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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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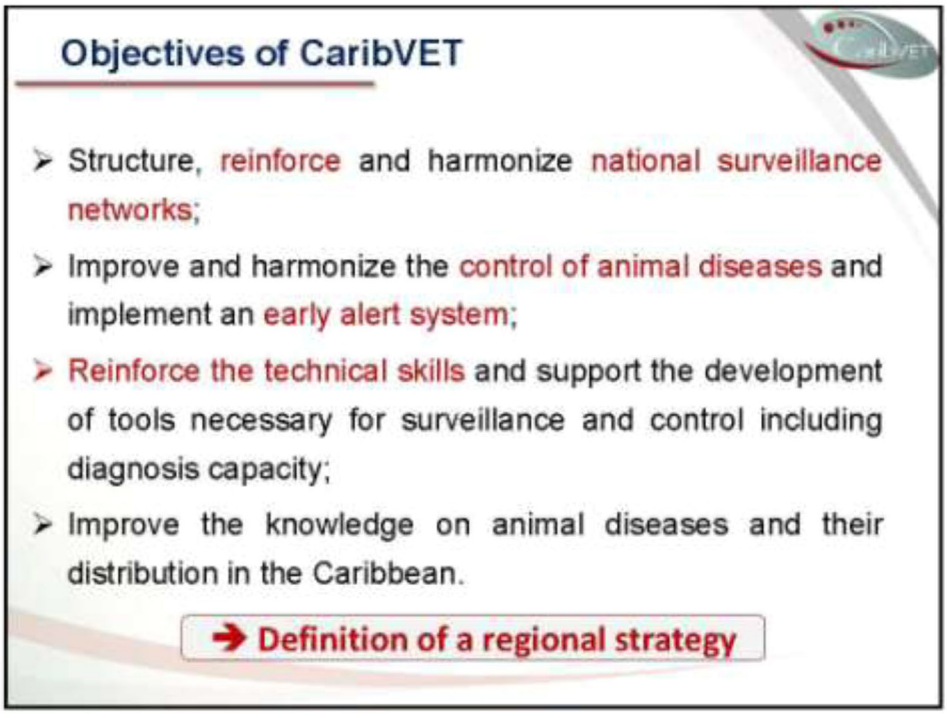
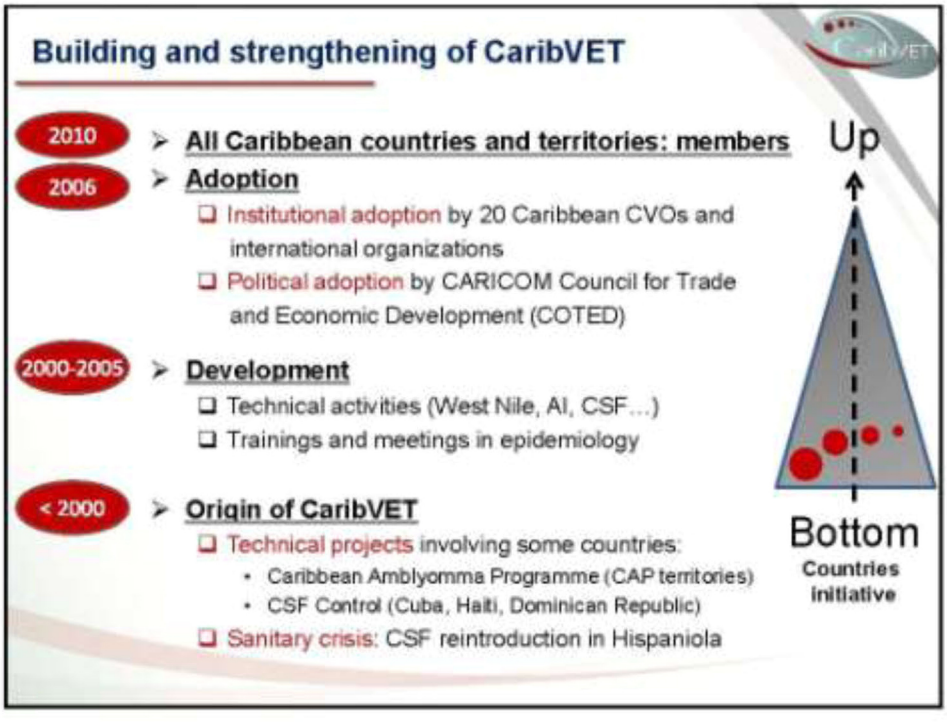
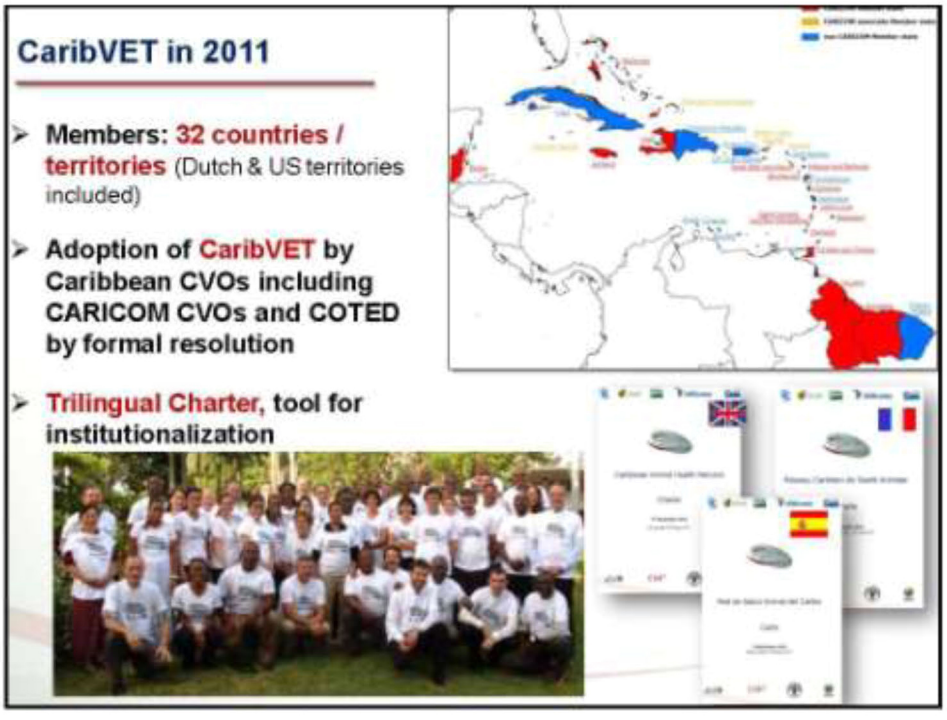
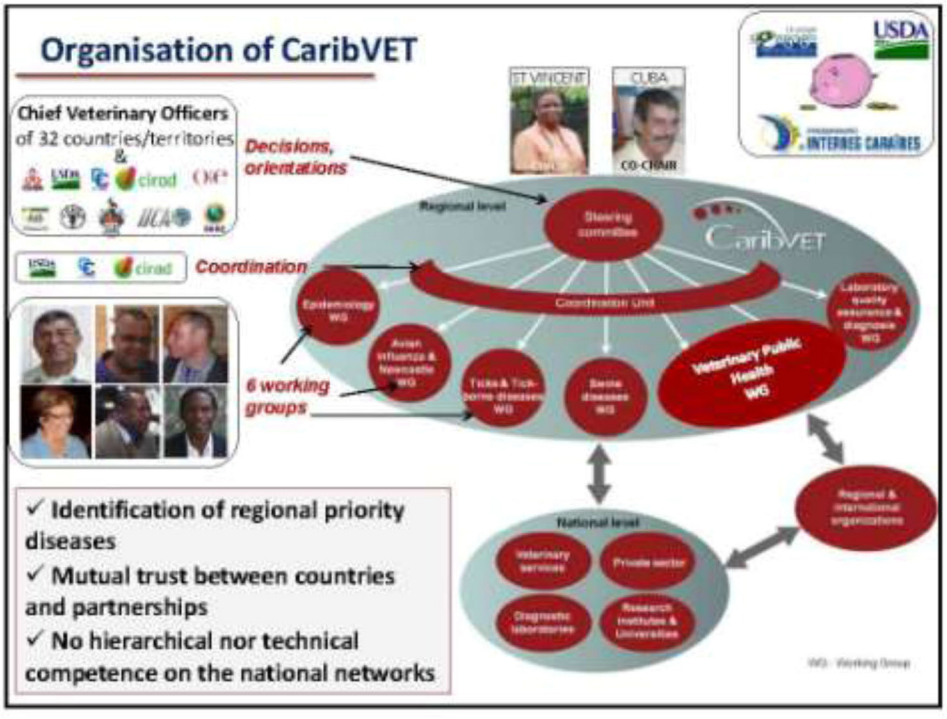
ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARIBVET AND THE WAY FORWARD

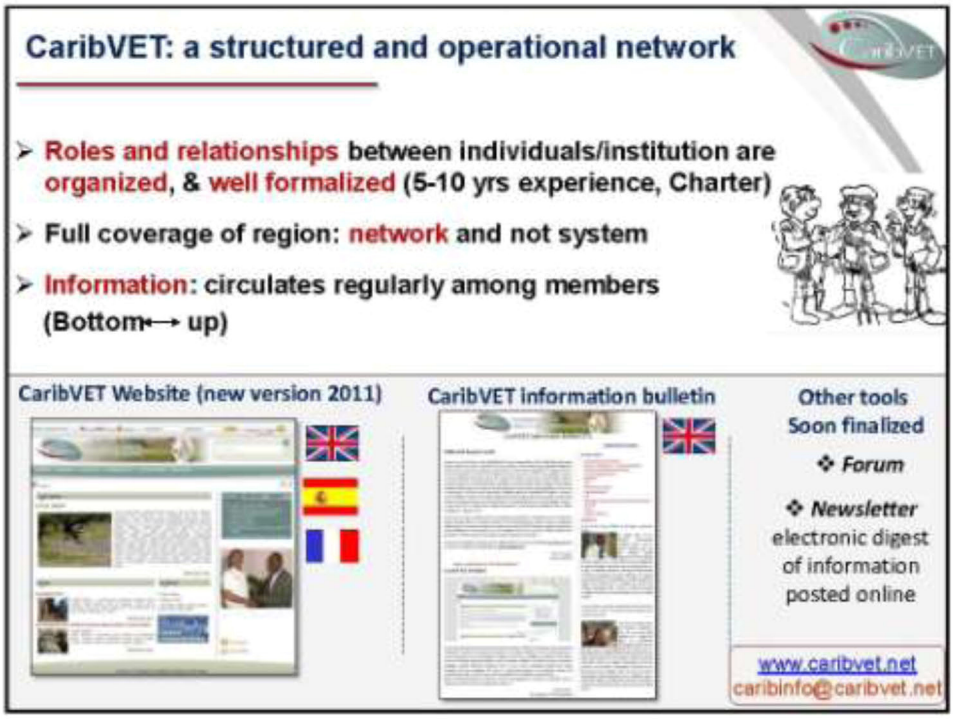
Mark Trotman, Chair, CaribVET Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Working Group, Veterinary Services, the Caribbean Animal Health Network, Barbados. E-mail: svo@caribsurf.com.

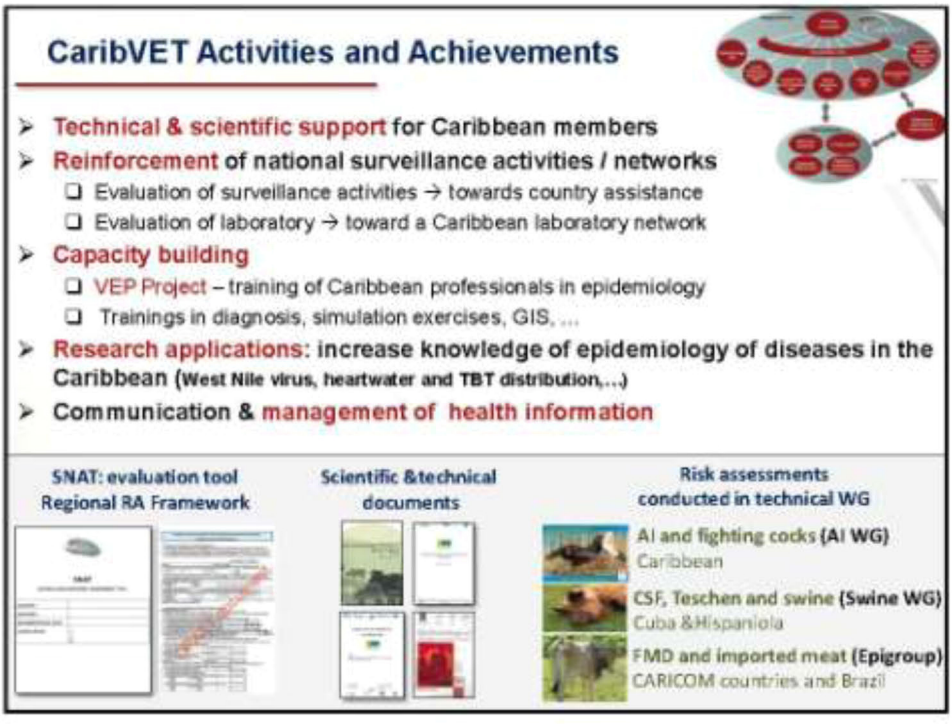

Objectives of CaribVET
Structure, reinforce and harmonize national surveillance networks;
Improve and harmonize the control of animal diseases and implement an early alert system;
Reinforce the technical skills and support the development of tools necessary for surveillance and control including diagnosis 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
Up
Bottom
Countries initiative


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


Organisation of CaribVET
Chief Veterinary Officers of 32 countries/territories
&
Decisions, orientations
Coordination
6 working groups
Regional level
Steering committee
CaribVET
Coordination Unit
Veterinary Public Health WG
National level
Veterinary services
Private sector
Diagnostic laboratories
Research institutes & Universities
Regional & international organizations
✓ Identification of regional priority diseases
✓ Mutual trust between countries and partnerships
✓ No hierarchical nor technical competence on the national networks


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**

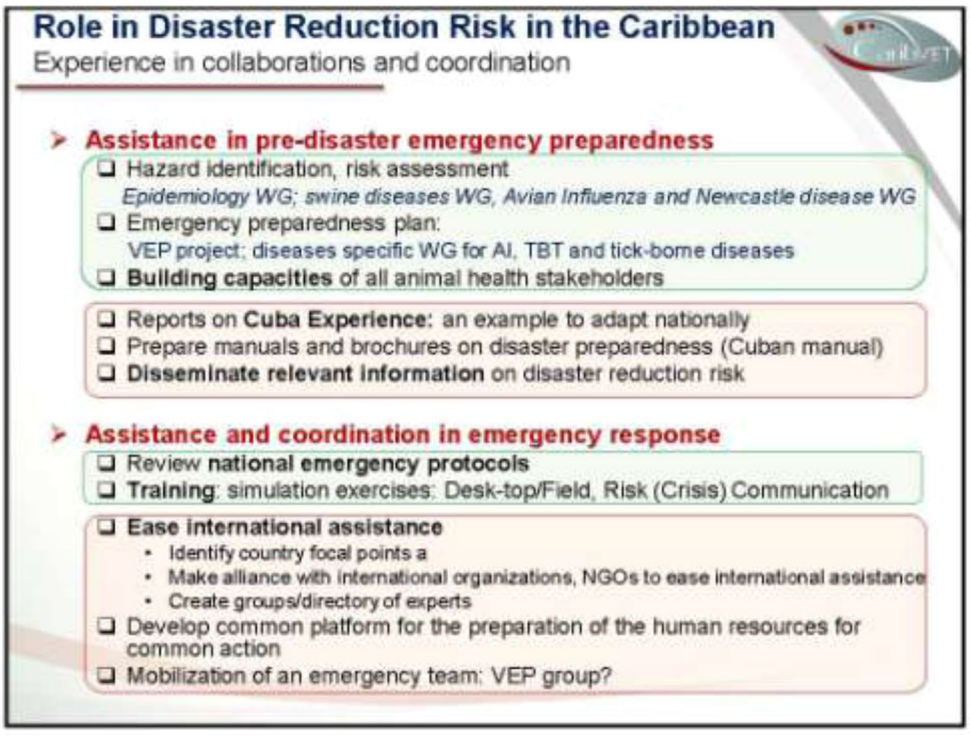
1/ CaribVET: connecting project carriers with Caribbean countries

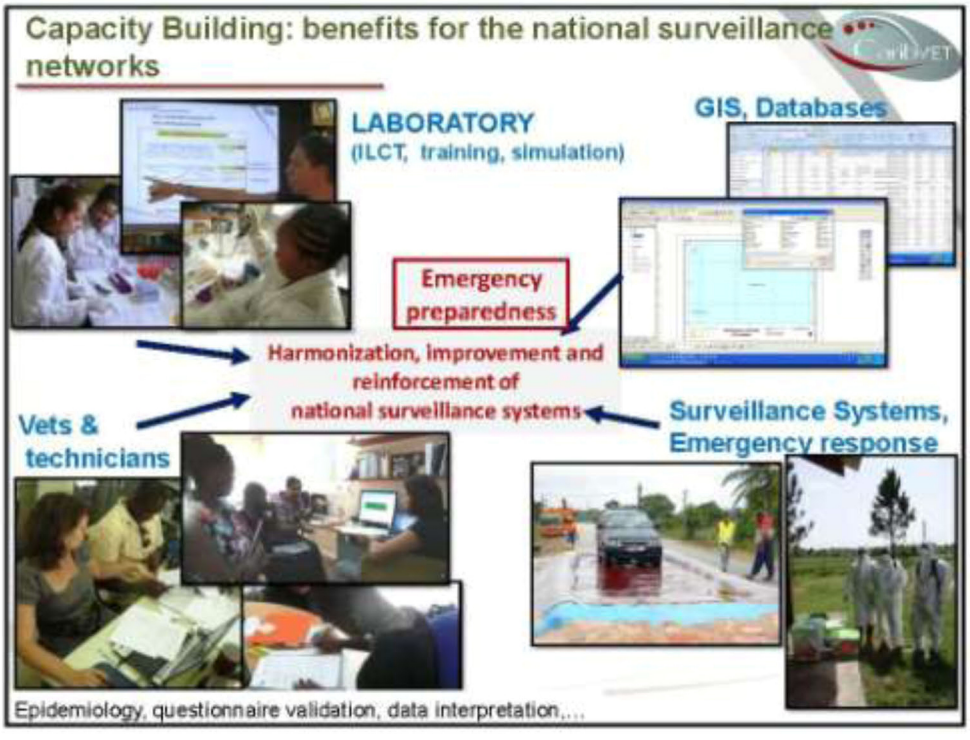
BACKGROUND

- **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 erradication programs in the Caribbean
    - Prelimary 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?


Capacity Building: benefits for the national surveillance networks
LABORATORY
(ILCT, training, simulation)
GIS, Databases
Emergency preparedness
Harmonization, improvement and reinforcement of national surveillance systems
Vets & technicians
Surveillance Systems, Emergency response
Epidemiology, questionnaire validation, data interpretation,...

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 **unstability**

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
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Thank you for your attention
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INTERREG CARAÏBES
USDA
Oie
IICA
PAHO
Caribbean CVOs + members of the WG
Coordination unit
CaribVET chair, Co-Chair; USDA CARICOM; CIRAD Guadeloupe
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