

Notes to the first Poultry Associations of Africa Conference (PAAC) Meeting

The PAAC meeting was held on Friday the 6th of October 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda. In light of the fact that National poultry associations across the continent have an important role to play in the development of poultry sectors at national and regional level. Strong, dynamic, resourceful and efficient national poultry associations would contribute significantly to continued growth of poultry sector in Africa.

We invited the chairpersons and executives of national poultry associations i.e. from producers, breeders, feed manufacturers as well as some policy makers from the public sector. The objective of this meeting was to discuss possible synergies for working together. The following 4 questions were discussed:

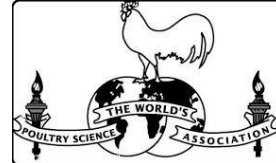
1. What is the role of a poultry sector association at a national and regional level?
2. How can poultry associations compliment government and policy makers to develop the poultry sector?
3. What is the recipe for a strong, efficient and influential poultry association?

In attendance during the meeting

No.	Name	Association
1.	Mr. Kevin Lovell	South African Poultry Association (SAPA)
2.	Mr. Jean Claude Ruzibiza	Rwanda Poultry Industry Association (RPIA)
3.	Dr. Octave Semwaga	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources Rwanda
4.	Mr. Genene Tesfaye Ashami	Ethiopia Poultry Producers and Processors Association (EPPPA)
5.	Mr. Samson Wossen	Ethiopia Poultry Producers and Processors Association (EPPPA)
6.	Mr. Demeke Wondmagegn	Ethiopia Poultry Producers and Processors Association (EPPPA)
7.	Mr. Ruwan Berculo	Dutch Poultry Centre (DPC)
8.	Mr. Piet Simons	Dutch poultry Centre (DPC)
9.	Mr. Roel Mulder	WPSA
10.	Mrs. Hilde Duns	NABC
11.	Mr. Mackenzie Masaki	NABC

Notes from the discussions:

1. EPPA opened the meeting by presenting the Ethiopian poultry industry. With reference to the role of government for poultry development the Min. of Livestock and Fisheries which is also responsible for poultry is charged with both regulation and enforcement.
2. EPPA's mandate/ responsibility is advocacy, networking and capacity building for its members. The chairman mentioned availability of inputs for feed production, the cost of feed and the availability of DoC as their biggest challenges.



3. Dr. Semwaga of Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources discussed the government's role in poultry sector development. This included:
 - a. Facilitating private investments in the sector;
 - b. Regulation (setting the standards) and enforcing these standards; and
 - c. Facilitating capacity building, research and extension.
4. In the case of Rwanda the government has also supported land consolidation efforts to ensure farmers have economically viable sizes of farm land on which to farm. Land is also zoned to ensure that farm land is not encroached upon.
5. With reference to the discussion on supply of inputs for feed, Rwanda has been food secure since 2007. As such the discussion on feed vs food is less of an issue and as such government hopes to eventually be able to produce enough inputs for feed manufacturing.
6. DPC then gave a presentation on the development of the Dutch poultry sector and the role that the poultry associations played.
7. All present agreed to the fact that strong functional poultry associations working in synergy across borders will only serve to grow and develop the sector further. An example of the Poultry Producers Forum (PPF) was shared. This forum which is pan African meets twice a year. It is convened by the South African Poultry Association, however SAPA does not chair any of the sessions. They use this platform to: share information at different levels, regulation, disease control, best practice etc. It is a loosely formed organization and participation is not compulsory.
8. As follow up to the meeting held the following suggestions were made:
 - a. There should be a regional platform for poultry associations that would facilitate better collaboration between the various associations;
 - b. This platform should be open for the chairs and executive directors of poultry associations i.e. producers, breeders and feed manufacturers. This platform should also be opened to the related sector ministries (i.e. agriculture ministry's responsible for livestock). It will however be exclusively for the poultry sector;
 - c. To start this platform should be regional i.e. East Africa which is defined as Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. It should ideally first be loosely defined and free to encourage participation;
 - d. It was suggested that NABC acts initially as the convenor and point of contact. The International Feed Industry Federation was also proposed as a possible facilitator (financial support) for the meetings. The suggestion was to meet twice a year to begin with, the convenor will ensure there is an agenda and follow up to the discussions following each meeting; and
 - e. The following themes were put forward as possible areas for focus for a regional agenda using the platform as a catalyst to ensure these themes are addressed at national and regional level;
 - i. Development of a robust practical poultry **training curriculum** that is recognised as a mark of excellence regionally by all stakeholders;



- ii. Develop a network of regional practical poultry **training centres** that offer standardized practical poultry training to qualified students, these centres should be vetted and eventually recognised by all sector players;
 - iii. **Defining quality standards** for ease of regulation and enforcement. Aligning these definitions of standards at a regional level to avoid unfair competition;
 - iv. Improving the **linkage between tertiary education institutes and the private sector** e.g. through linkages with practical poultry training centres, improving the quality of extension services, offering internship positions, and/ or development of demonstration sites; and
 - v. **Economic benchmarking** across the region to demonstrate the importance of the poultry sector to regional economic and growth agenda. In addition to this to inform policy makers on the significance of the sector for development.
9. The next step following this meeting is that NABC will share the minutes of the meeting with all the invited guests (List in the annex). In addition NABC will develop a short concept note that would define the context and format for the platform mentioned in item 8 above. This will then be circulated amongst the various stakeholders. It will also be used to identify and approach a facilitator who would support the setting up of the regional poultry platform. We propose to organise the next meeting between the 20th and 22nd of June 2018 alongside ViV EU event of 2018 in the Netherlands, before then we will communicate the context, form and agenda for the platform.