



**Preparatory Meeting of Steering  
Committee of Camel Middle East  
Network  
(CaMeNet)**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**UAE**

## **Report of Preparatory Meeting of Steering Committee of Camel Middle East Network**

### **About the Middle East Camel Network (CaMeNet):**

CaMeNet is a scientific network of camel health and practices, consists of nine camel breeding countries in the Middle East: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Camenet emerged as an initiative of the Biological Standards Commission of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to exchange knowledge and provide information and expertise to member countries in order to control camel diseases in the Middle East and neighboring countries.

In accordance to that a regional meeting was held from 14-16 February 2016 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates with the participation of the OIE, FAO and a number of the member countries in the region. The importance of the regional network specialized in camel diseases was emphasized and recommended in order to develop the camel sector in the region. The creation of CaMeNet is a strategic step for the countries of the region to address the challenges related to the global economic impact of camels.

## **Objectives of CaMeNet:**

1. Improve scientific and technological capacities in epidemiology and diagnosis of camel diseases.
2. Ensure coordination between international organizations (OIE / FAO / WHO) and national authorities (including veterinary services) of the member countries to combat and control camel diseases, including emerging diseases.
3. Facilitate cooperation between national, regional and international institutions, centers and reference laboratories to build capacity and share experiences.
4. Contribute to the development, standardization and accreditation of the diagnostic methods for major camel diseases in accordance with the global standards and procedures of the World Organization for Animal Health.
5. Encourage studies on epidemiological diseases of camels and the common risks of animals, humans and the environment

## **Member Countries of the CaMeNet**

Members of CaMeNet are countries with historical, social and economic heritage in the breeding and care of camels and include:



On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, an introductory meeting was held in the UAE in preparation for the main meeting of the Camel Middle East Network (CaMeNet) Steering Committee to be held in Paris, May 2017 during the OIE world assembly of delegates.

### **The agenda of the meeting:**

During the preparatory meeting, the following agenda was discussed:

1. Review the objectives of the CaMeNet.
2. The CaMeNet website proposal.
3. Proposal of the governance and mechanism of work of CaMeNet.
4. Proposal of the mechanism of work of technical teams and specialists in CaMeNet.
5. Proposal of sampling and shipping of the samples.

### **Attendance:**

	Name	Country	Organization	E.mail
1	H.E Rashid Almansoori	UAE	ADFCA	Rashid.AIMansoori@adfca.ae
2	Dr. Salama Al Muhairi	UAE	ADFCA	Salama.almuhairi@adfca.ae
3	Saif Alashkhari	UAE	ADFCA	saif.alashkari@adfca.ae
4	Dr. Mohamed Al Hosani	UAE	ADFCA	mohamed.a.alhosani@adfca.ae
5	Asma Abdi	UAE	ADFCA	asma.mohammed@adfca.ae
6	Prof. Abdelmalik Khalafalla	UAE	ADFCA	abdelmalik.khalafalla@adfca.ae
7	Dr. Ghada Ahmed	UAE	ADFCA	Ghada.AbdelWahab@adfca.ae
8	Dr. Yassir El Tahir	UAE	ADFCA	Yassir.Eltahir@adfca.ae
9	Dr. Mohammed Albalawi	KSA	MoA	oie.delegate@mea.gov.sa
10	Dr Abdallah Azrug Ahmad	Bahrain	MoWMMU	azrug@hotmail.com
11	Prof. Ahmed Almagali	Jordan	JUST	almajali1970@gmail.com

12	Dr Saleh Al-Yasiri	Iraq	MoA	vet_planning@vetsc.gov.iq
13	Dr. Ghazi Yehya	Lebanon	OIE RRME	g.yehia@oie.int

### **Discussions:**

Mr. Rashid Al Mansoori (Executive Director, Animal Wealth, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority) and Dr. Ghazi Yehya, Regional Director of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), welcomed the attendees and commenced the discussion of the agenda items starting with reviewing the objectives of the CaMeNet and its role in unifying efforts of member countries in controlling camel diseases and developing camel sector in the region.

Dr. Salama Al Muhairi Director of Veterinary Laboratories Division, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority presented the website and contents of the CaMeNet which includes an icon that enables countries to feed their information and facilitate communication and cooperation. During the meeting, all suggestions about the website were recorded.

Prof. Abdelmalik Khalafalla gave a brief on the establishment of the ACSAD network and its achievements in the field of developing the livestock sector in general, including the camel sector and recommended that ACSAD can be used as a benchmark for the mechanism of networking and governance of CaMeNet.

**Governance of CaMeNet:**

**A: Camenet activities are managed by a steering committee chaired by the chairman of the ADFCA committee for the collaborating center of camel diseases and consisting of:**

- Executive Director of Animal Wealth, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority.
- Delegates of regional member countries in OIE.
- A representative from OIE and FAO.
- Director of Veterinary Laboratories Division, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority.
- Consultants and experts as required.

**B: Mechanism of work of CaMeNet.**

**1- Steering Committee duties**

- Managing and supervising the activities of the network and supervising the technical teams.
- Attend regular meetings of the network and make decisions on recommendations and proposals.
- Approval of the reports.

**2- Technical teams of member countries.**

Technical teams consist of 3 specialists in each country as in the following table:

No.	Specialist	Duties
1	Animal husbandry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Animal Census Report.</li><li>▪ Type and source of breeds</li><li>▪ The pattern of breeding in member countries.</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any other relevant data</li> </ul>
2	Epidemiologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design statistical plans for epidemiological surveys.</li> <li>▪ Determine the type and number of samples to be collected for the survey (taking into account the number - age - offspring - breeding pattern of herd, etc.).</li> <li>▪ Statistical analysis of data.</li> <li>▪ Providing the CaMeNet with epidemic cases of the herd</li> </ul>
3	Laboratory Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Receiving, labeling analyzing and store the samples.</li> <li>▪ Distributing the sample between ADFCA laboratory and external reference laboratory.</li> <li>▪ Participating in internal proficiency tests for analyses.</li> </ul>

### 3: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority role:

- Create CaMeNet website and coordinate activities.
- Activate, develop and verify tests for the diagnosis of camel diseases in cooperation with member countries and international reference laboratories.
- Receiving, storing and analyzing samples of member countries.
- Conducting internal proficiency tests for the laboratories of member countries.
- Training the employees of the participating countries on diagnostic techniques on camel diseases, if necessary.

#### Work Plan:

No.	Activity	date
1	Nomination of technical teams	Feb. 2017
2	The official meeting of the CaMeNet Steering Committee and the	May 2017

	commencement of CaMeNet action plan.	
3	Sampling and sample analyses	July 2017
4	Reviewing of results of technical teams and setting future plans.	Oct 2017

### **Recommendations:**

1. It was agreed that the official meeting of the CaMeNet Steering Committee will be held in May 2017 in Paris on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Organization for Animal Health, and on the formal meeting will discuss the agreement of the network governance and mechanism of work along with work plan for implementation.
2. It was proposed to prepare an epidemiology study guide or manual to contribute to the designing of surveys, epidemiological studies, sampling plan and risk assessment of diseases.
3. Considering the possibility of implementing a system similar to WAHIS on the CaMeNet website.
4. It was agreed that member countries could involve a number of local livestock breeders in their technical teams so that they can benefit from their experience in camel breeding.
5. Nominees of the technical teams (specialists on epidemiologists, laboratory and animal husbandry) should be submitted by member countries as soon as possible. If one or two specialists are not available in a country, the delegate can nominate any person who has the ability and authority to coordinate the specialized tasks within the country.



6. Gradually expanding the list of diseases that will be included in the work of the network to include Theileriosis, Babesiosis and other priority diseases among member countries.
7. Holding workshops and lectures between countries through the webinar conference within the CaMeNet website. As a beginning, Dr. Ahmed Al Majali recommended the team to attend lectures on foot-and-mouth disease through the Webinar conference. The member countries can nominate candidates to give them access to the site to attend the lectures.
8. Discussing the possibility of adding other countries to the CaMeNet such as Sudan and Ethiopia during the meeting of the CaMeNet Steering Committee which will be held in May 2017 in Paris.

