



ENHANCING ZIMBABWE'S ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS

Agriculture and agribusiness have historically been the mainstay of the Zimbabwean economy and key for employment, and will remain so for the foreseeable future, in particular for young people. This implies that an increase in livestock production is key in poverty reduction and food security. The agricultural sector has been beset by numerous challenges, which have been a huge constraint to accessing markets and trade opportunities and achieving sustainable growth and development. The challenges include a lack of appropriate policy and regulatory framework, low productivity, high cost of inputs and utilities, poor infrastructure, an unfavourable pricing regime, funding challenges, and poor access to information. Prolonged droughts and occasional floods due to climate change are exacerbating these challenges. In the light of these challenges, the project was formulated to enhance Zimbabwe's animal health and sanitary and phytosanitary/food safety systems.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project improved policies, strategies, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the control of animal diseases and food safety, as well as building the capacity of personnel and laboratories. In terms of strategies, the country now has a framework for tick-borne disease control, following the project's support for the formulation and implementation of the Zimbabwe Integrated Tick and Tick-borne Disease Control Strategy 2022-30. The strategy is key in improving the government's capacity to save livestock from tick-borne diseases and reduce the risk of households from falling into poverty due to high livestock mortalities. The project contributed to food safety by supporting the formulation of the Food Safety Strategy, Food Establishment Health Guidelines, and SOPs for environmental health technicians. In order to facilitate trade through internationally recognized laboratory test results, the two beneficiary laboratories, the Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL) and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), were supported to acquire International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation, namely ISO/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 17025:2017. The project also supported the coordination of livestock sector players by providing support to livestock business forums, creating a platform for policy debate and sharing of knowledge. In addition, the mapping and georeferencing of epidemiological units was completed, contributing to improved disease surveillance and control.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 3 976 490

Duration
March 2019–October 2023

Resource Partner
The European Union

Partners
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD); Department of Veterinary Services; Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC), Department of Environmental Health (DEH)

Beneficiaries
Department of Veterinary Services (DVS); Department of Environmental Health (DEH); Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL); Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL)

IMPACT

The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) was capacitated to produce the *Theileria* vaccine and other tick-borne disease vaccines, following the procurement of equipment and reagents and the refurbishment of the CVL vaccine production unit. The country’s capacity to produce the *Theileria* vaccine will contribute to a reduction in tick-borne disease incidences in the country, and is critical for the protection of livelihood assets such as cattle.

In addition, upgraded Anchor Animal Health Management Centre (AAHMCs) are now providing livestock owners with various services for improved animal health and productivity. This upgrading has resulted in a reduction in transaction costs and ensures a prompt response to disease outbreaks, thus contributing to the reduction in mortalities in livestock caused by disease.

ACTIVITIES

- Three new regulations formulated and four existing regulations revised under the Animal Health Act, and two new regulations under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, and Food Recall Regulations formulated.
- National Animal Pests and Disease Surveillance Plan formulated and implemented, supporting the surveillance and control of pests and animal diseases.
- National Food Safety Strategy (2022-2026) formulated and adopted for implementation.
- Standard operating procedures formulated and implemented for veterinary extension services and environmental health practitioners.
- State-of-the-art equipment procured for GAL, and rapid test kits (salmonella, listeria, Escherichia [E.] coli and aflatoxin B1), and food inspection kits for the food safety inspectors.
- Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) upgrade into electronic-based platform for real-time reporting of disease occurrence completed.
- Total of 340 veterinary field staff trained on LIMS disease-reporting modules.
- Mapping and georeferencing of 7 344 epidemiological units completed.
- Twenty-six AAHMCs equipped with solar systems and refrigerators for cold chain management.
- Joint venture agreements initiated at AAHMCs for improvement of animal health service delivery.
- 215 000 doses of *Theileria* vaccine produced by DVS.
- 305 food inspectors from government departments, municipalities and private sector trained in risk analysis.
- Two food waste incinerators constructed at two commercial ports of entry: i.e. Chirundu and Plumtree Border Posts.

Project Title
Transforming Zimbabwe’s Animal Health and Food Safety Systems

Project Code
FAO: GCP/ZIM/030/EC
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Contact
FAO Representation in Zimbabwe
FAO-SFS@fao.org

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

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