

**MODUS OPERANDI OF THE  
OIE PERMANENT ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

1. In accordance with Resolution No. XV of the 70<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session, the terms of reference for the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group include:
  - a) consideration of all foodborne hazards arising from animals before slaughter,
  - b) a primary focus on food safety measures applicable at the farm level,
  - c) consideration of food safety measures applicable elsewhere, for example during animal transport and harvesting of wild animals for food,
  - d) work criteria and priorities that take into account global food safety priorities and current work programmes of relevant international organisations, especially the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC),
  - e) the taking into account of the food safety standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, especially the CAC,
  - f) support for the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions on pre-slaughter animal production food safety,
  - g) advising the Director General of the OIE on the implementation of the OIE strategy regarding:
    - i) establishing *ad hoc* Groups to address specific tasks,
    - ii) linking at the working level with the CAC, FAO and WHO,
    - iii) ensuring pre-slaughter animal production food safety is integrated in Specialist Commissions' and *ad hoc* Groups' activities,
    - iv) providing technical input into the review of OIE disease notification criteria,
    - v) enhancing communications, information sharing and consultation.
2. Within these terms of reference, the Working Group sees its role as:
  - a) providing advice to the OIE Director General on policy and strategic issues relating to the OIE's work on animal production food safety which has the goal of 'reducing foodborne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products'. The priorities are:
    - i) identifying and addressing gaps, contradictions, areas where harmonisation is necessary and duplications in the work of the OIE and other international/intergovernmental organisations (in particular Codex) involved in food safety standards,

- ii) strengthening the relationship to other relevant standard-setting organisations (in particular Codex), through enhanced information exchange,
  - iii) improving coordination between competent authorities with animal health and food safety responsibilities at the national and regional levels,
  - iv) recommending a work programme to address the mandate of the OIE on animal production food safety;
- b) acting in a steering group capacity, as required by the OIE Director General, regarding the work of OIE expert groups:
- i) advising the Director General on membership, scope and terms of reference for expert groups,
  - ii) reviewing texts arising from relevant expert groups for consideration by the relevant Specialist Commissions.
3. Intended outputs addressed to the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions include:
- a) discussion papers;
  - b) policy documents;
  - c) reports.
-