

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

**REGIONAL 'LABNET 2010' WORKSHOP
Suva, Fiji, 1st to 4th November 2010**

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBER STATES

1. Laboratory Strengthening Initiatives

- Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture in each country to complete their human and animal health laboratory policies
- Ministry of Health in each country to document which of the regional standards it intends to implement in the next 2 years.
- Laboratory management to apply for funding through known providers (NZAID, WHO, AUSAID, USAID or Ministries of Health) for training programmes in the form of short-term, in-country on site courses or short-term attachments.
- Countries seeking to implement the Twinning Approach to request technical assistance for this purpose.

2. Inventory and Procurement

- The Laboratory Manager or Biologist is responsible for the procurement of all laboratory supplies or consumables. In countries where a committee is responsible for procurement, the laboratory will always be represented on this committee.
- Ministry of Health to ensure that funds for consumables and supplies are allocated within health budgets beyond the implementation period of any new project if the services are to be continued.

3. Animal health and human health collaboration

- Animal health and Human health laboratories to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the following options for gaining access to animal testing:
 - (i) Collaboration between animal health and human health with consideration of facilities, laboratory standards, human and financial resources, need for agreement from 2 ministries, sharing of consumables.
 - (ii) Establishment of systems for referring samples to animal health laboratories. These laboratories could be in other PICTs, Australia or New Zealand.
 - (iii) PPHSN LabNet Technical Working Body (LTWB) will progress the discussion around ensuring greater collaboration between animal health & human health before the next LabNet meeting in 2012 with the view to human health labs making more concrete their offering to animal health labs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPC AND PPHSN ALLIED PARTNERS

1. LabNet Technical Working Body (LTWB) to be revived and meet twice per year with revised Terms of References.
2. LTWB to ensure that animal health interests are taken into account, especially in LTWB TOR.
3. TWB to develop an action plan for laboratory strengthening for PICTs by March 2011, including consideration of the potential roles of FSMed in the project.
4. LTWB to progress the accreditation of the PPTC POHLN course by FSMed.

5. SPC to develop a regional or sub-regional, centralized procurement and stockpiling system of lab supplies/consumables needed during an outbreak by March 2011. List of items will be notified to countries once developed by LTWB.
6. For smaller PICTs where individual procurement is not cost effective, it is recommended that lab managers in smaller and larger PICTs collaborate to facilitate centralized procurement and stockpiling of specified laboratory supplies/consumables.
7. LTWB to ensure consistent training particularly in reference to voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) and results delivery, introduction of new technologies and surveillance monitoring.
8. Partners will advocate to Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture to ensure appropriate selection of participants for training so that effective implementation and application of the learning are assured.
9. LTWB to include FSMed and other training institutions in LabNet communications to ensure regional alignment in training.
10. Proposed next LabNet meeting in 2012.