

Session 7:

Towards global harmonisation and evaluation of the veterinary curriculum, and an internationally recognised diploma

Global harmonisation of Veterinary Services

B.G. Bedard

Senior Livestock Specialist,
World Bank,
United States of America

Recent developments related to avian influenza epidemics, the H1N1 pandemic and even SARs have served to emphasise the integrated nature of 'one health' and the global impact of veterinarians delivering 'local' animal health services. The situation is particularly critical in the developing and transitional countries that have become the focus for emerging and re-emerging zoonotic and transboundary diseases. The repercussions of insufficient disease surveillance and non-compliant regulatory veterinary services are exacerbated by public and private veterinarians who are poorly trained and lack the modern skills, knowledge and resources to prevent and control infectious diseases. The sustainability of donor driven investments in the livestock sector and livelihoods of producers is compromised by poorly skilled animal health workers. There is a pressing need to develop a clear strategy for modernizing veterinary training that articulates the needs and addresses them with investments in facilities, curriculum and human resources and produces better qualified veterinarians. The World Bank and other donors have been using a recently developed tool to evaluate veterinary faculties and develop such strategies. The veterinary faculties in more developed countries could support these development strategies and to ensure that, to the extent possible, veterinary training world-wide provides a harmonised, scientifically based cadre of skilled veterinarians and para-veterinarians to address the animal health and public health issues that are gaining profile. This presentation will review the evaluation tools and options for action based on the outcomes.

