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POULTRY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN EAST, SOUTHERN AND WEST AFRICA

BACKGROUND

Over the last three years, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has implemented a regional program, partnering with Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Makerere University (Uganda), University of Nairobi (Kenya), and the University of Ghana, to implement a university-based model of training and field research projects to prevent avian flu, vaccinate for Newcastle disease and improve poultry health and production. One of the significant developments of this activity was the development of a village poultry health curriculum and a handbook on poultry diseases important in Africa. These two resources have been piloted in East Africa (Kenya and Tanzania) and West Africa (Ghana). The documents have received positive evaluation from the stakeholders calling for them to be taken to the next level to ensure their wide dissemination.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this assistance is to:

- 1) Update and adapt the Poultry Health and Well-being for Development (PHWD) materials as needed;
- 2) Adapt the PHWD curriculum into specific lessons for school-age children;
- 3) Train veterinarians in the diagnosis and treatment of poultry diseases across Africa.

The work in this work plan will be undertaken from November 2009 – September 2010 (Activity schedule attached).

TASKS

The main tasks to be undertaken include:

- **Update and adapt the PHWD materials as needed.**

One update of the curriculum will be carried out by the project core group (see page 3 for a complete listing). The group will meet to review the planned uses of the PHWD materials, identify the updates and adaptations needed. For the delivery of the materials in new areas, partners from the regions will be invited to provide input.

The plan is to bring the design group together at the Center for Community Poultry Health and Production at Sokoine University of Agriculture to review and update the PHWD curriculum materials and handbook in November-December, 2009.

Deliverables:

- I. The PHWD curriculum will be updated with the latest disease information and ready for use in the upcoming trainings.

- **Adapt the PHWD curriculum into specific lessons for school-age children.**

Poultry diseases are not usually treated or managed in free-ranging village chickens (FVRC). Partly, this is due to a lack of expertise (a need addressed in the objective which follows) but partly, this is due to culture. FVRC are a valuable resource but the outcome of disease states are often viewed by their owners as foregone conclusions. The result is that veterinary experts are often not consulted about poultry diseases. We propose to create materials to be used by the PHWD trained veterinarians in their communities with the teachers of school-age children. These materials would be used to train children to explore disease states (getting a diagnosis from a vet, preventing infections, managing poultry diseases including vaccination and treatment options) with the poultry disease expert. This would give our PHWD trainees the opportunity to apply their knowledge and a means to change the health status of poultry in their communities. It will have an additional advantage of giving school children a lesson in animal disease that they can apply in real life.

Based on the PHWD curriculum, lessons in poultry health for teachers to use with school-age children will be developed.

Deliverables:

- I. An age appropriate curriculum for the delivery of poultry health messages to school children. This curriculum will be used in trainings conducted by PHWD-trained veterinarians.

- **Train veterinarians in the diagnosis and treatment of poultry diseases across Africa.**

Using the existing PHWD curriculum and training handbook, post-graduate veterinarians and veterinary students from the respective regions will be trained in poultry disease diagnosis, prevention, and management. This group of trainees will become a resource on poultry disease for their communities.

We will hold three TOT trainings using the PHWD curriculum in East, West and South Africa for veterinarians. Participants will be invited to participate in the training based on their qualifications and their locations in the targeted region.

The trainees will be able to apply for additional funds to work with schools to deliver the poultry health lessons for teachers and school-age children. Based on their proposals, one PHWD trained veterinarian in each area will be provided with funding to work with a school and/or teacher to teach children about poultry health.

Deliverables:

1. Three regional training-of-trainers (TOT) courses using the PHWD curriculum producing 60 – 75 qualified teacher-trainers.
2. Up to 15 teacher training courses delivered by the newly qualified Poultry Health for Development graduates.

STAFFING

The proposed Team Leader is Dr. Carol Cardona of the University of California at Davis' School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Cardona will be assisted by Dr. Peter Msoffe from Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. Regional expertise for the PHWD curriculum refinement will be supplied through short-term technical assistance. Candidates identified for these roles are; Dr. Yaghouba Kane (Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences de Medicine Veterinaire, Senegal), Dr. Denis Byaragaba (Makerere University, Uganda), Dr. Mbutia (University of Nairobi, Kenya), and Dr. Aning (University of Ghana, Legon). As needed, UC-Davis staff will provide additional technical and management oversight of the project. STOP AI Bethesda will provide general supervision of the sub-award.

