

Namibia exploring options to become self-reliant in Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine

17-18 May, Windhoek: The occurrence of animal diseases and their control poses significant challenges for Namibia's State Veterinary Services and entails substantial socio-economic costs, especially in the context of poverty alleviation and development objectives. In particular, the occurrence of trade sensitive diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have had extensive socio-economic impacts which have attracted significant and costly control efforts with varying results.



Despite routine vaccination, there have been seven outbreaks in the infected zones between 2002 and 2015. On that basis, and given the high costs of vaccines and the dependency on the sole manufacturer of FMD vaccine in SADC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), with technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a feasibility study from December 2017 – May 2018 on the possibility of FMD vaccine production in Namibia. A two-day consultative workshop was held from 17 - 18 May 2018 with industry stakeholders, to discuss key findings and deliberate on the road map.

This technical assistance is aligned to SDG 12 - “**Responsible consumption and production is dedicated to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**”, and is considered one of the most ambitious SDGs. In line with its corporate objectives, FAO promotes best practices aimed at making animal production efficient and sustainable while promoting good public health and ensuring safe trade. As such, FAO devotes attention to improving farm level hygiene and vaccinations to protect animals against diseases of economic importance while contributing to improved food and nutrition security.