Working group discussion – Quality of primary data

1. What challenge is this working group addressing?
Improving the quality of primary livestock sector data.
Primary data defined as:
- Data collected by national governments and “harvested” by FAO, OIE, other IGOs
- Data we (the LD4D community) collect for ourselves
Quality defined as:
- Validated, known accuracy, believable, good collection processes, known ways of collection, “standardised” definitions, timeliness, “fitness for purpose”. (Accessibility also important but considered to be separate to quality so not discussed further).
2. What is current status

Data harvested by big public datasets (FAOSTAT, WAHIS)

- Highly variable (by geography, purpose for which collected, type of data e.g. which diseases, production vs trade)
- Improving in some places (part of a long process)

Data we collect for ourselves

- Research data – often of high quality but limited scale (area, time)…..often need to combine with secondary data
- Service organization data – can be of high quality (if quality assurance processes implemented), collected for specific purposes, can be very detailed by species/system, variable scale, not always comparable across organizations
3. What are some current issues that need to be addressed?

Data harvested by big public datasets (FAOSTAT, WAHIS)
- Need for capacity development/operational support in some countries
- In some countries long intervals between collections
- Lack of granularity/highly variable
- Metadata variable

Data we collect
- Investment needed to train local data collection people (also applies to national organizations – high turnover)
- Because of limited scale/scope would like to share more, but caution about using data from others (don’t always understand provenance/have access to metadata). Some data not available to share (confidential)
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4. Possible options for LD4D COP to consider – which one works for you?
A. Carry on as now (and keep complaining!)
B. Share more
   • data (with metadata and traffic light system)
   • approaches to data collection through livestockdata.org? through existing collabs e.g. SEBI/GalvMED/CSIRO
C. Harmonise
   • joint efforts at training people
   • harmonisation of some methods/datasets
D. Standardise [Andy running a mile............]