



# Community Managed Preventive Health Care Services for Livestock in Watershed Development Program

## First Steps

### PROCESS BRIEF

**T**his brief outlines the initial experience of streamlining Vaccination services for Livestock in the Indo German Watershed Development Program (IGWDP)-AP / WDF watersheds in Adilabad district in convergence with the Department of Animal Husbandry. This experience has substantially demonstrated that the CBOs in the watershed development program can provide necessary anchorage for the sustainability of such initiatives. This brief also outlines the processes evolved so far. It is intended for integrating / replicating this important initiative within IGWDP / WDF and also mainstream watershed development programs.



**T**hough there is an elaborate system for preventive vaccination established by the state government, the percentage coverage across all animals is not adequate. There are several factors contributing to this situation. Low level of awareness among the communities, resistance among the people on vaccination, inaccessibility of public vaccination programs are some of the main reasons.

Animal Husbandry (AH) department also suffers from an insufficient deployment of human resources. The linkages with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) / SHGs, evolved in watershed or other programs, with the department are weak. Supply of vaccines produced/procured by the department, though well streamlined for some vaccines, have several gaps. This has resulted in low level of vaccination coverage, particularly in case of small ruminants the so called 'indiscreet' livestock, plough bullocks and poultry.

Though it is recognized that the livestock is an important component in watershed development program, the linkages between natural resource use and reducing livestock mortality are not well appreciated at the implementation level. Most often, this appreciation is limited to some cursory efforts in helping / supporting the department to organize 'livestock health camp!'

In this context, a basic model that has emerged out of the experience of AP Drought Adaptation Initiative program (APDAI<sup>1</sup>, was applied to the watershed development program. The prime objective was to streamline the vaccination services for livestock on the basis of strong institutional platforms of CBOs, in collaboration with department of Animal Husbandry. This initiative was conceptualized and technically supported by WASSAN as a Resource Support Organization. Program Facilitating Agencies (PFAs) – SISS, Chetana Organic, Dhan Foundation, CRD and APMSS - implemented this initiative in their respective areas.

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<sup>1</sup> **AP DAI** - AP Drought Adaptation Initiative, operational in Mahabubnagar and Anantapur districts, is a Government of AP program supported by the World Bank. WASSAN is the Lead Technical Agency for the program implemented by federation of SHGs in 5 Mandals. For details [www.wassan.org/apdai](http://www.wassan.org/apdai)

## 6. Planning the Vaccination Event

- a. A vaccination schedule was prepared in planning meeting with representatives from VWDC, Gram Panchayat, Trained Para workers, Field Supervisor and Social mobilizers from PFA. Local VAS was also present on the occasion.
- b. A commonly agreed date was decided in consultation with the VWDC, Gram Panchayat, Village Organisation, Livestock rearer groups and the Para-worker for giving vaccination. The dates were communicated to the VAS in writing and he/she was invited for the vaccination event. A suitable location was also identified for organizing the camp.
- c. Gram Panchayat announced the date and time in the village in its normal way of public communication (along with the commonly agreed modalities of payment). It was recognised that it is better to publicize the vaccination event one day before the scheduled date.

## 7. Mobilizing the Community

Two persons were identified and responsibility was fixed on them at habitation level to mobilize the farmers to participate in the vaccination program

## 8. Organizing Vaccination Event

- a. The VWDC with help from the Para-worker got the vaccines indented from the VAS. Maintenance of a cold-chain is important for some vaccines. Wherver vaccines are not supplied by the government, they were procured from the market, an arrangement that PFA / RSO has facilitated.
- b. The VWDC, Gram Panchayat and Village Organization took active role in organizing the vaccination camp. A person (Camp-Organiser) identified by the VWDC collected the service charges at the camp site and also maintained necessary records (including farmers' signatures). This records were submitted to the AH Department later on. If the vaccines are not supplied free, the cost of the vaccine was included in the charges. The VWDC paid to the Para-worker and the Camp-Organizer for helping in organizing the event.
- c. Depending on the necessity, Para-worker went to houses/ hamlets to do vaccination and collected service charges. He/she scheduled another day for vaccination if substantial livestock were not covered on the given date. This was decided taking into account the level of participation and interest of the community.
- d. The earnings of the para workers during the vaccination event ranged from Rs 500/- - Rs. 2000/-. The service charges varied across all the organisations as per the community decision. The charges were Rs 2/- for large animals and Rs 1/- for small animals.

## 9. Submitting the records to the AH Department

After completion of the event, the records and the left-over vaccines were submitted to the AH Department along with a summary report. It is most important that the PFA facilitates all this processes. The critical issue is **triggering / initiating a vaccination event** as per the calendar and disease surveillance. It was recognised that the success of the program lies in PFAs ensuring full annual cycles of vaccination for about 3 years. The impact will be felt by that time and the institutional roles and linkages with AH Department would be established.

vaccination. Gram Panchayat and the Village Organisations were involved in all these village level activities.

### **3. Multi-Stakeholder Workshop at District Level**

A district level workshop was organized with the AH Department, NABARD and Program Facilitating Agencies (PFAs). Field Supervisors, Farmers of watershed area and VWDC representatives. The purpose of the workshop is to identify the gaps and to arrive at a commonly agreed framework for the coming year. It also paved way for the discussion on the modalities of indenting for vaccines, fixing vaccination charges, supply of vaccines, mandatory record keeping requirements etc. The responsibilities of various actors – from the Department, RSO, PFA, VWDC and Para-workers were finalized in this workshop. The presence of local Veterinary Assistant Surgeons (VAS) provided strength to the program design.

### **4. Institutional tie-up with Para-workers**

- a. *Identifying the Para-workers:* Persons trained under various programs of government and non-government agencies were identified and a list was prepared in consultation with local veterinary dispensaries. 24 para workers were identified out of which 10 workers provided services in 19 watersheds. The selected Para-workers were attached to identified / selected watersheds / PFAs.
- b. *Assessing the capacities of the Para-workers:* A meeting was organized with the identified Para-workers, where the orientation and the capacities of the Para-workers were assessed in the presence of local Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. Para-workers who provide dubious services were avoided. The need for refresher training was assessed.
- c. *Short-(Refresher) Training for the Para-workers* – This was thought about but as the para workers were already trained, it was not taken up. For new Para-workers a short course focusing on vaccination must be organized in collaboration with the AH department.
- d. *Attaching the Para-workers with the VWDC:* This was done as part of evolving a long-term arrangement between the Watershed community and the Para-worker.

### **5. Preparing & Submitting the Indents**

- a. Vaccination requirement was assessed with due care based on the response of households during the household surveys. The indents were generated from the livestock data collected and the disease incidence calendar presented before. The acceptance levels for vaccination were also taken into consideration in this process. About 4500 doses of ET, 7300 doses of HS and BQ were indented for 19 watersheds.
- b. Discussions were held with the Gram Panchayat, Village Organization and the VWDC on the prepared indents and a resolution was made to the AH Department for supply of vaccines.
- c. Indents were submitted to VAS (AH Department). Though PFA can compile all the indents for all watersheds and submit them to VAS, it is better that the VWDC & Panchayat submit it directly as it would lead to institutionalization. This process must be completed sufficiently in advance.

## Objective of the Experience

Institutionalizing vaccination services within the Community based Organisations evolved in watershed development program to reduce mortality of livestock from preventable diseases. This objective comprises the following tasks:

- Evolving appropriate institutional mechanisms for service delivery and establishing appropriate linkages with the Animal Husbandry Department
- Sourcing or developing Para-workers for vaccination service delivery and firming up linkages with Community based Organisations
- Identifying and establishing necessary infrastructure and revolving fund required for sustainability of the institutionalized livestock preventive health care services.

The program has evolved based on a situation analysis in few watersheds. The main observations are as below;

Quick Situational Analysis- Findings		
S.No	Issue	Details
1	Diseases leading to death of animals	<p><b>Large ruminants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Black quarter (BQ)</li> <li>❖ Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS)</li> <li>❖ Foot and mouth (FMD)</li> <li>❖ Intestinal pest load in calves</li> </ul> <p><b>Small ruminants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Intestinal pest load</li> <li>❖ Pneumonia</li> </ul> <p><b>Rural Poultry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ranikhet</li> <li>❖ Fowl pox</li> </ul>
2	Percentage of Mortality (March 2007 March 2008) (Mortality is due to diseases including preventable diseases. Analysis of mortality shows that it is mostly due to preventable diseases).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bullocks – 4.72%</li> <li>❖ Cows – 7.4%</li> <li>❖ Buffalo – 22.62%</li> <li>❖ Sheep – 33.82%</li> <li>❖ Goat – 20.16%</li> <li>❖ Poultry – 31.56%</li> </ul>
3	Proximity of the Veterinary Institutions	Watershed villages are mostly far from the veterinary institutions except Indravelli watershed. The distance ranges from 5-8 Kms.
4	Knowledge of the community on Livestock diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Low level of awareness among the community about the benefits of vaccination.</li> <li>❖ Lack of knowledge on diseases and accessing medicines.</li> </ul>

## Basic Assumptions

- ❖ **Community based Organisations are the key:** Anchoring the service delivery in the CBOs will help in better control of the community on the services. This will help in proper disease surveillance and also trigger the process at the right time. This is also a way to capitalize on the investments on social capital / building community based organisations as a part of watershed development and other programs.
- ❖ **Animal Husbandry department has the necessary mandate:** This mandate is not only on managing preventable diseases but also in provisioning necessary vaccines to the communities
- ❖ **Presence of a system of trained Para-workers:** It would fill-in the human resources gap and can provide effective services to the CBOs on payment; a cadre of such para-workers are already available though not in required number.
- ❖ **Continuity of the efforts:** A four / five year regular efforts of program facilitating agencies will help in sustaining the initiative beyond the program.

The detailed process steps of the intervention are elaborated later. The following table gives the livestock population and percentage of coverage of vaccination in Adilabad district after the intervention. These figures are of the first vaccination. ET vaccination was not taken up due to the non availability of vaccine in time. An yearly schedule of vaccination was prepared and taken up as per the schedule by the CBOs in the following year. (see page 8)

PFA	Livestock Population and Percentage of Livestock covered in Vaccination				
	Bullocks (BQ)	Cows (BQ)	Buffaloes (HS)	Sheep (ET)	Goats (ET)
CRD	1313(60.17)	2085(65.80)	307(65.80)	288(66.32)	36.33(63.86)
APMAS	498(58.63)	316(65.82)	56(0.00)	407(0.00)	668(0.00)
SISS	1670(55.50)	1559(60.74)	201(0.00)	650(0.00)	2068(22.10)
Chetana	1003(61.81)	1160(42.07)	96(2.08)	36(0.00)	652(61.04)
DHAN	974(73.82)	1716(69.29)	211(72.51)	0(0.00)	1299(100)
<b>Average (%)</b>	<b>61.92</b>	<b>58.04</b>	<b>28.08</b>	<b>13.26</b>	<b>49.40</b>

\* Figures in brackets reflects the % of livestock covered in vaccination services

\*\* PFA - Program Facilitating Agency



## Process Steps

The processes initially tried in Mahabubnagar and Anantapur districts as part of AP Drought Adaptation Initiative, are further refined to suit the watershed context and tried out in some watersheds. The Animal Husbandry department has provided valuable insights and support in evolving these processes. It was expected that a two years of full-cycle operation would further stabilize the processes.

The vaccination program was taken up for six types of livestock namely; cows, buffaloes, bullocks, sheep, goats and backyard poultry. These livestock suffer from 12 major diseases out of which 9 diseases could be controlled easily through preventive vaccines. Thus initial emphasis was on institutionalization of preventive health services for these 9 diseases. Vaccines are available for these 9 diseases. Out of these 9 vaccines, 8 vaccines are being produced by Veterinary Biological Research Institute (VBRI) and supplied free by the Animal Husbandry (AH) department. Some vaccines like FMD are supplied in limited quantities or on subsidy basis.

Normally vaccination programs are taken up by the AH department through its veterinary dispensaries or rural livestock units by organizing village level camps. In this regard, it was recognized that there should be consent, collaboration and institutional linkage with the AH Department in vaccination programs. Thus the process steps are designed to establish such institutional linkage between Village Watershed Development Committees (VWDC) and Veterinary dispensaries. The critical process steps of this experience are as below;

### 1. Situation Analysis

- a. Collection of livestock data from secondary sources (livestock census, previous year's vaccination coverage etc)
- b. An initial situation analysis in sample watersheds was taken up with support from an experienced team from Resource Support Organization (RSO). This analysis will identify the type of livestock, mortality rates, incidence of diseases & preventable diseases, access to health services, availability of trained Para-workers etc.
- c. Facilitating the same exercise by PFAs, along with collection of primary livestock data (this can be used as a bench mark data)
- d. Linkage or liaison with the local Veterinary Doctor and getting aware of the programs of the AH Department.
- e. Assessment of mortality rates with the available baseline data

### 2. Organizing awareness campaign in the villages

PFA and VWDC organized meetings in the watershed villages explaining the diseases, reasons, preventable diseases, mortality rates and the economics of disease control and mortality reduction. The campaign made a case for payment for services of Para-workers for

## Livestock Vaccination Calendar

S.No	Month	Bullocks	Buffaloes	Cows	Sheep	Goats	Poultry
1.	JAN				PPR	PPR	
2.	FEB	FMD	FMD	FMD			POX
3.	MAR						
4.	APR	BQ	BQ	BQ			
5.	MAY	HS	HS	HS	DW+ ET	DW+ ET	
6.	JUN						
7.	JUL				HS	HS	
8.	AUG	FMD	FMD	FMD			
9.	SEPT						
10.	OCT				ET	ET	
11.	NOV						
12.	DEC				DW+ POX	DW+ POX	DW+ RK

## Livestock Revolving Fund

Vaccines for diseases like ET are supplied by the government free of cost. But, FMD vaccine is either not supplied or supplied at a subsidized rate. In such cases, the service charges include the cost of vaccine. It is rather difficult to collect these charges ahead of the vaccination event to procure vaccines. In this context, it would be good to have a Livestock Revolving Fund for those villages accepting to take up vaccination to an extent equivalent to the livestock population. Creation of such a fund (approximately Rs.10, 000/- per watershed) with the Village Organisation would enable smooth flow of the program.

***Institutionalising vaccination services for livestock is a necessary first step; but, there is a long way to go for all the preventive healthcare systems to be in place. From these first steps IGWDP-AP is moving towards a comprehensive livestock program in its watersheds.***

Indo German Watershed Development Program-Andhra Pradesh (IGWDP-AP) is a bilateral program supported by KfW, Germany. It is managed by NABARD. It is implemented by the Community Based Organisations in the watersheds and is facilitated by NGOs with support from RSOs and CMP. IGWDP-AP striving to evolve watershed development processes that addresses the issues of sustainability, livelihoods and equity.



Department of Animal Husbandry  
Government of Andhra Pradesh



NABARD



IGWDP



WASSAN



Chetana Organic



SISS



Dhan Foundation



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