



Communication

CARIBVET STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT, USING A "ONE HEALTH" APPROACH

13 members of the governance of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) participated in a participatory workshop to plan the future of animal and veterinary public health programmes in the region. The objective was to reduce the vulnerability and increase resilience to disasters through the implementation of a shared strategy of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

This workshop was held in Guyana and hosted by the Guyana Livestock Development Authorities (GLDA) in East Demerara, Georgetown on March 21st and 22nd, 2019.

It was organized by the French Agricultural Research and International Cooperation Organisation (CIRAD), the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the GLDA.

The participants were Chief Veterinary Officers from Guyana, Montserrat, Bermuda, Sint Eustatius, Cuba and the Dominican Republic and representatives from UWI, CENSA, CARICOM Secretariat, CAHFSA, USDA, as well as the Barbados Veterinary Association.

About 23 observers from Guyana attended open sessions: GLDA staff, representatives from IICA, FAO and PAHO, Ministries of Health and Environment and private sector.

CaribVET operates mainly through research, capacity building and development projects that are implemented and coordinated by various partner organisations. Before developing a new project portfolio and before the 14th Annual Meeting of the CaribVET Steering Committee (SC), selected SC members worked together on the future impact of CaribVET. Participants used an "Ex ante" approach consisting in looking at the future, defining a shared vision, in order to develop a common strategy to build a plausible and sound strategic plan.

The expected benefits include development of more impactful projects, easier collaborations development, and improved coordination of synergistic projects.

Building a shared vision of change, using a participatory approach

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Genowefa Blundo, from CIRAD Innovation Research Unit (Montpellier, France), and expert on the approach developed by Cirad and called ImpresS (Impact of Research and Development in the South). The workshop involved multiple stakeholders, representative from the diversity of the CaribVET SC: CARICOM Member States, CARICOM Associate MS, Dutch Antilles, French Antilles, Cuba and the DR, as well as regional research institutes, universities and organisations in order to build a plausible and compelling impact narrative and shared visions of change throughout the greater Caribbean.

The participants selected the topic of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), which was extensively discussed at the 13th CaribVET SC Meeting, during a Special Session (Antigua, June 2018) and is among the top priorities of the Network.

A structured approach for a 5 years strategic planning

Once participants agreed on a shared vision of the future (5-10 years), they identified the key issues. They subsequently defined the desired outcomes (changes in behaviours, practices, interactions) and the major changes needed to generate them (such as changes in knowledge, motivation, capacities...), that will be needed to achieve the expected impact.

The group produced an impact pathway and impact narrative highlighting strategies and activities that will allow development of a strategic plan. It is expected to ease answer to call for project



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applications, and development of partnership.

Highlights of the Workshop

The members of CaribVET SC identified the disparities in development and implementation of current DRRM national strategies for the livestock sector as a key central issue hindering the achievement of a shared DRRM strategy that would reduce vulnerability and increase disaster resilience in the region.

Among the causing problems that CaribVET will address in its strategic plan: lack of political recognition of the importance of the livestock sector (at both the national and the regional level); low capacities to prepare and respond in a coordinated manner to disasters; lack of regional coordination for DRRM encompassing the entire Caribbean region, lack of coordination between the public and private sector. The implementation of the One health approach in DRRM is crucial to enhance inter-sectorial collaborations.

Perspectives and expected benefits

Two participants will present the results of the work achieved in Guyana to their colleagues from the entire Caribbean in Varadero, Cuba week of 6th May for discussion and validation.

Indeed, several key meetings are organized in Cuba that week. The 14th Meeting of the CaribVET SC, the 19th Meeting of the CARICOM CVOs and the 3rd International Seminar on Agricultural Health (SISA) where a Round table on One Health and Disasters will also be organized.

The CaribVET members hope to pave the way for a common vision of the future in Agriculture and veterinary public health and to maximize the positive social and environmental impact.



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Caribbean participants from 10 Caribbean countries in front of the GLDA (Guyana Livestock Development Authority), East Demerara, Georgetown, Guyana.

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