



Animal Health Information System (Development towards a Pan-African Surveillance Information and KM System)

TDY Report Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda & Ghana 11-20 October 2009

Background

The Animal Health Information System Project intends to develop and implement an application to collect field data and provide an information management system to help the Veterinary Services of Ghana, Rwanda, and Uganda better track and report on information regarding animal health and production. The goal is to build upon the applications developed by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Research (AU/IBAR), TAD Info and ARIS respectively, to develop an Open Source application project for deployment in the three target countries written by developers from AVOIR universities.

This TDY had four objectives:

1. Visit AVOIR technical team and leader within Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda & Ghana to address all issues that is hindering payment of monies and installation of v1.1 of Open ARIS (ARIS 2)
2. To meet with AU-IBAR and discuss Open ARIS v1.1 – v2.0 harmonization
3. To meet with Vet. Services in all countries and assist in the establishment of an MOU and between the universities and Vet. Services
4. Discuss data entry and reporting issues with Vet. Services

TDY Participant

Jeff Street, VIA Consulting Group, LLC

Itinerary

Depart: Atlanta, GA (USA) October 11, 2009

Arrive: Nairobi, Kenya October 12, 2009

Depart: Nairobi, Kenya October 13, 2009

Arrive: Kampala, Uganda Oct 13, 2009

Depart: Kampala, Uganda October 15, 2009

Arrive: Kigali, Rwanda Oct 15, 2009

Depart: Kigali, Rwanda October 17, 2009

Arrive: Accra, Ghana Oct 17, 2009

Depart: Accra, Ghana October 19, 2009



Arrive: Atlanta, GA (USA) Oct 20, 2009

Activities

October 13

- My initial meeting was with Dr. Walter Knausenberger of USAID/Kenya. I updated Dr. Knausenberger on the AHIS project and provided a high level overview of the project. He stated that we would be supportive of any future work and would recommend its continuation. He also thought that some previous USAID projects might have some level of intersection:
 - LINKS: Livestock Information Knowledge System, which deals with market data and remote sensor
 - CRSP: Collaboration Resource Support Program, which deals with Livestock Trade Information
 - COMPLETE: Competitive and Trade Expansion
 - RATIN: Regional Agriculture Trade Information Network
 - New Livestock Trade Advisor
- I also meet through Dr. Knausenberger, Jeff Austin (USAID/Kenya, IPC Division) who is responsible for Plant and Test Surveillance. It appears there are a lot of overlaps in the process and reporting needs of Mr. Austin programs.
- After my meeting with Dr. Knausenberger, I meet with Dennis Gitonga of AU-IBAR. We discussed a need to clearly define Open ARIS version 2.0. I recommended that Open ARIS 1.1 be what Ghana has requested and Version 2.0 be what Berhanu has added as requirements. We both agreed that a Core Functionality of Open ARIS (meaning what AU-IBAR will support) and Country Extension needs to be clearly defined as well. Dennis also provided a brief update on working relationship between JKUAT and AU-IBAR. There appears to be a difference of opinion in how work should be accomplished. Dennis and I also discussed the harmonizing of Open ARIS v1.1 and v.2.0. I shared that Change Control needs to be established asap and that since v2.0 was dealing mainly with reference tables and not a lot of data has been entered as of yet, I do not think that it would be very difficult to accomplish the harmonizing of the two versions.
- I meet with the JKUAT team next. The team felt that the scope of work has been changed and what was originally agreed upon prior to Berhanu and Dennis joining is now expanded. I stressed to the team that the client in this project is AU-IBAR, Vets. Services and USAID. The 10 months that they are being paid is to provide services to those clients mentioned above. We did agree that Dr. Waweru and Dr. Bedane would need to discuss any scope change and that a MOU between the two organizations may be appropriate. The JKUAT team was working on the animal, diseases relationship table (also known as the master table); and were scheduled to complete that development within the next 2-3 days.
- In the afternoon I met with Dickens. He said he is pleased with the progress and wanted to know what are the next steps and my involvement in the project. I

shared with him that USAID is committed to the project and we will learn more in the very near future. Dickens did stress that AU-IBAR just completed an Enterprise Wide Strategic plan and that the Open ARIS project has been placed under the Knowledge Management division. AU-IBAR is moving from projects to programs.

- I also met with Dr. Namtima (Uganda) and Dr. Gafarasi (RARDA) while in Kenya. They were attending The SPINAP conference. They are pleased that progress is being made and that USAID has made further investments in adding Dr. Bedane and Dennis to the project. They are concerned about the continuation of the project and the “institutionalizing” of Open ARIS in their respective countries. I shared with them that I was just discussing with AU-IBAR the need to define Open ARIS Core Functionality vs. Country Extension and that perhaps a strategic plan within each country is established to achieve sustainability. We discussed that the establishment of a MOU between the Universities and Vet. Services is a great start. I shared the MOU documentation with all parties involved, including the Universities. Dr. Nantima and Gafarasi are very interested in using the ILRI surveillance kit with Open ARIS.
- Dr. Waweru was not able to attend the meeting but I did speak with him over the phone.

October 14

- Meet with Joseph Sserugga (Uganda Vet. Services), Dr. Jude Lubega and Dickson Muyomba of Makerere University at the Vet. Services office. Dr. Sserugga works for Dr. Nantima. Dickson provided the group an update on the current status of Open ARIS v1.1 in Uganda. They have procured 1 server and six (6) modems. Dickson was initially having challenges installing Chisimba onto the server. The problem was resolved and he proceeded to install Open ARIS. Currently Open ARIS v1.1 is installed. There are few items left to address. Dr. Sserugga was very appreciative of the work in progress but was concerned about the next steps. I shared with him that USAID is having that discussion currently. Dr. Nantima (while in Kenya) and Dr. Sserugga also shared that since Uganda is a decentralized government it would be good if Dr. Sserugga traveled with Dickson. Being a decentralized government means that the district Vet. Officers do not report to the central office. They are employees of the district and therefore the necessary protocol must be established. Dr. Nantima and Sserugga are requesting assistance for Dr. Sserugga to allow him to travel with Dickson.
- While Dickson continued to work on Open ARIS, Dr. Jude, Dr. Sserugga and I traveled to meet with the Director, Dr. William Olaho-Mukani. Dr. Kukani thought that it would be necessary to establish a MOU between Vets. Services Center and each district. He also thought that defining measurements at the Center Level would be helpful. He felt that the Ministry of Local Governments needs to be brought into the picture as we roll out the Open ARIS software. This would be necessary for the “institutionalization” of Open ARIS in Uganda.

October 15

- Meet with David Mukanga of AFENET. David shared that they are currently in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Mali. David does envision Vet. Services working with Public Health specialist and the sharing of data in Uganda and other countries. He is very open to working together. Currently they produce a monthly Public Health report in the local newspaper. He believes something similar could be established with Vet. Services. We discussed how their EPI training and model could be utilized for Vet. Services. . In Nigeria they currently have a staff member (Monica) establishing a curriculum for Vet. Services.
- I also met with Fred Musisi (Vet. Consultant for ILRI). Fred and I discussed the current state of the Surveillance Kit. He is also aware of the interest Uganda and Rwanda to integrate the surveillance kit with Open ARIS.

October 16

- Dennis Gitonga (AU-IBAR) and I meet with Mr Hery Semitende and Aphrodis Bogiruro (Lead IT), and George Kamanzi of RARDA. We discussed in detail RARDA's current process and how Open ARIS would assist the Vet. Services Center. While in the meeting it was brought to my attention that The National University of Rwanda (NUR) did not receive the monies yet from UWC. I returned to the hotel to communicate with UWC and others via email. Today it is confirmed that NUR has the monies and they are proceeding with the installation.
- Felix Akorli was not able to attend the meeting with RARDA, but Felix and I spoke numerous times via cell phone in order to address the monetary issue. Felix has informed RARDA that the monies are at the University and installation will begin asap.

October 19

- Meet with Patrick Kuti, Dr. George Nipah and Dr. Nathaniel Yebuah. Vet. Services is currently having network challenges. Patrick and Dr. Nipah agreed to move the server to The University of Legone until the network issues are resolved. The next steps once the server is up and running is to create individual user accounts for each District Officer and travel to each district to establish ensure each District Officer is well trained and able to use Open ARIS effectively. Dr. Yebuah is also very involved in AFENET, so establishing a relationship between AVOIR, AFENET and Vet. Services are very possible in Ghana. Dr. Yebuah would like the data in TADINFO to be moved into Open ARIS. He is also interested in using Open ARIS in his lectures at the University. Currently he is using TADINFO during his lectures.

Major Accomplishments

5. Visit AVOIR technical team and leader within Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda & Ghana and addressed all issues that were hindering payment of monies and installation of v1.1 of Open ARIS (ARIS 2)
6. Met with AU-IBAR and discuss Open ARIS v1.1 – v2.0 harmonization. Further discussion is necessary.
7. Met with Vet. Services in Ghana, Rwanda and Uganda to begin the process of establishing a MOU and between the Universities and Vet. Services
8. Discuss data entry and reporting issues with Vet. Services.

Recommendations/Next Steps

- Clearly define and document Core Functionality vs. Country Extension.
- Ensure a process and plan is in place to harmonize Open ARIS v1.1 and v.20
- Establish a process to ensure all development efforts are being managed and coordinated to avoid harmonizing issues in the future.
- To engage AFENET (FELTP), in the data quality, data report training and educational (curriculum) needs of Vet. Services in Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya.
- To establish a strategic plan to “institutionalize” Open ARIS within each country.
- To see how ILRI’s surveillance kit can be integrated into Open ARIS.
- Establish MOU between Vet. Services and Districts.



Appendix A- Contact Information

Name: Dennis Gitonga
Organization: AU/IBAR
Position: Technical Support Specialist
Tel: +254203674000
Fax: +254203674341
E-mail: dennis.gitonga@au-ibar.org
Address: Kenindia Business Park Building, Museum Hill, Westlands Road, P.O. Box 30786, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Name: Samuel Onyach
Organization: Jomo Kenyatta University for Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)
Position: Application Developer/ICT Technician
E-mail: onyachsamuel@yahoo.com
Address: On site at AU/IBAR

Name: Issac Oteyo
Organization: JKUAT
Position: Application Developer/ICT Technician
Address: On site at AU/IBAR

Name: Joseph Gatheru
Organization: JKUAT
Position: Application Developer/ICT Technician
Address: On site at AU/IBAR

Name: Dr Waweru Mwangi
Organization: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
Position: Director, Institute of Computer Science and Information Technology
Tel: 254 67-54422
Email: waweru_mwangi@icsit.jkuat.ac.ke
Address: PO Box 62 000, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya

Name: Dr. Dickens Chibeu BVM, MSC
Organization: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
Title: SERECU Coordinator
Tel: +254-20-3674 000
Fax: +254-20-367 43 41
Cell: +254-722-789 125
E-mail: dickens.chibeu@au-ibar.org mdchibeu@yahoo.com
Address: Museum Hill, Westlands Rd. PO Box 30786-00100 Nairobi, Kenya



Name: Dr. Walter Knausenberger
Organization: USAID/Nairobi
Title: Senior Regional Environmental Officer
Tel: +254-20-862-2267
Fax: +254-20-862 2682/3
Cell: +254-0714 606 524
E-mail: wknausenberger@usaid.gov wijknausen@gmail.com
Address: USAID, US Embassy Complex
United Nations Avenue Gigiri
PO Box 629, Village Market 00621
Nairobi, Kenya

Name: Dr. Gafarasi Mapendo
Organization: Rwanda Animal Resource Development Authority (RARDA)
Title: Head of Veterinary Services Unit
E-mail: igafarasi@yahoo.fr
Address: P.O Box 806
Kigali, Rwanda

Name: Dr. Jude T. Lubega
Organization: Makerere University
Title: Ag. Deputy Dean Graduate Studies & Research
Tel: +256-414-540 628
Fax: +256-414-540 620
Cell: +256-774-600 884
E-mail: jlubega@hotmail.com, jlubega@cit.mak.ac.ug
Address: Makerere University
P.O Box 7062
Kampala, Uganda

Name: Dr. William Olaho-Mukani, PhD
Organization: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Directorate
Of Animal Resources
Title: Director Animal Resources
Tel: +256-41-320 825
Fax: +256-41-320 428/614
Cell: +256-772 653 139
E-mail: williamolahomukani@gmail.com
Address: Airport Road



P.O Box 513
Entebbe, Uganda

Name: David Mukanga

Organization: African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)

Position: Executive Director

Tel: 256.417.700650 - 664

Fax: +254203674341

E-mail: dmukanga@afenet.net

Address: Plot 23 Mackenzie Vale, Kololo,
P.O. Box 12874 Kampala, Uganda



Appendix B- Steering Committee Recommendations

ARIS 2 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED ON TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The members of the ARIS 2 Project Steering Committee hereby made the following recommendations:

THE SC RECOMMENDED:

1. That the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ARIS 2 Project Steering Committee be adopted as amended.
2. The extension of the ARIS 2 project for another three months till 31st December 2009 without additional financial resources (no-cost extension), taking into account the delay occasioned by late start up of the project. The SC further recommended that AU-IBAR immediately embarks on an official request for no-cost extension and requests ILRI and USAID to speed up the approval process.
3. That Systems Research and Applications (SRA) should finalize the agreement with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) as soon as possible, mobilize financial resources and commit the university to finalize the development of ARIS 2 by mid-October 2009.
4. That SRA should formalize the duties and responsibilities of universities and national departments of veterinary services (DVS) in pilot countries by producing official documentation such as memorandum of understanding (MOU).
5. The approval of the revised work plan as presented by the project coordinator with minor corrections and additions as suggested during the SC meeting.
6. That the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) should furnish the Knowledge Management products forming part of the Animal Health Knowledge Bank. These products would then be presented to stakeholders for exhaustive discussion.
7. That the Stakeholder's meeting of the ARIS 2 Project takes place from Tuesday, 17th to Wednesday, 18th November 2009.
8. That the next SC meeting be held on Friday, 20th November 2009.