The role of Article X in supporting the efforts to secure animal and plant health: FAO

David Nowell
IPPC Secretariat
Rome
Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization

Agriculture organization

- **reduced hunger**
- **improve food security**

Component: Food safety, animal and plant health.

Intentional release or biological warfare operationally no different from normal epidemics or plagues

- **essentially have the same institutional and operational processes to detect, respond and manage**

A number of relevant treaties, protocols, conventions, code of conduct, ...

Communication

Terminology

- **common words, different meanings**
- **misunderstandings**
- **confusion**

2 examples

- **biosecurity, biosafety**

Feedback on importance of bioweapons

Primary sectors

Food safety

- **Codex Alimentarius / WHO**

Animal health

- **FAO / OIE / WHO**
- **zoonotic diseases**
- **capacity building**

Plant health

- **IPPC**

Many additional international partners e.g.

- **National and international aid agencies**
- **WTO (SPS Agreement), CBD (UNEP), WB, GEF**

Animal Health

OIE is an important partner

Zoonotic disease responsibility / focus

Capacity building

- **normative frameworks**
- **surveillance, monitoring, diagnostics, analysis**
- **reporting / communication**
- **emergency response**
- **rehabilitation**

Future

Ebola and CCHF, Hantavirus, Lassa fever, Monkeypox, Nipah Hendra, NV-CJD, Rift Valley Fever, SARS CoV, VEE, Yellow fever, West Nile

FMD, Rinderpest

Unknown

Built a global system based on H5N1

- **well funded**
- **broad-base support and cooperation**

Rel. small # of hosts (wildlife rel. new)

Rel. small # of diseases (allows focus)

Plant Health

Number of broad but related areas

- Transboundary pests (EMPRES – locusts)
- pesticides (MRLs, Rotterdam Convention & obsolete pesticides)
- IPM (sustainable systems and biocontrol)

IPPC (transboundary movement)

- 1952 & revised 1979, 1997
- 171 contracting parties
- def. of pests
- scope (environment)

Plant Health Capacity building

Institutionalization

- framework (commitment and legislative)
- resources
- facilities
- cooperation of all stakeholders

Technical assistance

Plant Health Capacity building

ISPMs

- pest risk analysis (PRA): pathways & commodities
- surveillance
- diagnostics
- treatments
- certification
- reporting, including global information exchange
- non-compliance
- emergency response / contingency planning

Dispute settlement

Plant Health Capacity building

Regional centres of "excellence"

- **coordination of all plant health issues**
- **training**
- **share technical expertise**
- **shared resources**
- **strategic planning & regional priorities**
- **coordinated implementation of projects**

Challenges

Large number of hosts

Very large number of pests

Rel. environmentally sensitive

Rel. strong varietal variation (environ. & expression)

Staple foods not central to all countries economies

No such thing as a global plant pest list

- **very artificial & favours developed / export economies**
- **minor pests have greater impact in many small countries (e.g. SIDS) than major pests of staple crops**

Plant Health Resources

Basic framework & some capacity is in place but "desperately" short of resources

- **no direct affect on human health**

AI: USD 264 million

Locusts: 2003 – 05 about USD 300 million (not all through FAO)

All other plant health together (FAO): USD 2 million

Potential impacts

Human health not directly affected

- **major indirect effects: food security, family income & hunger, enviroment**

Impact of new pests:

- **RIFA: USD150 million (8yrs), another USD 110 million (5yrs)? Potential loss was estimated at USD 4.5 billion over 30 yrs**
- **Papaya FF eradication: USD 80 million & 5 years**

Long term effects & enormous management costs or impacts

Environmental sabotage

Impact of plant health CB

Desert locust in Africa

1985-6 plague cost USD 900 million to control (today's value)

North/western region: little capacity building until 2001

East/central region: USD 12 m over 10 years in CB

2003-05 plague

- **North/western region** **USD270 m + USD 120 m in food aid**
- **East/central region** **USD 7 million**

2007 Yemen: worst outbreak = 4 months to control

Lessons learnt

Highly cost effective to build capacity *before* anything happens

Donors support wanes drastically after 5 – 10 years when it is needed most

- **AI is now going to enter this phase ..... but H1N1**

Emergency response is good for donors and get good PR

- **not seen sustainability yet**
- **sustainable rehabilitation key (overlap & expansion to other key diseases)**

Expand and build on existing systems

- **cross sector e.g. ministries & industry**

Residual problems e.g. obsolete pesticides

CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR THE FOOD CHAIN

	Animal Health	Plant Protection	Food Safety
Intelligence & coordination	**Risk analysis, intelligence, advocacy Longer-term and global risk analysis along the food chain Coordination**		
Prevention & early warning	**EMPRES animal health**	**EMPRES plant protection**	EMPRES food safety
Response	**Animal Health** (ECTAD)	**Plant Protection**	**Food safety**

FAO focus

Reform: high impact areas

- **animal health, food safety and plant health key**

Work within existing frameworks / structures / projects

Far greater cooperation needed

Less focus on short-term gains and PR

- **have to address fundamentals in order to be able to implement Article X**
- **continuous low level preparedness**

Existing & ongoing challenges are preparing us for an eventual biological attack or deliberate release

Future

Bioweapons

- **what is real? Bandwagons.**
- **perceived reduced credibility**
- **research and defense driven?**

Communication

- **build on what you have**

Increased variables e.g.

- **Development funding, Climate change, Population expansion, Conflicts, Water shortage, Biofuels**

Developed vs developing economy needs

- **systems that security community can enhance**