

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

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) received technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of FMD vaccine production in Namibia. A two-day stakeholders' consultative workshop was held on 17 & 18 May 2018 to discuss key findings and deliberate on the road map leading to vaccine production in Namibia

This intervention is in line with SDG 12, "Responsible consumption and production is dedicated to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns". FAO promotes best practices aimed at making animal production efficient and sustainable while protecting public health and ensuring safe trade.

