

OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP)

A success story of an OIE capacity-building activity

National Meat Inspection Service – Plant Operation Standards and Monitoring Division



Practical training in cattle abattoir. The NMIS Officers trained by Dr Tomasz Grudnik and Dr Ma. Elaine Joy C. Villareal, 2014

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Keywords

Animal welfare – OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP) – training of trainers.

The OIE Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP) capacity-building initiative began in June 2012, thanks to the support of the Government of Australia¹. This capacity-building programme was designed to improve implementation of OIE standards on transport and slaughter in countries importing live cattle from Australia. Since October 2012, more than 400 participants have completed the training programme, in Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Vietnam, Thailand, Jordan, Oman, Iran, the Republic of Korea and Israel. The Programme methodological approach, including the training material used throughout the training sessions, was developed by Dr Rastislav Kolesar, with the support of Dr Tomasz Grudnik and Dr Ma. Elaine Joy Villarreal from OIE Headquarters. Today the same model is being used to deliver training sessions under the framework of the OIE Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (see pp. 47–50).

1. See *Bulletin*, No. 2014-1, p. 31

The training approach

The IAWP 'training of trainers' programme is designed to impact the three learning domains of the future trainers: namely their cognitive domain, or theoretical knowledge; their psychomotor domain, or practical skills; and their affective domain, or values.

In following this approach, the programme comprises theoretical in-classroom training, practical in-field training, and individual distance learning. We aim to provide a balance of science and practical training with enough time for participants to understand, recognise, and value best practices from the animal welfare viewpoint.

A key output of the IAWP was the OIE training DVD on the welfare of cattle pre-slaughter and at slaughter (with and without stunning). Copies of the DVD have been given to trainers, OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare and many NGOs. English and Arabic versions are available on request.

The Philippines example

The OIE IAWP was conducted in the Philippines between 2013 and 2014. The training programme included the welfare of cattle and pigs during transport and at slaughterhouses. The training was delivered four times. The first two training sessions, supported by the OIE and the Department of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia, on the welfare of cattle, were offered to selected animal welfare officers from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Offices (DARFOs). The programme started in 2013 and continued in 2014 to train more Food Animal Welfare Officers from the NMIS.

With the support of the OIE and *World Animal Protection* in 2014, another two training sessions were conducted, on the welfare of pigs, for the officers of BAI and DARFOs and for the officers of NMIS, respectively.

The OIE IAWP has provided the Philippine government with an opportunity to establish a pool of technical personnel tasked to cascade principles of animal welfare and able to demonstrate how to implement it. As a commitment to improve the handling of cattle in the Philippines, the BAI and the NMIS conducted a series of training sessions for cattle and swine producers, handlers, dealers, slaughterhouse operators and butchers, with the trained trainers as the resource persons. From 2013 to 2016, the BAI and the NMIS conducted separate training sessions for stakeholders, covering 16 regions of the country, and the BAI, in collaboration with the DARFO-regulatory units and the Regional NMIS offices, continue

to disseminate animal welfare information to stakeholders.

As part of the IAWP, in 2013, the OIE trained trainers also conducted animal welfare training for the staff of veterinary education establishments.

To promote better handling and slaughter practices, and to improve animal welfare in the country, gap analysis was carried out for the Philippine animal welfare legislation, compared with the OIE animal welfare standards. The Committee on Animal Welfare of the Department of Agriculture, meanwhile, is drafting and amending the guidelines on humane handling, transport, and slaughter of food animals to be consistent with the OIE guidelines. This is one of the goals of the Philippine National Animal Welfare Strategy. In addition, the new animal welfare officers from the DARFO regulatory units are being trained to continue the advocacy and implementation of the country's guidelines on the transport of animals by land, air and sea, as mandated by the Philippine Animal Welfare law. The NMIS, on the other hand, oversees the humane handling and slaughter of cattle and pigs in slaughterhouses.

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