

## **From regulation to production or from public to private standard**

Himanshu Gupta & [Quincy Lissaur](#)

The Centre for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere Initiative (SSAFE)  
Email: [qlissaur@ssafe-food.org](mailto:qlissaur@ssafe-food.org)

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Ensuring appropriate care and well-being of food producing animals is a basic expectation of consumers across cultures and geographies. Yet different perspectives exist between markets on exact practices needed to ensure the humane treatment of animals. One of the key objectives of SSAFE is to foster the continuous improvement and global acceptance of internationally recognized food protection systems and standards through public-private-partnerships, including the official animal welfare standards established by the implementation World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Until now there was no globally accepted protocol to assist the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards at the production level in a manner that respects production differences while achieving the common welfare goals. Therefore, SSAFE has supported the development of the ISO Technical Specification for Animal Welfare (ISO TS 34700).

The goal of this work has been to help facilitate the implementation of the Animal Welfare principles of the existing OIE code in the private sector by means of a normative document that specifies the requirements for managing animal welfare in the food chain. Compliance to OIE standards will not only help to improve animal welfare globally but will also establish a framework for all scientific outcomes-based animal welfare schemes to fit under, thus eliminating duplication of efforts.

Specifically, ISO TS 34700 describes a management tool that facilitates the implementation of animal welfare principles of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (chapter 7.1). The scope of this ISO document is limited to the topics for which a technical chapter has been adopted in the OIE. Species or sector specific requirements will be addressed once OIE technical chapters for additional species are adopted.

Looking towards the future, there should be a focus on aligning national regulations with OIE's animal welfare principles and standards – including efforts to develop capacity at the local level - so as to enable the implementation of these principles.

Key words: animal welfare standards - food production - implementation of standards - ISO TS 34700 – public - private partnership - SSAFE.