

Endemic Disease Control – Whose Job is it?



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Introduction

- Endemic diseases are a major constraint to animal health, livestock production, and the rural economy
- Animal health sector deregulation in 1970s, leading to reduction in public sector role in veterinary services
- Increased healthcare provision by the private sector and by farmers themselves
- Good understanding of current roles of various stakeholders required to develop effective disease control strategies and maximise uptake of these research outputs within the livestock industry

Study Design

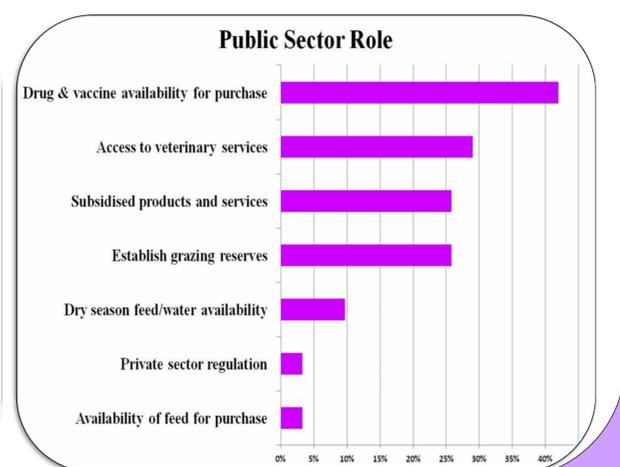
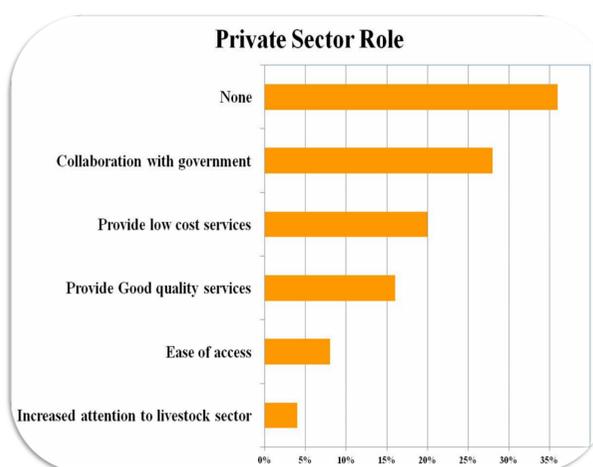
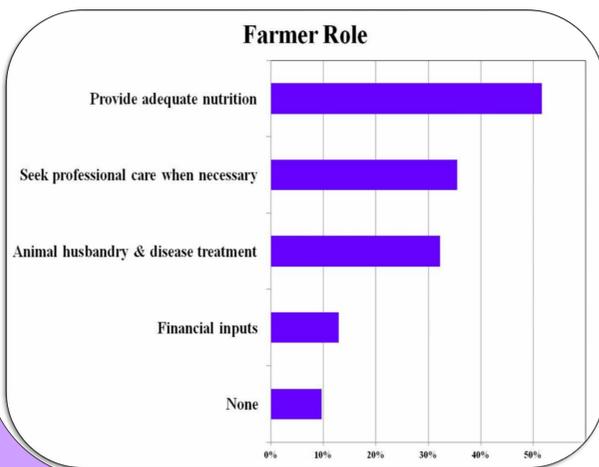
- Fulani pastoral livestock farmers in 6 villages on Jos Plateau, Nigeria interviewed to determine :
 - access to veterinary services & quality of available services (worst: 1, best: 5)
 - Perception of the roles of farmers, public sector and private sector in veterinary healthcare and endemic disease control
 - Public and private sector health care providers also interviewed
 - Part of larger study on community based control of trypanosomiasis and tick-borne diseases of cattle

Veterinary Professional Perceptions

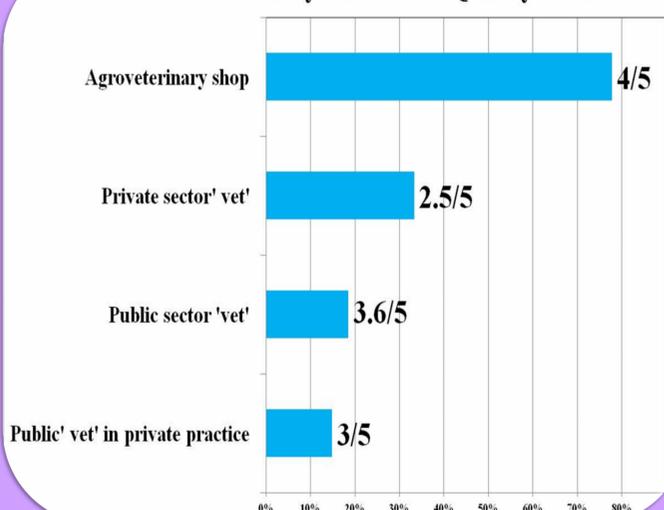
- 80% providers feel they are unable to adequately provide the required services
- Constraints include funding, equipment, poor access to livestock farmers, resistance from farmers, gaps in and poor enforcement and implementation of existing policy and legislation
- Variable sense of obligation to provide services to the public

Farmer Perceptions

- 100% respondents prefer professional veterinary services but 88% treat livestock themselves
- Only 12% use professionals due to high cost and poor access to veterinary services



Available Veterinary Services & Quality Score



Conclusion

- Strong perception that government is mostly responsible for endemic disease control four decades after deregulation of sector
- Do not see private sector as an important part of livestock sector
- Farmers feel responsible for animal husbandry, nutrition and disease control but this is limited to seeking assistance from the appropriate government body and does not include financial input
- Access to veterinary healthcare is poor, with Agroveterinary shops the most accessible source
- There are gaps in veterinary healthcare provision due to lack of interest/investment in the private sector, poor funding of the public sector and poor implementation and enforcement of animal health policy and legislation

Acknowledgements

