EU experience in capacity building on animal welfare

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Workshop on educational strategies to promote animal welfare concepts and practices

Jaboticabal, 2 June 2010
Historical background on the development of EU policies on AW

- First EU AW legislation adopted in 1974
- **EC Treaty Protocol** enters into force 1999: pay “full regard” to the welfare of animals as “sentient beings”
- **White Paper on Food Safety**: full integration of AW into EU food chain policy, “farm to fork approach”
- The critical link between animal welfare, animal health and food safety has been widely assessed.
- CAP reforms: “cross compliance” and “meeting standards” principles
- **OIE guidelines 2005**
- The **Community Action Plan** on the protection and welfare of animals 2006-2010
- The New **Animal Health Strategy** (2007-2013)-“Prevention is better then cure”
- **Lisbon Treaty**: legal qualification of animals as sentient beings
Article 13

“In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the requirements of animal welfare, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.”
The multiple dimensions of Animal Welfare: an old story and a new discipline

“Animal welfare is complex, multi-faceted public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions”
30 years of legislative initiatives

1974/1993  Stunning and Killing
1977/1995  Transport protection Transport time limit and densities
1988    Laying Hens
1991    Calves – Pigs protection
1998    General Farm animal protection
1999    Protocol on protection and welfare of animals
1999    Ban on conventional cages for laying hens
2001    Grouping of pregnant sows
2005    Council Regulation 1/2005 on animal transport
2005    Proposal on broiler chickens
2006    Community Action Plan
2007    Ban on trade in cat and dog fur
2008    Proposal on the protection of animals at the time of killing
2009    Council Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing
2009    Regulation on trade in seals products

1. Upgrading existing minimum standards for animal protection and welfare

2. Giving a high priority to promoting policy-orientated future research

3. Introducing standardised Animal welfare indicators

4. Education and knowledge transfer for all involved and for the general public

5. Continue to support and initiate further international initiatives to raise awareness and create a greater consensus on animal welfare
Working towards global animal welfare awareness

- To deliver quality in animal production while respecting good health and welfare of the animals
- It requires for producers and farmers a high level of management skills, technical knowledge
- ... but at the same time the capacity to appreciate and understand the ethical value of animal welfare
- Information of consumers to give preference to sustainable products
Main aspects integrated in Animal Welfare

1. The animal
2. Technology, research and innovation
3. Society: duty of care
4. Policy support: capacity building
3. AW indicators—Outcome based approach

Equivalent outcomes rather than identical systems are the bases for comparison of AW standards (World Organisation for Animal Health).
4. Increase communication and transparency

- Better Training for Safer Food
- Farmland (children 9/12 years old) http://www.farmland-thegame.eu/
- Targeted events to improve the enforcement and international conferences http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/seminars/index_en.htm
- TAIEX Events-Middle East
- Workshop on pig castration, Brussels, 2 June 2010
Better Training for Improved Animal Welfare

- Address animal welfare with a multidisciplinary approach involving all professionals to understand the principles at the basis of EU legislation and its implementation.
- High level of participation from non-EU countries.
- In the international context, reaching a shared understanding and awareness of animal welfare principles and standards with countries trading with the EU.
- Over 750 officials trained.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm
Animal welfare (2009-10)
- 3 workshops on animal welfare concerning stunning and killing of animals at slaughter and for disease control
- Each stunning and killing workshop dedicated to a specific species
- 3 workshops on animal welfare during transport and related operations
- 60 participants per workshop

Animal welfare (2011-2012)
- Workshops on the welfare of poultry and pigs on the farm
- Workshop on animal welfare concerning stunning and killing of animals at slaughter and for disease control

FUTURE
- E-learning
Better Training for Improved Animal Welfare in 2010

- Workshop on AW during killing for disease control purposes, 8-11 June 2010, Ascoli Piceno, Italy
- Workshop on AW at religious slaughter, 5-8 October 2010, Istanbul, Turkey
- Workshop on AW at slaughter in Canada, 23-25 November 2010
- Workshop on animal welfare, Shanghai, 8 June 2010
“Farmland”
The European Children’s Website on Animal Welfare

“Respect, health and quality make for a happy farm!”

- Based on the 5 freedoms
- Inform children as citizens of tomorrow of the origin of food and raise awareness about how animals should be treated

www.farmland-thegame.eu
Objectives:

- The key aims are to give citizens more information about educational tools and programs on animal welfare, and to raise awareness about how important it is to educate citizens, farmers, professional animal carers, handlers, slaughterhouse operators, retailers and other stakeholders about how animals should be treated.

- The conference will also help create a network at European and international level between educational institutions that are active in animal welfare, and to develop a harmonised concept of animal welfare education that everyone involved can use.

- Prize awarding ceremony concluding the animal welfare drawing contest for children – organised during the second day of the conference
The international dimension
Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

“...need to promote scientific research, capacity building, education and communication in the animal welfare area...”.
“The treatment of animals is influenced by beliefs and values, which vary from culture to culture, regarding the nature of animals and their moral significance”

“Although animal welfare problems are extremely diverse, several problems stand out as high priority across many regions……These are: transportation, slaughter (including pre-slaughter management),….handling/herding methods”

FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare

5. The international scene

- World Animal Health Organisation OIE: first international standards – **Regional implementation strategies** under development
- Council of Europe
- **FAO** – Capacity Building Initiatives
- **Bilateral agreements** and cooperation initiatives (Chile, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.)
- First Global Conference on Trade and AW
- International Dairy Federation – Animal Welfare Seminar
- Cooperation with **OIE, FAO, World Bank, WHO** and continuous dialogue with **global retailers** and **NGOs**
Sustainable production: Towards a « new thinking »

- **Human-animal relationship** values associated with food demand and **consumers expectation**
- Opportunity for a **transparent information** from farmers to consumers
- **International partnership** and **collaboration** between farmers, veterinarians and international organisations backed-up by science
To implement animal welfare

New **science**

Understanding of standards

**Communication, Information and Awareness raising**

**Capacity Building**

**Regional cooperation and constructive dialogue**
The value of animals