
Development, conclusions and recommendations of Session 3: "Identification and traceability of live animals - linkages with animal health, livestock production and breeding"

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Animal identification and traceability (AIT) serve several purposes that need to be taken into account when developing an animal identification and traceability approach. This multipurpose approach can be materialized by an integrated system or by ensuring linkages between different specific systems. The presentations explored potential benefits of these linkages. The objective of the discussion session was to assess the linkages between existing systems and databases in Latin American and the Caribbean countries and make recommendation on how to ensure the interoperability between them.

The presentations explored a wide range of existing or potential linkages worldwide, and specifically in Latin America, between animal identification and several livestock applications and activities, such as farm management, animal production performance, breeding value estimation for selection purpose, animal health and disease surveillance, animal movement monitoring, tissue sample analysis for veterinary, product quality or genomic purposes.

Some presentations put emphasis on the fact that animal recording and linkages with other livestock activities will not decrease but will rather increase, within and between countries. They showed also that there is a demand for a more uniform animal identification between countries to facilitate the international trade.

Several definitions for traceability were given. The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) defines the traceability as the aptitude to find the history, the use or the localization of an entity by means of recorded identifications. This definition distinguishes between "traceability" and "identification", which is a mean not only for traceability but also for other types of animal recording.

The advantages of using a unique, shared, life time animal identification, in comparison with the use of several different animal identification systems, implemented for specific particular purposes such as animal health, breeding, etc., were emphasized directly or indirectly. The presentations showed how a unique, lifetime and shared animal identification is a prerequisite for:

- Multipurpose animal databases including different types of information: traceability, yield records, miscellaneous veterinary treatments, etc.

Session content
