



Sheikh Technical
Veterinary School and
Reference Centre

STVS



AFRICAN UNION

**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR
ANIMAL RESOURCES**

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES FOR AFRICA

About AU-IBAR

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). To promote livestock development in Africa, AU-IBAR supports Member States to build human resource capacity at all levels to develop the livestock sector.

Rationale

In Somalia, livestock production, trade and exports represent the most important sources of revenue. However, they have been severely constrained by low human resource capacity comprising of ageing staff who are also isolated from professional development. This notwithstanding, Somalia has to bear with international sanitary constraints (bans) and must face competition within the food sanitary crisis and tougher standards.

It was for this reason that a regional training veterinary school, Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (STVS), was established. The aim is to train a new generation of veterinary personnel on a curriculum that is well-suited to address the specific livestock production issues of the arid and semi-arid lands of the Horn of Africa and support the sustainable development of the livestock industry in the region.

The school is based on the following concept:

- Training a new generation of cadres for Somalia and for the pastoral zones of the Horn of Africa is a necessity.
- Technically qualified professionals to support the Somali export system is more urgent and more beneficial than “white collars”.
- A regional residential training system will allow overcoming of political divisions, provide solutions at regional level and will retain more graduates (hands-on actual issues, less expatriation).
- A specific curriculum is needed to address the specific Somali pastoral production and export-oriented system.
- Today, no medical or veterinary training institution is able to provide up to standard services without ambitious technical plateaux (high standard laboratories and personnel, up-to-date information system and innovative training methodology).

The school which is currently under a project phase (Phase III) is being implemented by AU-IBAR, Terra Nuova and Makerere

“
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 ”

University with financial support from European Union (EU), Danish Embassy and Italian Cooperation.

STVS Units

The school is currently offering the following courses:

- Diploma in Livestock Health Sciences (DLH)
- Diploma in Livestock Product Safety and Quality Control (DLQ)
- Short term course on recognition of Transboundary Animal Diseases
- Short term course on Basic Laboratory Diagnostic Techniques for Field Veterinarians
- Short term course on Dairy Product Hygiene
- Short term course on ELISA Techniques
- Short term course on Geographic Information System (GIS)

The Reference Centre provides the following services:

- Acts as an information node (partnership with IGAD/LPI).
- Acts as a resource centre (library with repository of documents and e-resources).
- Acts as a research centre on pastoral livestock systems.
- Provides laboratory and clinical services.
- Offers distance education (certificates).
- Offers short term training (continuous professional development).
- Offers outreach services (vaccination, treatment, disease investigation and control, cross-cutting issues affecting pastoral production systems).

Academic partners

Makerere University (FVM), University of Bologna (FMV), University of Nairobi (FVM), University of Addis Ababa (FVM), University of Hargeisa, University of Burao, Ahmoud University and Kenya Meat Training Institute.

Achievements

- Recruitment and training of tutors; Ph D: 3; Master Degree: 8; B Sc: 4; Diploma: 4.
- Development and continuous review of 3-year curriculum in Livestock Health Sciences and Livestock Products Safety and Quality Control using a student-centred methodology.
- Constructed and equipped training facilities including laboratories and student hostels.
- A total of 35 students have graduated with various Diplomas in Livestock Health Sciences and, Livestock Product Safety and Quality Control. There are 68 on-going students (14 being girls).
- Eighty two (82) participants have attended various short-term training courses.

Goal Improve livelihoods of Somali people by reducing food insecurity, improving access to veterinary education in the marginalised pastoral areas and promoting economic growth

Objective To develop the regional status of the regional veterinary training system and reference centre

Main Expected Results

- STVS is recognised as a regional veterinary training system and reference centre.
- Reinforce and make visible a Reference Centre, operating as a timely information provider, a short-term training and distance learning centre for livestock professionals.
- A sustainable strategic development plan is operational by September 2009.

Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Sudan

Project geographical coverage.

Since 2002, three phases

Project implementation period.

Beneficiaries

Students, livestock keepers, veterinary authorities, public and private veterinarians, livestock traders, authorities and municipalities.

Stakeholders

Veterinary authorities in the greater Horn of Africa, EU, Danish embassy, livestock keepers.

6.5 million euros

Amount in the Financing Agreement.

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Implementing partners:



Financial support:

