.

During the seminar several case studies related to major veterinary drugs handling and production problems were presented and discussed such as, the antiparasitic list of drugs and the actions presented by Dr C.Hilan and the use of prohibited substances in equine sports, presented by Dr. G. Yehia. Fight against counterfeit drugs is also tackled.

The work of the reference collaborating centers of the OIE was clearly addressed by Dr Catherine Lambert from CC ANSES, on how to ensure the quality of veterinary products and on the collection of data and reporting options. A working session, facilitated by Delfi Gochez, followed the intervention of Dr Lambert, and participants were asked to summarize actual procedures for this collection in their countries.

The seminar also allowed experience-sharing and discussion between countries of the region and stakeholders. Focal Point attending the seminar highly appreciated the different subjects presented and promised more involvement of their countries in the implementation of the OIE guidelines and standards.

Participants were also asked to share collection of data and form a network to facilitate quick transmission of these data.

In margin of the seminar, the Ministry of Agriculture organized a 2 days exhibition of veterinary drugs in the hall of the University. Exhibitors participated as observers in the seminar, and good impression was taken on the work of the OIE and its support to member countries.

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