

Keynote presentation

OIE Conference on Animal  
Identification and Traceability

La Rural, Buenos Aires 23-25 March 2009

Dr Bernard Vallat  
Director General,  
OIE

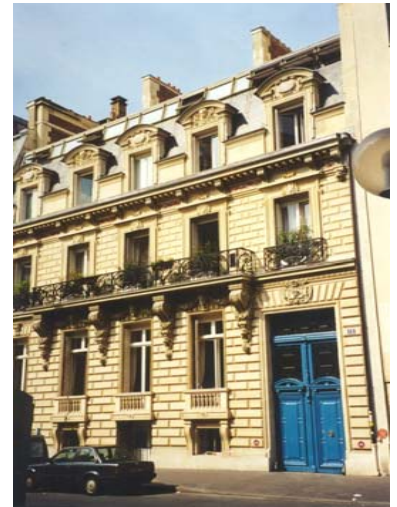
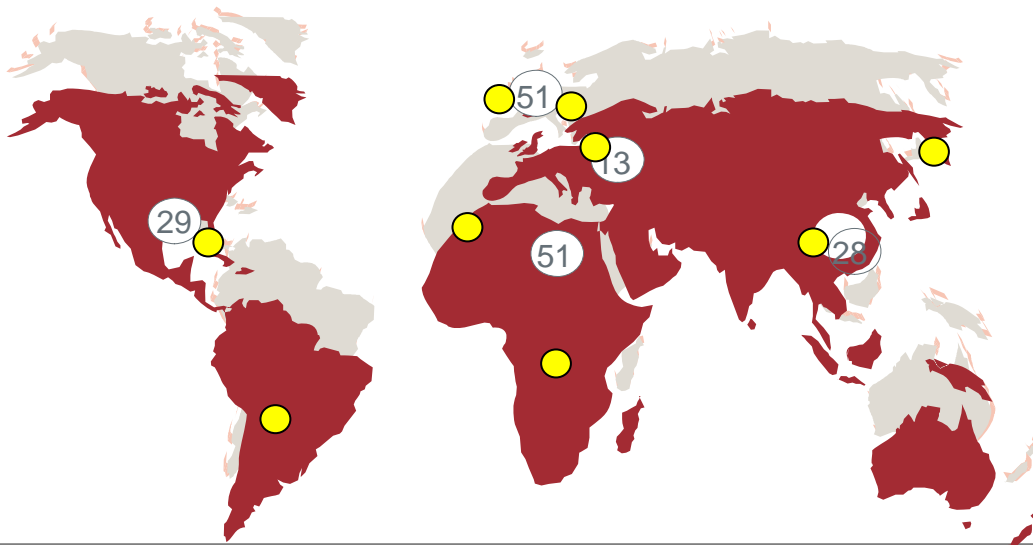
# Outline of this presentation

- Why do we need ID&T systems?
- Demand for high value animal protein
- Background on OIE and Codex role
- Objectives of the conference
- Future challenges:
  - Implementation
  - Capacity building
  - Standard setting
  - Applied research



# THE OIE: KEY FACTS

- Intergovernmental organisation established in 1924: 174 Members
- Permanent Regional offices: Bamako (Mali), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Tokyo (Japan), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Beirut (Lebanon)
- sub-regional Offices: Bangkok (Thailand), Gaborone (Botswana), Panama, Brussels (Belgium), +++
- 5 Regional Commissions: Africa, America, Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Europe and the Middle East.

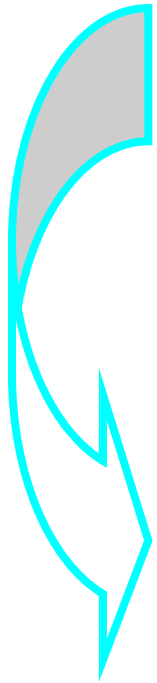


# OIE MANDATE

Historical: 'To prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world'

*Now the OIE's global mandate is:*

**'The improvement of animal health and welfare all around the world'**



# Zoonotic potential of animal pathogens

- 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic
- 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic
- 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens

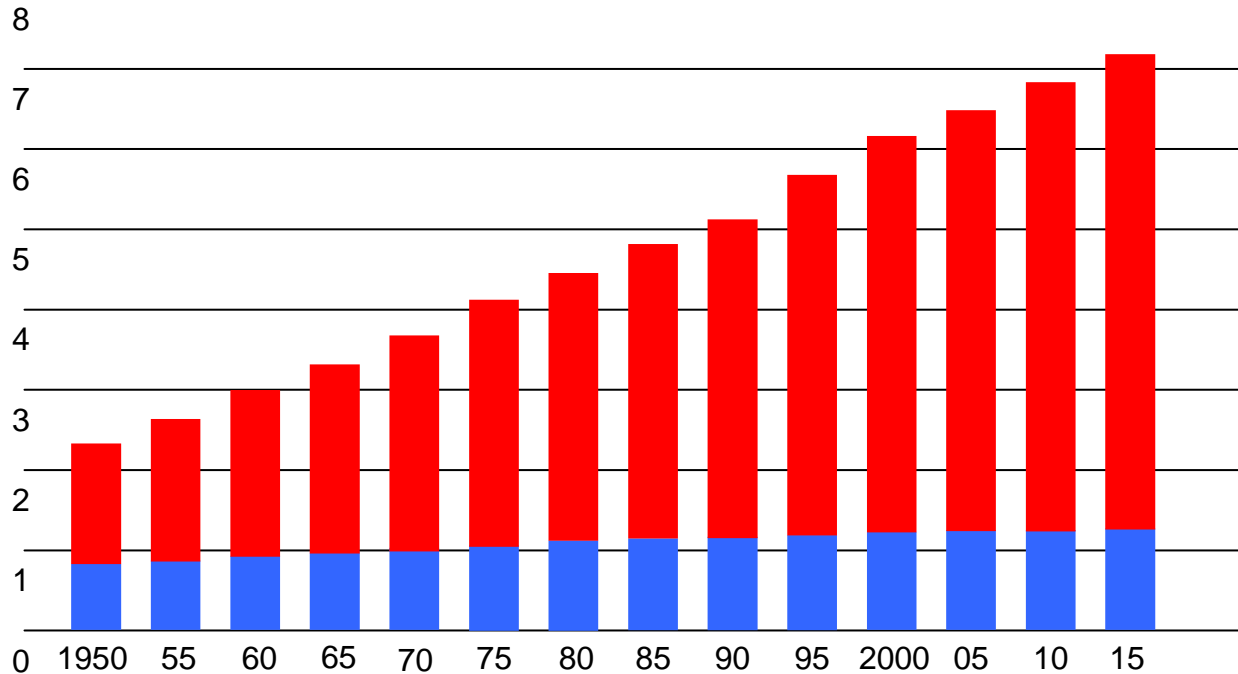


# Trends in global population

## Global Population: 1950-2015

Total

Billions



Source: US Bureau of the Census

# Global demand for animal protein

A 50% increase in global demand for protein, esp. Developing countries, is predicted by 2020. Relevant trends include:

- Shift from poverty to middle-class (1 billion people)
- Increased number of daily meals
- Demand for more milk, eggs and meat

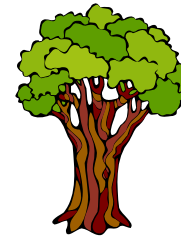
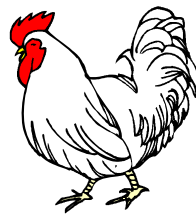
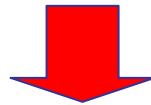
This demand can only be met by intensified animal production, which may lead to increasing threats for animal and public health and the environment.

- VS must have resources to reduce sanitary and environmental risks.

# OIE mandate for standard setting

- WTO SPS Agreement recognises **OIE** as a reference organisation for **international standards** (*3 sisters*) on **animal health** and **zoonosis**

## *International Standard Setting Organisations*





# Purpose of international standards

- Based on science and risk assessment
- OIE democratic and transparent process:
  - acceptance by all OIE Members
- Safe trade, avoiding unjustified barriers, helps countries to access markets;
- Private standards threaten to undermine the SPS disciplines, if they are imposed without negotiation or transparency.

# Coordination of animal health and food safety standards

- OIE and CAC collaborate to produce standards for the whole food production chain, avoiding gaps and duplication;
- At national level, the OIE has established animal production food safety focal points to facilitate coordination between VS and public health agencies, where the VS are not responsible for food safety.

# OIE initiatives for strengthening VS

- The Global Public Good concept
- The Good Governance concept
- The « One World, One Health » concept
- Horizontal and peace time approach
  - It is preferable to plan and organise in peacetime, to be ready to deal with crises when they arise.

# The Global Public Good Concept

Global public goods are goods whose benefits extend to all countries, people and generations.

# The Global Public Good Concept

- The benefits of control and eradication of infectious diseases are international and inter-generational in scope.
- Countries depend on each other
- The failure of one country may endanger the entire planet
- Animal health systems are not a commercial nor a strictly agricultural good

# Good Governance

## Requirements for all countries

Need for appropriate legislation and implementation through national animal health systems providing for:

- Appropriate surveillance, early detection, transparency, notification
- Rapid response to animal disease outbreaks
- Biosecurity measures
- Compensation
- Vaccination when appropriate
- Education and research

# Why do we need animal identification and traceability?



# Benefits of Animal ID &T

- Implemented since ancient times
- Nowadays, needed to support national policies and activities:
  - disease prevention and control
  - including zoonotic diseases
  - certification of exports
  - quality, organoleptic factors and origin of food
  - consumer confidence.
- Increasing pressure to adopt responsible livestock production practices.



# Benefits of Animal ID &T

- Help producers and associated institutions to manage herds/flocks more effectively, including:
  - herd/flock health programmes
  - breeding or genetic improvement programmes
- Support measures to detect and control diseases:
  - surveillance
  - early detection and notification of outbreaks
  - rapid response
  - control of animal movements
  - zoning or compartmentalisation

# Benefits of Animal ID &T: improvement of animal health systems

Control of animal diseases contributes to:

- ✓ Food Security: strong link with Public Health
- ✓ Public Health: zoonoses, food safety
- ✓ Market Access: local, regional and international
- ✓ Poverty Alleviation
  - Securing assets (animal capital)
  - Increasing productivity and food production
- ✓ Animal welfare

# Benefits of product traceability

Supports measures on farm and at processing, transport and retail, to facilitate management of food safety and to prevent food contamination incidents

- Crisis prevention and response
- Health certification
- Maintaining consumer confidence
- Sustainability of livestock production.

# Benefits of product traceability

- In international trade, traceability provides credibility in the provision of health certification and facilitates market access
  - prevent unjustified trade barriers.
- harmonization of national standards based on the OIE and Codex standards helps to avoid discrepancies and is particularly important for developing countries to avoid trade barriers.

# Benefits of product traceability

- In large parts of the world there is a basic need for high value protein and work animals
  - prevention of serious animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases, and food safety.
- In rich countries, consumer interests may include characteristics of food production that are not linked to food safety
  - animal welfare, ethics, origin and environmental issues
- In all countries, accuracy in labeling and prevention of fraud depends upon ID&T.

# Animal identification and traceability: current standards



# 1st OIE International Conference on ID&T

- A forum for discussion of needs and tools at regional and national level;
- Promote key concepts:
  - VS as a Global Public Good
  - One World, One Health
  - Public and private partners
- Dialogue with donors and capacity building organisations that have a commitment to strengthening VS and partners.

# 2009: 1st OIE International Conference on Animal ID & T

## Objectives

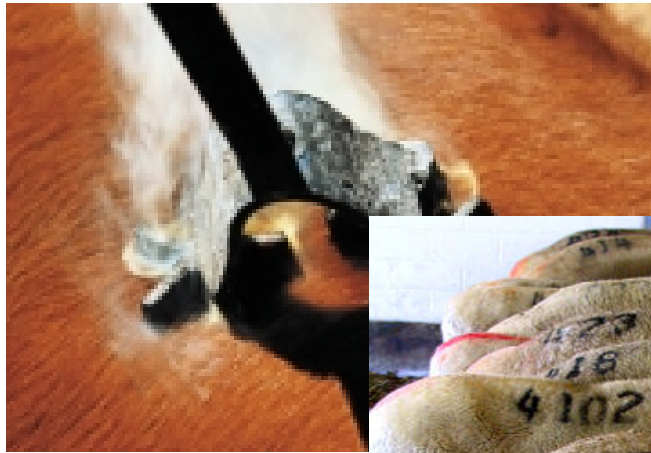
- to inform participants of the importance and benefits of identification and traceability
- to raise awareness of OIE and Codex standards
- to determine future requirements for standards, technologies and for applied research in this field
- to provide advice and assistance in implementing standards, especially for developing countries
- To encourage international capacity building organisations and donors to support countries in their efforts to implement the OIE and Codex standards.



# About the Conference

- About 500 participants, including from international organisations, governmental authorities, the private sector, livestock producers and processors, consumer organisations, research and production groups.
- Speakers represent countries and industries that are leaders in the implementation of ID&T systems as well as representatives of developing countries
- Presentations on all livestock and food production sectors
  - different technologies and tools available
  - developing countries' perspectives on needs and tools
  - responses of international donors and capacity building organisations

# Challenges of implementing standards



# Global commitment to ID & T

- We must have a global commitment to implementing ID&T systems;
  - Cost/benefit must be taken into account in the development and implementation of ID&T systems
  - Poor countries must be given tools and support to implement practical, cost effective systems that meet their needs

# OIE & Codex standards: general principles

- Outcome based, with flexibility in the approach to implementation
- Seamless system that prevents gaps and duplication between standards
- Applicable equally in all situations
- Appropriate for implementation by all Members, according to their socioeconomic circumstances
- In future, need to strengthen bridges between animal ID and product traceability.

# Implementation of OIE standards

- OIE provides advice and encourages Members, especially developing countries, to implement international standards,
- To this end, the OIE works with international capacity building organisations and donors, encouraging them to invest in strengthening VS and infrastructures in developing countries.

# Animal ID &T: future challenges



# Future challenges and needs

- ID&T for poultry and aquatic animals and their products present some technical challenges
  - But these sectors are key suppliers of high value protein
- Biotechnology, somatic cell cloning and DNA technology present both challenges and opportunities.
- The growth of private standards especially challenges developing countries, which may need to meet standards over and above those established by the OIE and Codex.
- Need to strengthen bridges between animal ID (OIE) and product traceability (CAC).

# CONCLUSIONS

ID and Traceability systems are key tools for all countries, rich and poor. They are an essential tool for controlling disease and managing animal production, with the goal of:

- Improving production efficiency
- Avoiding public health risks
- Ensuring food safety and quality
- Building consumer confidence
- Supporting sustainable livestock production.



# CONCLUSIONS

OIE Members and the private sector must be encouraged to implement the ID&T standards in all countries.

Veterinary services and partners in the public and the private sector play a key role.

The OIE should continue working closely with CAC and other organisations towards:

- the conduct of applied research and the development of cheaper and more practical tools, and
- capacity building, including through the activities of OIE Regional Offices.

# CONCLUSIONS

Working with donors and international organisations, the OIE should continue to support Members, particularly developing countries, with a focus on:

- Good governance;
- Modernisation of legislation;
- Veterinary education;
- Delegates and focal points
- Raising awareness of farmers, food industry operators and other stakeholders; and
- Applied research to develop cheaper and better tools.

# Thank you for your attention



Organisation mondiale  
de la santé animale

World Organisation  
for Animal Health

Organización Mundial  
de Sanidad Animal