



# Training Module No 3

## Theory

### 1. Community Animal Health Worker Overview



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## Rationale for Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) Programme

- State Vets are mandated to deal with controlled diseases and have limited capacity beyond that
- State vet provides dip for monthly dipping for cattle but there is no provision for goats or chickens or any other animals or any other treatments beyond dipping
- The cold chain for veterinary medicines into most rural areas is non-existent
- Farmers do not use medicines regularly enough and in the volumes they can buy them in so you often have half used and expired medicine in farmer's homes.
- Livestock owners are generally older and less likely to be literate so cannot understand labels or dosages
- Productivity in rural areas is severely limited by the lack of veterinary interventions around basic animal health

Controlled diseases are rabies, anthrax, foot and mouth, TB

A cold chain is the process of getting medicine from the factory to the farmer's yard without having been through a temperature range beyond that is marked on the bottle. This is very difficult with things like vaccines as they need to stay below 5 degrees. More on this in the general management module.

Examples for discussion: Newcastle disease outbreaks; Mortality of goat kids within the first 2 months of birth

## Purpose of CAHW Programme

- Create microbusinesses to support animal health in rural areas
- Using unemployed youth who are literate and mobile
- CAHWs support farmers at homestead level in basic animal health
- Create microbusinesses to support livestock productivity in other ways. For example, blockmaking and winter feed businesses.
- CAHWs provide a critical link between farmers' associations, farmers and the state

There are important limitations to explain. CAHWs cannot legally inject or dose a farmer's animal for profit but can charge for diagnosing and selling medicine to the farmers.

CAHWs must NOT deal with controlled diseases or zoonotic (a disease can be transmitted from animals to humans, like TB and Ebola)

A CAHW should always be in a positive relationship with the state vet so as to refer problems that they cannot solve to them.

## Various CAHW Microbusinesses

- They can enhance state information campaigns at dip days and on the ground with farmers
- Basic animal health (training farmers)
- Para vets (supporting health interventions)
- Processing foodstuffs (energy blocks, growing winter feeds, processing stover)
- Skin processing
- Auctions or sales support
- Cold chain establishment
- Agri hubs

## Starting a CAHW Programme – Selection Criteria for CAHWs

- They are selected by the community
- They are able to read and write in English
- They are trusted and well known in their community
- They are currently unemployed
- They are between 18 and 35
- They are interested in livestock and preferably come from a family with livestock
- They are physically fit and energetic
- Emphasis towards selecting women
- Best practice is to facilitate women farmers selecting their own candidate

You should assume there is a high attrition rate and you should always plan to train three times the amount of CAHWs that you plan to end up with.

The end goal is to have one CAHW per 100 client farmers

Given these CAHWs will be servicing government and community structures, there has to be a very clear selection process.

Women farmers are often not represented in the Livestock association or dip tank committees so in many cases the local headman is requested to call a meeting of women farmers to bring a candidate who may better service them.

## Starting a CAHW Programme – Conducting a Census

- A census should give accurate figures of livestock numbers and ownership in the community in which the CAHW will be working
- Collecting information in communities can often lead to conflict so all community structures need to be informed and be on board.
- It should provide information on shops that sell medicine in the area and common diseases in the area
- A census should be seen as a first step in ongoing monitoring of livestock number
- There needs to be agreement on capturing, using and sharing this information so that it is not used to punish farmers in any way
- Coalition of this information needs to be planned before the census as it will shape how the census is done and what questions are asked

A letter with letterhead should be presented to the livestock associations, traditional authority and political councillors

Business cards with managers details should be given to the census takers so that farmers can phone the manager at a later stage or contact them if something is of concern

It is useful to have an introductory paragraph that is written out so that the message that goes to each farmer from the CAHW is the same one.

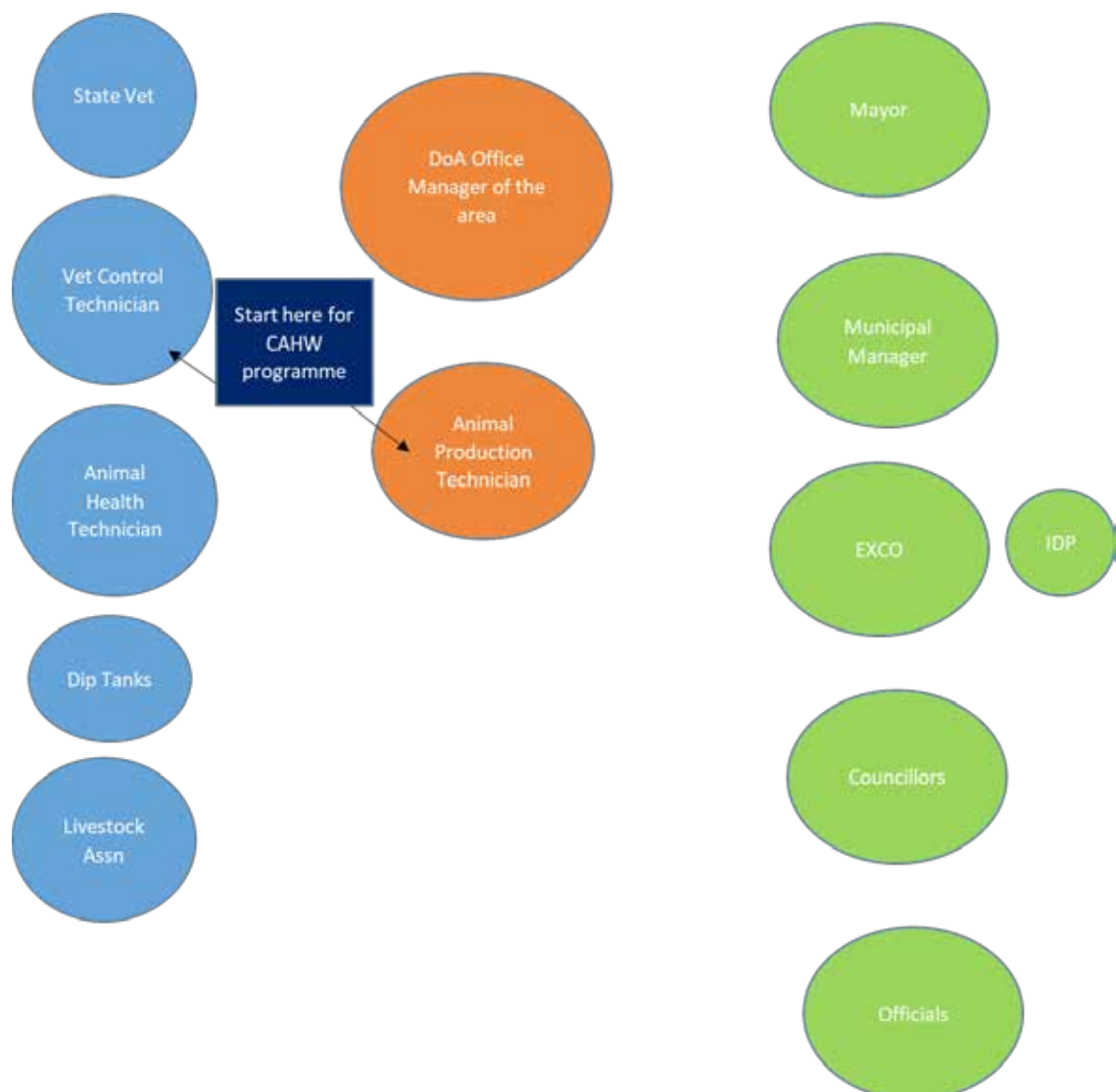
The people who conduct the census should be seen as prospective CAHWs based on how well they perform in the census taking

Where possible a uniform makes it clear that these are people who have been trained and are supported by the state and NGOs

## CAHW Relationships

- Livestock Owners – the CAHWs are trusted. They are understood to be providing a service that needs to be paid for.
- Livestock Associations – these are their managers. They are the fall back owners for non consumables in the vet kits, hammermills, brickmakers and leather processing equipment.
- Department of Agriculture – they will help train CAHWs. Will meet monthly at dip tanks and assess their interventions. Will use them for departmental interventions/campaigns. DoA will feed back to livestock associations about specific CAHWs.
- Private vets – be able to call in private vets on specific and large scale issues that the DoA have been unable to resolve. Private vets are very expensive and it is unlikely that any particular farmer would ever use a private vet or any group could afford to get a private vet to come into the field. However, with a particular problem that is affecting farmers that the state vet is unable or unwilling to deal with, a CAHW could take samples or pictures to a private vet.

- Other role players who need to be consulted and involved:
  - Local project leadership
  - Traditional authorities because stock theft is so prevalent and causes such problems in communities, it is important to get the local political and tribal leadership on board of these programmes.
  - Municipalities need to be informed of these type of programmes. Theoretically, this is the role of the state department that is partnering this programme but for longer term value chains it will be worthwhile getting the municipality excited about this programme. If this programme can feature on the IDP of the local municipality, this will ensure future support of these value chains.
  - Political leadership
  - Agri vet shops often do exist in small rural towns. But often the cold chain to these shops and in these shops are unreliable. It is important to get the department of agric vet to support farmers in getting compliance from these shops in terms of drug efficacy.
  - Animal Health Product Companies will provide information days at no cost as well as training materials.



## CAHW Job Description

- Create a baseline of animals in the area
- Manage livestock registers (annual counting of randomised sample)
- Give advice regarding medicines and vaccines
- Bulk buy medicines and sell to farmers
- Maintain the vet kit for that particular dip
- Maintain a recording system of treatments, dosage and interventions
- Keep farmers updated on vaccination calendars and strategic medicinal interventions (e.g. anthrax, blackwater vaccination campaigns)
- Provide basic animal health care at dip-tank level
- Assist in disease surveillance (early detection)
- Promote Animal identification through tattoos, ear tagging and branding
- Provide grazing management skills towards feeding during winter bottlenecks
- Provide support around breeding and selection skills
- Provide the service of castration and dehorning
- Mobilize farmers around marketing and value adding
- Mobilize farmers to provide animals at times of sales or auctions
- Surveillance and reporting of controlled diseases
- Provide supportive role to Departmental Technicians on dip days and veterinary campaigns
- Provide theme day trainings at dip days and other gatherings
- Sell blocks and process winter stover

## CAHW Training Curriculum

- The training curriculum will be based on the CAHW best practice guide and the three animal health books that have been published. All of this is based on the GAP AgriSETA accredited materials for Livestock Production.
- For each animal type there will be two days of theory training and at least two days of practice. Currently there are 12 learning modules on Goats.
- There are three further modules for CAHWs and microbusiness that will require two days each
- Refresher courses need to be done bi-annually
- Once training has been completed, the CAHW is assessed by GAP staff and Department of Agriculture and if passes, can qualify for a vet kit.

## CAHWs working in community groups

- For CAHW to achieve suitability they need to meet regularly with farmers
- Each dip tank normally has two selected CAHWs
- Each CAHW has at least 2 groups who meet regularly
- Groups of 15 to 20 farmers
- Often women work best as they are prepared to learn and change
- Meet monthly at a farmer's home
- Theme day on a disease or problem farmers are facing from training calendars and book
- Get ideas of upcoming topic and problems
- Also present at dips and livestock association

## CAHWs working in vaccination groups

- Working in the groups above, have monthly Newcastle vaccination meetings
- Newcastle common and cheap to fix with monthly vaccination program
- Members pay R2-R5 each for 2 litres of vaccine that is mixed with them
- They all bring water and take away vaccine
- Should see immediate improvement in chickens which gives a good start of relationship with CAHW

## CAHW's role in experimentation

- Problems in the area are brought up by farmers and fed back through CAHW to staff
- Agree on possible interventions through experimenting intervention with farmer
- Experiment is held in typical farmers yard
- Experiment is visited by farmers group in x visits
- Larger farmers days held to show important successes
- X visits usually walking distance for farmers – catering just apples or a snack
- Farmers days bigger with all farmers in larger area invited and transported- catering usually a meal like lunch and juice

## CAHW Capital Items – Uniform and Vet Kit

- After training a uniform will be given to the CAHW.
- Vet kit will be given after six months of training and practicals and succession assessment.

- After the handover, the vet kit and all contents would revert back to the livestock association if the CAHW wanted to resign
- CAHW is responsible for restocking the vet kit. For the first two top ups, the CAHW will bring back slips and get the equivalent of what they have purchased. They buy one and they get one from GAP but they must provide slips and treatment sheet.
- With hammermills and blockmakers, the livestock association would take responsibility for this equipment and would be loaned to the CAHW who is servicing that area
- Inventory must be taken monthly on the vet kits and given to GAP.
- Treatment sheets must be kept

## Vet Kit Items

### **Non Consumables**

- Syringes – 20ml non-disposable (10);  
10 ml disposable (10);  
5 ml disposable (10)
- Disposable needles – needles for subcutaneous and intramuscular (10 of each)
- Gloves (box)
- Face masks (10)
- Blades (10)
- Cotton gauze (100 swabs)
- Dettol type handwash
- Clipboard and folder

### **Medicines**

- Long acting antibiotic (such as Terramycin)
- Short acting antibiotic (such as oxytetracycline)
- Sulphur based antibiotic (such as Disulphox or Norotrim) for treating coccidiosis
- Broad spectrum dewormer (wireworms, flukes and tapeworms) – Prodose
- Tapeworm dewormer such as Endolint (with active such as praziquantel)
- Wound spray (Supona)
- Tick grease
- De-ticking medicines – Tactic
- Vitamins – Multivitamin
- Injectable solution – mange, lice (Ivomect, Ecomentic)
- CAHWs will only receive at later stage. For staff only currently
- Terramycin powder (antibiotic powder)
- Eye powder
- Karbadust (chickens)
- Black shoe polish (chickens)
- Consumix Plus (chickens)
- Iodine spray
- Wound Oil such as Coopers Expel
- Skim milk powder

### **Non Consumables**

- Digital Thermometer
- Vacuum flask for vaccinations
- Burdizzo (23-gauge castrator)
- Hoof trimmers
- Weight belt – cows and goats
- 4-letter tattoo machine, letters (HPSA or MDU) and ink
- 10 litre knapsack sprayer



- Cooler bag for all equipment
- Small cooler bag
- Chicken book
- Animal Health Manual
- Goat Manual
- Training Calendars: General Management; Cattle; Goats; Chickens
- Bag for training calendars

## CAHW Vet kit pricing

- For any service rendered, there is a price list that has been developed by the GAP program. This list must be adhered to and CAHWs must not charge more.
- A CAHW should be able to walk to the farmers in his/her area and not require transport. However, if transport is required, then this needs to be negotiated with the farmer.
- A CAHW can also organise where farmers bring animals to a central place every two weeks or monthly to be looked at. This can also be done at trainings. Where farmers bring sick animals to trainings and CAHWs look at and treat them.

### *An example of pricing:*

<b>Hi Tet Price per ML= R1.10</b>		
Wenzani: Umqhaqhazelo, Isifo samaphaphu, Ukubola kwezinselo, isifo senyongo nokuvuvukala kwamajoyinti.		
Body Mass	ML	Price
0-15 KG	1 ml	R1.10
16-30 KG	2 ml	R2.20
31-45 KG	3 ml	R3.30
46-60 KG	4 ml	R4.40

An exercise needs to be done in trainings with various medicines (dewormer, antibiotic, etc) where the CAHW is given the bottle, the price and needs to work out the dosage amount.

## Livestock Census Form

*(See the census form on the following page)*

The census needs to be done by first GPSing the outside boundaries of the dip tank area that is being measured by finding the last house in each direction that brings cattle to this dip. The census takers would then go to every home in this area whether they have livestock or not and count what is at their home and complete the other questions.

The municipal number is a way of being able to go back to that specific house if you want to track changes in livestock numbers. Censuses are done every year.

**LIVESTOCK CENSUS for area** \_\_\_\_\_

Dip tank/ward and area: \_\_\_\_\_

Name CAHW/interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Number and date of interview	Surname of kraal/municipal number	cattle	goats	chickens	Deaths in the last three months		Do you vaccinate with/for what	Do you have your own medicines-name	Do you have own equipment – describe it	Do you feed – and how spent t
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## CAHW work sheet

CAHW name: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Igama leCAHW: \_\_\_\_\_ NGO/Govt official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Name of farmer	Identification of animal tattoo etc	Type and Weight of animal	Famacha and temperature	Treatment or intervention type	Type of medicine used	Dosage used	Dosage cost	Total Charged to farmer	Cell phone of farmer	Farmer signature
Total											

It is crucial that this is filled in daily so as to get an idea of the workload of the CAHW, how many farmers they are servicing and if they are giving the right dosages for the right problems. These should be collected monthly by the livestock association and the NGO should collate them so as to be able to report on the effectiveness of the CAHW programme.

It is from this sheet that the NGO or government official would see emerging problems with the process and be able to refresher training accordingly.