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ABSTRACT BOOK



WG1: The "One Health" concept in the ecology of vector-borne diseases

P03. FIELD SURVEY ON THE IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO ANIMAL DISEASES, INCLUDING VECTOR-BORNE, AND ON THE RISK PERCEPTION ABOUT ZOOSES BY LIVESTOCK KEEPERS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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Livestock represent a vital resource for the livelihood of rural people, especially in the so-called developing countries. Within development cooperation projects, aimed to the improvement of animal production/health in African countries, field research activities were carried out in different livestock production systems (i.e. peri-urban intensive, semi-intensive, nomadic).

In order to evaluate major constraints to livestock production/health, and assess the risk perception and level of knowledge about zoonoses by livestock keepers/herders, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires were administered to 30 nomadic herders in Ethiopia (Somali region), 90 semi-nomadic livestock herders in Mali (Mopti region) and 29 peri-urban livestock keepers in Burkina Faso (Bobo Dioulasso). Questionnaires were designed and interviews performed according to standard techniques of participatory epidemiology and rural appraisal, with the help of local mother tongue interpreters/translators.

Livestock herders/keepers from the 3 study areas identified common constraints to animal production/health (i.e. lack of vet drugs, inadequate veterinary services, difficult access to markets) and common diseases (i.e. tick-borne diseases and ticks, and other diseases transmitted by blood-sucking vectors). Anthrax, clostridiosis, foot-and-mouth, dermatophilosis, pasteurellosis, mastitis, intestinal and lungworms parasitoses were quoted as other important diseases.

None of the livestock herders/keepers interviewed showed to know the correct definition of "zoonosis", except 5 peri-urban farmers in Burkina-Faso with specific training/education. However, 60% of livestock keepers in Mali, 80% in Ethiopia and 22% in Burkina Faso declared to know about the existence of diseases transmissible between animals and man, although in most cases they quoted -as examples- diseases with common symptoms man-

animals (e.g. coughing, diarrhea, “malaria of animals”). Most participants knew the possible transmission routes of some diseases (i.e. consumption of animals’ products, direct contact with animals), although they did not usually apply adequate prevention measures (i.e. 93% of Ethiopian nomads, 65% of seminomadic herders from Mali do not boil milk before consumption, and about 50% of them avoid milk consumption from diseased animal or under drug treatment).

In conclusion, it can be said that although livestock herders/keepers are competent to identify major animal diseases or constraints to animal health/production -including some diseases identified as zoonoses- they do not usually apply preventive measures against zoonoses. Veterinary and public health training activities addressed to livestock keepers and to the local population are of paramount importance to create awareness on public health risks. Such joint activities –based on One World-One Health approach- should become the pillars of any cooperation activities in agriculture and livestock development projects.