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Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Since its creation in 1959, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has been heavily involved in financing the national programmes of its member countries to strengthen and develop their national animal and plant health services. It has also used donor funding for technical cooperation projects to help build institutional capacity to implement major plant and animal health campaigns, especially for the control of foot and mouth disease.

In connection with plant and animal health and food safety programmes and projects, the IDB finances activities to support compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO) international agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement), which includes animal identification and traceability measures, in compliance with CODEX and OIE standards.

The IDB and OIE signed a memorandum of understanding in 2008 designed to help the Members' Veterinary Services to improve their capacities and to support and promote animal health. This cooperation agreement has defined a number of important areas:

Promoting support for building the capacity of Veterinary Services.

- Participating in activities to control animal diseases and improve the safety of food of animal origin.
- Promoting and encouraging the use of international standards of quality by the OIE's Veterinary Services.

The OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) provides for a qualitative assessment to identify needs with the objective of building Veterinary Services' capacities to meet the OIE standards for quality¹. The PVS process involves the initial country PVS evaluation by groups of independent experts trained by the OIE to identify any shortcomings in national Veterinary Services. This may be followed by a PVS Gap Analysis, which provides for a quantification of needs and an indication of the corresponding budget to address compliance for priority critical competencies. Corresponding investment projects can then be developed with the potential for funding from IDB credit lines.

The IDB has a wide range of financial instruments to support the development of public-sector plant and animal health programmes and projects: investment loans; policy loans; conditional credit lines for investment projects; performance-driven loans and technical cooperation projects. The IDB also has financial instruments to support private-sector initiatives. In this connection, it has focused special attention on financing programmes for the purposes of:

- Market opening and integration into the international economy.
- Modernising production services, which includes strengthening market information systems; export promotion; plant and animal health; food safety and quality certification for plant and animal products.

- Supporting the implementation of trade agreements on plant and animal health, including the adoption of international standards on food safety and traceability, in compliance with CODEX and OIE standards.

Key Words: OIE and Codex standards – OIE PVS Tool – identification and traceability.

¹ Chapter 3.1 and 3.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2008)