



JOINT FAO/ALive WORKSHOP ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EPIDEMIO-SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY NETWORKS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



The ALive Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and AU-IBAR, held a workshop on May 19-21, 2009 at the Nairobi Safari Club in Kenya. The objective was to validate the draft reports of two consultancies commissioned by the ALive Partnership, for the establishment of epidemiosurveillance and laboratory networks in Sub Saharan Africa.

In attendance were: epidemiologists and laboratory experts drawn from East, West-Central and South Africa, representatives of the ALive Secretariat, AU-IBAR, FAO, ILRI, OIE and Windrock International-Kenya.

The outputs of the workshop were: (i) the validation of the consultants' reports and (ii) the development of action plans for the establishment and operation of the epidemiosurveillance and laboratory networks.

The major recommendations of the workshop included specific actions in order for the networks to be as relevant, credible and beneficial as possible to member countries. It was also suggested to establish and strengthen sustainable linkages with international organizations, other networks, academic, and research institutions. The AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE and other collaborating partners, were requested to continuously mobilize funds for the implementation of projects in support of the networks.

The next steps of this initiative are outlined as follows:

- (i) the revised consultants' reports will be sent to the ALive Secretariat in Nairobi for submission to the next ALive Executive Committee meeting (EC14) for validation,
- (ii) the networks' activities will be included as part of the ALive Second Triennial Action Plan (TAP2), and
- (iii) the mobilization of funds will be undertaken by the ALive Secretariat for implementation of the action plans and reports.