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**CARIBBEAN FOOD
CROPS SOCIETY**

47

**Forty-Seventh
Annual Meeting 2011**

**Bridgetown, Barbados
Volume XLVII – Number 1
T-STAR Invasive Species Symposium**

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
47th ANNUAL MEETING

Caribbean Food Crops Society
47th Annual Meeting
July 3–8, 2011

Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre
Bridgetown, Barbados

“Assuring Caribbean food and nutrition security in the context of climate change”

**United States Department of Agriculture,
T-STAR Sponsored Invasive Species Symposium**

**Toward a Collective Safeguarding System for the Greater Caribbean Region:
Assessing Accomplishments since the first Symposium in Grenada (2003)
and Coping with Current Threats to the Region**

**Special Symposium Edition
Edited by
Edward A. Evans, Carlton G. Davis, and Fredy Ballen**

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARIBVET AND THE WAY FORWARD

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Achievements of CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health Network and the way forward

CaribVET

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T-STAR Symposium, Meeting, 5th July, Barbados

FAO PAHO IICA OIE

CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health network definition

➤ **A collaboration network involving:**

- Veterinary services
- Laboratories
- Research institutes
- Regional/international organizations

Improve animal and veterinary public health in all the countries &/or territories of the Caribbean

32 Countries and territories
English, Spanish, French and Dutch speaking
Members

Various economical/political communities
CARICOM; Europe; USA; Commonwealth

USDA CENSA cirad FAO OIE PAHO IICA

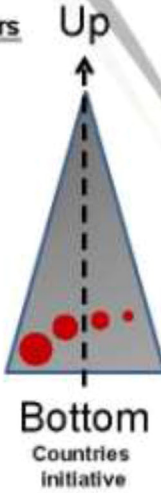

Objectives of CaribVET



- Structure, **reinforce** and harmonize **national surveillance networks**;
- Improve and harmonize the **control of animal diseases** and implement an **early alert system**;
- **Reinforce the technical skills** and support the development of tools necessary for surveillance and control including diagnosis capacity;
- Improve the knowledge on animal diseases and their distribution in the Caribbean.

➔ **Definition of a regional strategy**




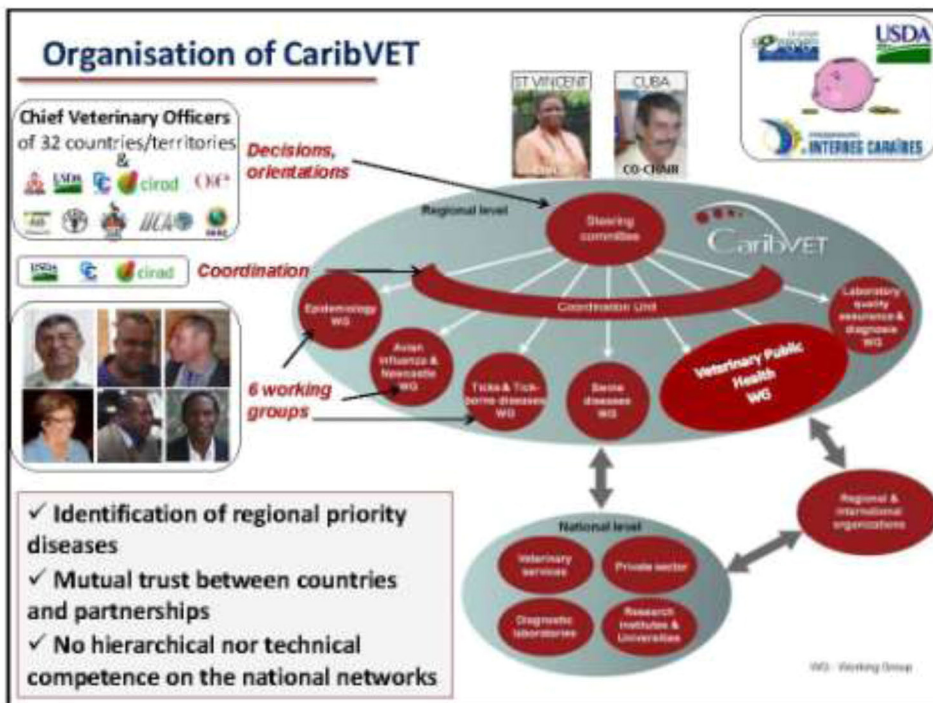
Building and strengthening of CaribVET




- 2010** ➤ **All Caribbean countries and territories: members**
- 2006** ➤ **Adoption**
 - ❑ **Institutional adoption** by 20 Caribbean CVOs and international organizations
 - ❑ **Political adoption** by CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
- 2000-2005** ➤ **Development**
 - ❑ Technical activities (West Nile, AI, CSF...)
 - ❑ Trainings and meetings in epidemiology
- < 2000** ➤ **Origin of CaribVET**
 - ❑ **Technical projects** involving some countries:
 - Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP territories)
 - CSF Control (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic)
 - ❑ **Sanitary crisis**: CSF reintroduction in Hispaniola

CaribVET in 2011


- Members: **32 countries / territories** (Dutch & US territories included)
- Adoption of **CaribVET** by Caribbean CVOs including **CARICOM CVOs** and **COTED** by formal resolution
- Trilingual Charter**, tool for institutionalization



CaribVET: a structured and operational network





- **Roles and relationships** between individuals/institution are **organized, & well formalized** (5-10 yrs experience, Charter)
- **Full coverage of region: network** and not system
- **Information:** circulates regularly among members (Bottom→ up)



CaribVET Website (new version 2011)

CaribVET information bulletin

Other tools
Soon finalized

- ❖ Forum
- ❖ Newsletter
electronic digest of information posted online

www.caribvet.net
caribinfo@caribvet.net

CaribVET Activities and Achievements



- **Technical & scientific support** for Caribbean members
- **Reinforcement** of national surveillance activities / networks
 - ❑ Evaluation of surveillance activities → towards country assistance
 - ❑ Evaluation of laboratory → toward a Caribbean laboratory network
- **Capacity building**
 - ❑ VEP Project – training of Caribbean professionals in epidemiology
 - ❑ Trainings in diagnosis, simulation exercises, GIS, ...
- **Research applications:** increase knowledge of epidemiology of diseases in the Caribbean (West Nile virus, heartwater and TBT distribution,...)
- **Communication & management of health information**

SNAT: evaluation tool
Regional RA Framework




Scientific & technical documents



Risk assessments conducted in technical WG

- AI and fighting cocks (AI WG)
Caribbean
- CSF, Teschen and swine (Swine WG)
Cuba & Hispaniola
- FMD and imported meat (Epigroup)
CARICOM countries and Brazil



CaribVET, the Way Forward



- 1/ Role of **connecting** project carriers & countries
- 2/ Regional **Network sustainability**
- 3/ Role in **emergency situation**

1/ CaribVET: connecting project carriers with Caribbean countries

BACKGROUND

- ❑ The New-world Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)
 - ❑ Myiasis in animals and humans; important direct and indirect losses
 - ❑ Several Caribbean countries infested
- ❑ The COMEXA
 - ❑ Mexican - American Commission for the eradication of Screwworm
 - ❑ Central role in the eradication of NWS from Mexico (1991), and subsequently from Central America

CaribVET Steering Committee meetings: linkage between Comexa and caribbean countries

- ❑ 2010: First contact between CaribVET and the Comexa.
 - Presentation of the Comexa and screwworm situation in the Americas
- ❑ 2011: First ad-hoc meeting: COMEXA + 10 infested and interested countries
 - Presentation of the Caribbean Strategy
 - Objective: implement eradication programs in the Caribbean
 - Preliminary Steps/Projects
 - 2nd Ad-hoc meeting planned in June/July 2011
- ❑ Link with the Coordination Unit of CaribVET



Role in Disaster Reduction Risk in the Caribbean

Experience in collaborations and coordination

➤ Assistance in pre-disaster emergency preparedness

- Hazard identification, risk assessment
Epidemiology WG; swine diseases WG, Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease WG
- Emergency preparedness plan:
VEP project: diseases specific WG for AI, TBT and tick-borne diseases
- Building capacities** of all animal health stakeholders

- Reports on **Cuba Experience**: an example to adapt nationally
- Prepare manuals and brochures on disaster preparedness (Cuban manual)
- Disseminate relevant information** on disaster reduction risk

➤ Assistance and coordination in emergency response

- Review **national emergency protocols**
- Training**: simulation exercises: Desk-top/Field, Risk (Crisis) Communication

- Ease international assistance**
 - Identify country focal points a
 - Make alliance with international organizations, NGOs to ease international assistance
 - Create groups/directory of experts
- Develop common platform for the preparation of the human resources for common action
- Mobilization of an emergency team: VEP group?




2/ CaribVET Sustainability




- **Activities funded by projects**
 - Interreg IV Caraibes (2009-2012)
 - USDA-APHIS-IS
 - FSP
- **6th Steering Committee (March 2011) recognized the need for strong advocacy at the national level** for the support of participation in the activities of CaribVET
- **Exploration of other possible sources for assistance**
- **Increase promotion and awareness of the CaribVET network**
 - Develop communication package
 - CaribVET bulletin, press release

3/ CaribVET role in emergency situations



The Caribbean, a region at risk and prone to hazards.
High risk of transboundary animal diseases: endemic and exotic through movements of animals, fomites, people, products of animal origin, ...

- **Hazards**
 - Natural disasters:** storms (wind/rain), earthquakes, hurricanes, fire, smoke
 - Diseases outbreak...**
- **Threats**
 - Life, diseases outbreak, animal loss**
 - Flooding** and insect proliferation
 - Diagnostic pool, equipment & supplies**
- **Direct & indirect impacts**
 - Need for shelter, ill animals/cadavers**
 - Accessibility to farms, facilities damages**
 - Staff & supplies shortage**
 - Socio-economical/political instability**



CSF reintroduction in Hispaniola (1996)
Haiti Earthquake (2010)
Hurricane Tomas (2010)

**Breakdown in health services and infrastructure, increased vulnerability
Distinct role of NEMO and CaribVET**

Capacity Building – training of Caribbean veterinarians and paraveterinarians in epidemiology



- **Trainings**
 - Concepts in Basic Epidemiology – July 2008 and September 2009
 - Live birds market system – August 2008
 - Rapid response system – May 2009
- **Simulation exercises**
 - Swine diseases outbreak simulation training – April 2010 – DR
 - Rift Valley Fever outbreak simulation – May 2010 – US Virgin Islands
 - Sampling, conditioning, shipment of AI samples – Dec. 2009, **June 2011**
 -
- **Follow-up of activities**
 - Continued training in Epidemiology by a software « RANEMA »
 - Follow-up of surveillance activities : review of surveillance plans, questionnaires...
 - Monthly action report – evaluation of activities – **performance indicators**



→ Reinforcement of national surveillance systems
 → **Support a national & regional emergency response task force**

Thank you for your attention



Coordination unit
 CaribVET chair, Co-Chair; USDA
 CARICOM; CIRAD Guadeloupe



Caribbean CVOs + members of the WG



Information & CaribVET Bulletin
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 &
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