Challenges faced in implementing an animal Identification and Traceability System in Eswatini and key lessons learnt

Livestock Identification and Traceability System Webinar

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Introduction

- Proposed by Livestock Development Policy of 1995

- Government of Eswatini approached FAO for assistance

- Exploratory mission late 2007 proposed a identification and traceability system integrated into a wider animal health information system

- Swaziland Livestock Information and Traceability System (SLITS) developed in 2010 to 2013 as a Government Funded Project assisted by a FAO TCP

Purpose

Disease control & surveillance

- Improved access to markets of livestock and livestock products
- Assist in the recovery and identification of stolen and strayed animals.
- Assist in the reduction of stock theft and cross border cattle rustling.
- Assist in disputes over animal ownership among farmers.
- Assist in production management
- Improve efficiency of Government controlled movement permits
- Used in Road Traffic Accidents involving animals
- Used by Master of High Court when managing estates of deceased person for purposes of liquidation and distribution

Animal Health System

- Based on the diptank system

- Livestock owners are required by law to be registered at a diptank area

- Livestock owners are required by law to register their stock at a diptank area

- Livestock owners are required by law to present their cattle, for dipping every 7/14days in summer and 14/28days in winter

- Livestock owners are required by law to get a movement permit to move cattle from one diptank area to another

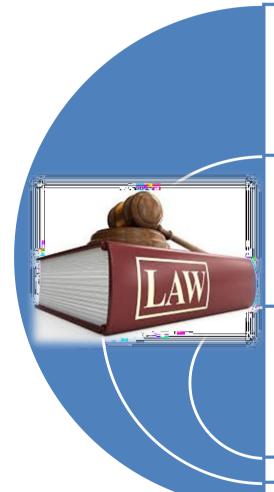*SLITS was developed on an existing Animal Health System*

Governance

- Priority species are cattle
- Sheep, goats and pigs to be included in database in next release
- SLITS is administered and maintained by government
- Livestock owners pay for identification

Legislation

Animal Diseases Act 7/1965

Livestock Identification Act 13/2001

The Animal Identification and Traceability Regulations 2018

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

MOVEMENT CONTROLS AND TRACEABILITY

MANUAL AND COMPUTERIZED RECORD KEEPING

Challenges & solutions

Challenges

- No local technical back-up
- Network instability
- Delays in capturing data into the system
- Delays in identifying animals

Solutions

- Outsource technical services for maintenance
- Use of alternative network sources
- Conduct trainings but have started enforcing law
- Conduct sensitization campaigns but have started enforcing law

Lessons learnt

- More expenditure on staff training
  - Resistance to change
  - Technophobia

- Putting up other systems needed to support SLITS, like network infrastructure
  - Maybe gone for web based system

Thank you for your attention