

July 13th, 2020

Response to Covid 19, For concerted action within the framework of the "One Health" approach

Contribution of ENSV-FVI to the actions envisaged

Almost all the countries of the world are today facing a pandemic linked to the spread of the SARS-CoV2, which has already caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and which, with the containment measures decided by governments to protect the populations, doubles the health crisis with an economic, food and social crisis of which we do not yet measure the extent. This pandemic is a direct result of the impact of human activities on human and animal health, ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity.

1 - « One Health », Global Health

The health of all human, animal or plant living beings is interdependent on the health of their ecosystem: this observation defines the concept of "One Health", which recommends that health assistance programs relating to human health should no longer be separated from those concerning animal and environmental health, the three being intrinsically linked.

The OIE, in a report published in 2019, reminds that "3/4 of the emerging infectious diseases that have recently affected humans are of animal origin". It also underlines that the veterinary services, on the front line for combating diseases, suffer from a chronic lack of resources, a factor considerably aggravating in many countries, therefore becoming both victims and vectors of epidemics.

<https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/onehealth/>

Only the integrated "One Health" approach can improve **overall resilience to endemic or emerging diseases** - including Covid 19 - and protect local human and animal populations, thereby ensuring sustainable economic stability on a global scale. This multidisciplinary approach will make it possible to deal with the complexity of living beings and the dynamics of evolution and interaction between species in an increasingly globalized world, and thus to detect, treat and effectively prevent the outbreak of epidemics of animal origin, by questioning in a multisectoral way the mechanisms of surveillance, risk assessment and prevention of health hazards.

2 - In response, the concerted actions proposed by ENSV-FVI

Given the vulnerability of the food and health systems, particularly in Africa, France, via AFD, launched the “Covid 19 - Common Health” action, endowed with € 1.2 billion, to contribute to strengthen epidemiological surveillance, diagnostic and emergency management capacities in order to support actors involved in this fight. Other donors, public or private, national or international, are in the same process of reallocating cooperation funding.

The actions proposed by the ENSV-FVI respond to this approach:

To address not only the consequences, but also the causes of the emergence and spread of epidemics, ENSV-FVI, whose core business is expertise and training in veterinary public health, can be a privileged partner for collaborative and concerted actions. ENSV-FVI indeed offers:

- Its expertise in monitoring and management of health crises, thanks to its network of experts in animal health (epidemiologists, health crisis managers, etc.) and food safety;
- Its expertise in terms of national and international training: OIE collaborating center for the initial and continuing training of official veterinarians, ENSV-FVI organizes training for veterinary public health inspectors, diploma training in veterinary public health and in public policies integrating the contribution of the social sciences, on-demand training and international cooperation actions (training of official veterinarians from France’s partner States, etc.);
- • Its “One Health” approach, which has been integrated for several years into the training curriculum of ENSV and proposed in 2020 as an establishment diploma (DE) “One Health in practice”. Model of concerted action and integration of the field of animal health in public health actions, the “One Health” approach implies the continuous improvement of the skills of the first actors involved, including veterinary services, with the aim of strengthening epidemiosurveillance networks, developing biosecurity and prevention of sanitary risks, while integrating a broader understanding of Human-Animal-Environment interfaces. The creation of this DE is a concrete implementation of interdisciplinarity and makes it possible to go beyond professional and sectoral logics.

This approach is fully in line with the Vetagro Sup's "Global Health" project, of which ENSV-FVI is a part.

FVI, recently merged with ENSV within VetAgro Sup, will be able, upon request, to bring its expertise and its network to the implementation of cooperative actions on all the fore-mentioned issues, whether they are related to identification of actors in the field, public and private, strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and prevention capacities, improvement of response to emergencies, risk analysis, etc.

Contact us: fvi@vetagro-sup.fr