

Foreword

Tanzania Veterinary Association, hereby commonly referred to as TVA has been organising scientific conferences on annual basis ever since 1983. The three-day and theme-guided annual scientific conferences often provide unique opportunities for professionals to be updated about scientific or technological advancements; able to share experiences and make useful recommendations to the ministry and stakeholders.

Of recent, TVA has recognized the unique importance of One Health (OH) approaches in surveillance and mitigation of public health risks, notably infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. OH approaches are premised on the fact that between 60-80% of public health risks have sources in animals. Other public health risks emanate from foods of crop origin and poor agricultural husbandry practices. Environmental pollution is also key to human health and broadly ecosystem health. These inter-linkages thereby call for close collaboration between human, animal, plant and environmental health systems in safeguarding the health of mankind and the ecosystem.

Cognisant of the progress made in Tanzania in reference to spearheading coordination of multi-sectoral collaboration, notably the formation of the National One Health Platform and the One Health Coordination Desk (OHCD) in the Office of the Prime Minister and, their operations being guided by the National One Health Strategic Plan of 2015-2020. TVA has partnered with OHCD to organize the first One Health Conference. The conference is envisaged to serve as a springboard for taking aboard professionals in the animal industry and deepening their understanding.

The TVA family and OH-minded stakeholders are therefore grateful to the generous financial support extended by our stake holders towards this conference. Appreciably, this builds on the previous support of WHO, USAID and FAO in the progress made in reference to OH capacities in Tanzania. We are also very grateful to One Health Consortia/projects notably SACIDS-ACE, Afrique One, OHCEA, CYST-NET, AFYADATA and partners in the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders in supporting the conference.

It is therefore envisaged that, through this conference, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) will build coherent capacities in different focus areas including disease surveillance, coordinated control of infectious diseases through strategic vaccination programmes, and safe use of veterinary drugs. On the other hand, veterinary professionals are expected to realize the value of working closely with experts in other health systems and share resources, notably information and surveillance materials and therefore being a party to strategic and innovative embracement of OH approaches in health systems. The overall idea is to see to it that Tanzania is able to safeguard human and ecosystem health in line with the requirements of the Global Health Security Agenda of 2012 and the International Health Regulations of 2015.

Let us play our part.

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