Preparation of ‘Road Map cum vision document for development of the Animal Husbandry and veterinary sector in the state of Assam’

An initiative of Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Government of Assam

Implemented by Vet Helpline India Pvt Ltd.

SNAPSHOTS OF DISCUSSION (PART 2)

21st Nov 2017 to 31st Jan 2018
This document is the second and final part of similar publication. It contains 35 snapshots of moderated WhatsApp discussions that have taken place between 21st Nov 2017 to 31st Jan 2018 in connection with preparation of road map cum vision document for developmentment of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sector in the state of Assam. The previous publication that covered the period of 20th Oct to 20th Nov 2017 included 100+ snapshots of select discussions.

During the period of 20th Oct 2017 to 31st Jan 2018, one central and eight regional stakeholder consultation workshops were organized across Assam. 375+ veterinarians and other stakeholders attended these workshops. The workshops immensely supported membership growth of the group and the discussion that followed. The membership of the group at end of the formal discussion was 176.

The roadmap preparation related project team is working to analyze WhatsApp discussions to capture key issues and learning.

For privacy reason we have removed the phone numbers of participants. The roadmap related project team will try its best to identify participating individuals and acknowledge their contribution in the final roadmap document to be submitted to the government.

( Dr Miftahul Islam Barbaruah )

Director,

Vet Helpline India Pvt Ltd.

http://www.vethelplineindia.co.in
Dr Rinku Deka VO Gossalgoan

You

Thank you. The roadmap team is trying to identify existing goat clusters in Assam. Please post information regarding goat clusters and department infrastructures near these clusters. We can aim to strengthen these departmental institutions for four clusters are currently working with GRS Burnhat.

21:59

Again, encroachment problem is also there in burnihat campus. A bit complicated situation there. The institution for goat rearing is facing numerous problems.

22:02

Dr Rinku Deka Vet Kokrajhar

You

Can you share the name of the clusters and size

Batabari village, tepesia, tetetia And Nahira village. These villages are adopted by GRS under AICRP

14:07

------------------- Dishanta Dutta

Do ‘Vet Roadmaps’ have any data regarding, Livestock veterinary Officer ratio in Assam?

16:16

What is the recommended ratio of Livestock & Vety Officer as prescribed by VCI or any other Government body?

16:18

Last Livestock Census data should be taken to check the ratio. Accordingly more state veterinary hospital/ Dispensaries must be opened by the Government.

16:23

I have the compiled data of 19th Livestock Census, 2012. Sharing it for an idea regarding the Livestock population of Assam.

16:26
@Dishanta Dutta

Thanks for raising vital issue of Manpower position. Please check the forwarded image for manpower position as on 1.05.2016. We need to verify and rework on this to get the final figure and then the ratio. Very soon we will have 20th livestock census data too. Vet Roadmap team will be thankful to group members for more information on this.

20:50

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of the post</th>
<th>Cadre strength</th>
<th>Men in position</th>
<th>Vacancy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Additional Director</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Joint Director</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>M.D. &amp; Equivalent</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Veterinary Officer</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>10018</td>
<td>8,79</td>
<td>174</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

** Present incumbent is a Joint Director who has taken charge of Director.

Manpower strength of the Department of A.H & Veterinary as on 1/05/2016. We need to recheck on this data.

20:52

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@Dishanta Dutta

What is the recommended ratio of Livestock & Vety Officer as prescribed by VCI or any other Government body?

@Dishanta Dutta

According to forwarded report of Vet Helpline India, in India veterinary personnel per 10000 LSU (Livestock standard Unit) based on 2012 data is 3.94. Based on same data veterinary personnel per Sq km is 0.037. Veterinary personnel here is both veterinarian and para vet. The group members can refer table 12, page 31 of the following report to compare India’s situation with South Asian countries. Subject to availability of data we will be able to calculate this for Assam and also set a benchmark.

21:42
I feel if all government department work like a private companies setting some target and goals on daily basic success will come definitely and every state can grow faster.

It's the time to proved everybody in their talents and skill. Let's be target oriented everything to be done. All the best to all.

Thanks for the valuable input from Sub Divisional Officer of Biswanath Chariali: Wish we will get more such inputs from field vets. Key issues raised and the things we need to do to make it happen: (A) Equipped dispensary: At this juncture we are not even clear about the definition of dispensary, we are trying to extract information from VCI. Can anyone define an equipped dispensary in Assam's context? (B) Boundary protection: Let's first prepare a list of infrastructures with coordinates and picture – this is first step of protection. (C) Demo farm in each block: Good suggestion, department can work with up to 3 private farms per block to make it a model farm. (D) Mobile veterinary clinic: How can we improve use of existing mobile facility and develop a sustainable model (e.g. cost recovery?) In India, we have examples where state veterinary department is hiring private company like (GVK-EMRI 108 service) to provide mobile veterinary service. (E) Shortage of manpower: Should department hire veterinarian on contract? What will be the pros and cons? (F) Essential medicine: Can anybody list the essential medicines? We need data on BPL farm families per dispensary vis-a-vis livestock population of these families to calculate adequate fund requirement. (G) Coordination with Panchayat: Excellent input, can reserved veterinary officer do this job? (H) Support to backyard farm: Any specific or effective way to provide this support? (I) Breeding unit: Are we talking about a system where member farmer of a cluster sets up a community breeding unit to ensure supply of good animals to farm with? (J) Protection of local germ plasm: How? What extra then existing initiatives (K) Subsidized feed
germ plasm: How? What extra then existing initiatives (K) Subsidized feed for organized units: We need economic justification for this. Can KCC at subsidized rate of interest (like in Agriculture at 4%) to help livestock farmers buy day to day feed a more practical solution? (L) Setting up of district livestock feed mill: Can feed mill in government sector compete with private feed mills? Will giving incentive to private or cooperative make more sense? (M) Model fodder plot: At farmers place? Will the farmer get fodder seed regularly after the department subsidized seed supply ends? (N) Introduction of high productive livestock: What do we mean by this? What is our experience of induction of cattle from outside the state? (O) Market organization and regular monitoring of livestock market: We need mechanism to work with zilla parishad and panchayats who manages majority of physical livestock markets. Should department involve itself in price fixation or protective arrangement for local farmers particularly when government is promoting free market? (P) Registration of farmers: Lets list the benefit a farmer will get by registering with department? (Q) Livestock product quality testing lab: Is it the domain of veterinary department or health department e.g. food technologist? We need to first clarify this under allocation of business role. The Vet Roadmap team is reviewing FSSAI provisions for the scope of veterinary department. (R) Khutil farming: Lets contribute on what can we do for khuti owners? Can department provide protection? (S) Information flow: Will regular inter departmental training be the solution? Can we not update ourselves from numerous sources?

Dr Sapsota Prof

You

Thanks for the valuable input from Sub Divisional Officer of Biswanath Chariali: Wish we will get more such inputs from field vets. Key issues raised and the things we need to do to make it happen: (A) Equipped dispensary: At this

Good initiative 😊😊. 
A) Better write to VCI. They are appropriate authority at national level: Assam context can be adapted from this.
B) 🌞🌞.
C) Demo at district will be okay, if not at block level. Enrope pvt farm might require some more exercise and discussion.
D) Let’s get Telengana experience.
E) Let us emphasize on permanent basis, rather than on contractual basis.
F) 😞. But this point is linked to (A).
G) 🌞🌞.
H) Needs common exercise for all the districts of Assam.
I) Requires a commons breeding policy for Assam.
J) Needs in depth discussion.
K) 😞.
L) Setting up of district level feed mill is good approach. Giving incentives will make sense and pay dividends.
M) 🌞.
N) More input is required. However, a state level breeding policy is a prerequisite.
O) Dept should not involve in price fixation. However, local advisory guidelines may be framed.
Economics of 'Khuti' should be studied.  
A single grown Buffalo fetches upto 60,000 in Haats near Nagaland boarder.

Dr Sapcota Prof

Economics of 'Khuti' should be studied. A single grown Buffalo fetches upto 60,000 in Haats near Nagaland boarder.

Khuti system of rearing is unique to our state 🙌. I suppose in the district of Karbi Anglong some studies have been made.

Each and every state veterinary Dispensary sends monthly reports on the following data to the district headquarters under their jurisdiction.

1. Meat production report.
2. Egg production report.
5. AI done and castration done report.
7. BCPP report.
8. Numbers of vaccination done report.
9. Any other ongoing Government project report. e.g. Now a days NLM (Livestock insurance) is going on. So, numbers of ear tagging done reports are submitted.

To get the rate of growth of commercial Livestock sector in Assam, the overall compiled report from all the District Veterinary headquarters will be of great help.
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, (Government of India) is seeking comments for National Action Plan on Goat, Sheep, Pig and Feed & Fodder. Last Date: 12-12-2017 (Just 5 days to go)

There exists many decision making policies. But the problem is that our department have very less number of high level executive officers who can initiate /guide /decided /evaluate and put into appropriate forum for effective implementation execution and results. Our present high level executives are overburdened and bombarded with loads of data and scheme with vested interest to follow and rudimentary evaluations tools made the system sluggish.

Government has taken good initiation to prepare road map for veterinary department with a vision of years 2030.

May I request you

Please do not confined yourself on the data collection based on your questionnaire and jump on the result. I want to point out that on every election there is a survey who is going to form next government. And survey goes wrong after election. Though the survey tools because effective by passing of time but still no survey claims 100% effective.

So take your time. Collate with past history and others database available in the district or state to form any suggestions.
May I put a point

We are talking about progress
But no one is taking about the farmers and livestock entrepreneurs or breeder
Our state population more than 60% inhabitants have livestock in their homes
No one is taking about them
Because
State education in taking pain and resources to erect new college of science and engineering
But there is no one taking about forming school of livestock business
State of gujarat have Farmer school

Recently unconfirmed sources informed that department is going to outsourced
I want to raise the point
That department is engaged in social justice and upliftment /protection of animals/ animals right animals products and produce
This department is not engaged in the profit business like ASTC APDCL or many

Government can't think to outsourced judiciary police or executive
Similarly outsourcing veterinary department would cost heavily

Please think and discuss in length

(12)

__________________________  ~Dishanta Dutta

You
Seems that there exists a 'good' machinery/system. But the question is how functional the machinery/system is?

For the Machinery to be more efficient, I would suggest that Vet Roadmaps should initiate a web portal for the monthly submission of data in online and paperless mode in collaboration with the Govt. Of Assam's Veterinary Department.

16:58
Taking lot of pain and effort on draft preparation

May I suggest few points to include in your draft:

Goal 13 climate action
We have observed that many species and livestock breed are on the verge of extinction
There are conflict between men and wildlife fauna are reported in news channel now and the
Department of AH in association with other stakeholders can plays a vital role to reunites and their safety
Goal 6 clean water and sanitation
We must have to form a minimum standards for dead animals disposal
Our present structure leads to contamination of soil water and air and spread of many havoc disease
Thanks for your efforts
Please discuss in length for coming into conclusion
Thanks
Stakeholders can now send their comments on 1st draft vision of Assam Vet Roadmap project by visiting departmental website at: http://veterinary.assam.gov.in/latest/road-map-cum-vision-document-for-

Sir
I have already put few suggestions on the draft

Recently I have an opportunity to attend a meeting at district level on SDG And going through the budget prepared for last year for Department of AH and veterinary by government of Assam reflect very poorly

I just want to mention

Goal on education
Govt have allocated only 5 lakhs
How a department can infuse motivation to farmers / breeders / in service training to the technician to infuse and uphold the update on animal husbandry and growth of livestock business

Department play vital role in the
Goal 3 health and well-being Ness
Govt of Assam in last budget provided nil budget
Because think tank on SDG never thought
That veterinary has any roles to on this Goal and finance has provided bulk share to department of health and allied sector

We have to be vocal on these issues and have to raise points
Else we would miss the target

Please think and discuss
Thanks

#Akhilyesari
Miftahul Islam Barbaruah

Akshy kesari

Taking lot of pain and effort on draft preparation May I suggest few points to include in your draft Goal 13 climate action We have observed that many species and livestock breed are on the verge of extinction There are

@DrAkshyKesari Many thanks for taking time to review the first draft. You are right that vets have a role to play on animal conservation and to ensure better human animal interaction. We at roadmap team is keenly looking into survey response related to Q.21 and 22 under section F (Mandate) to argue for enhancing the scope of activity of the department. The other point related to proper disposal of dead animal is also vital. There are already guideline for this but awareness / enforcement is lacking. We need to highlight multifaceted role (including regulatory) of veterinary service delivery as for majority people, department's job is only production. Dr Barbaruah for Vet Roadmap Team.

20:08

Miftahul Islam Barbaruah

Akshy kesari

Sir I have already put few suggestions on the draft Recently I have an opportunity to attend a meeting at district level on SDG And going through the budget prepared for last year for Department of AH and veterinary by

@DrAkshyKesari Roadmap team is already in touch with Center for Sustainable Development, Assam Administrative Staff College. This center is responsible for developing state agenda for SDG. They got a copy of our first draft vision mission from department website and have appreciated the initiative. We could aptly highlight role of Veterinary sector across various SDG goal. Our discussion covered key areas like One Health, AMR, Food safety, animal welfare etc. The response is positive and they have agreed to suggest improvement -if any on our 1st draft. More participation in the survey is crucial for roadmap team to effectively present the case of veterinary services vis a vis SDG. We are anxiously waiting for people to return filled in survey forms distributed during the workshops. Dr Barbaruah for Vet Roadmap team
This is from an undisclosed source (Not from ongoing Vet Roadmap project). Are these targets realistic or achievable? Considering the food habit of people in Assam vis a vis other parts of the country. How relevant is ICMR recommendation used here to fix the requirement? Why cant we have targets fixed by our farmers at panchayat level? Data at Panchayat level can be aggregated for state figures. Participatory fixation of target will make all motivated to plan and achieve it. Its time we think differently and innovate or else department will have to face the criticism of not being able to achieve target. Government of Assam is already helping panchayats to prepare GDP (Refer Amar Goan Amar Achoni ). Vet Roadmap team will appreciate feedback from members.

Dr Rinku Deka Vet Kokrajhar

Very important article about losses to farmers income due to keeping animals loose. Can we enforce some rule or law regarding the same. Govt of Mizoram has enacted rules against keeping animals loose. It is causing harm to both agriculture and Veterinary sector.

One more issue I want to say that we need state wide sterilization programme for dogs.

Goat farmers are having tough time in most parts due to stray dogs

Akshy kesari

We have to say bye for
Keeping animals loose in open
For progress of agricultural economy
Dr Rinku Deka Vet Kokrajhar
Goat farmers are having tough time in most parts due to stray dogs

RIGHT. NOWADAYS MANY MORE SUCH INCIDENTS ARE HAPPENING. NOT ONLY GOAT, MANY CALVES OF THE GRAZING ANIMALS ARE FREQUENTLY ATTACKED BY THE ROAMING DOGS. THERE SHOULD HAVE A STATE POLICY FOR CONTROL OF STRAY DOGS.

Pradip Pathak
Registration of animal should be done by the government. It will increase the revenue of the department

Tirth Singh
Animal husbandry department may go with Animal welfare board of India to restrict the problems of stray dogs.

Pradip Pathak
Dr Pradip Pathak
Government should take necessary steps to compensate the farmers for the casualty done by the stray dogs
Dr Pradip Pathak Government should take necessary steps to compensate the farmers for the casualty done by the stray dogs.

Govt can take animal birth control (ABC) for Street dog.

21:48

Bhupen Borah

Very important article about losses to farmers income due to keeping animals loose. Can we enforce some rule or law regarding the same. Govt of Mizoram has enacted rules against keeping animals loose. It is causing harm to both agriculture and Veterinary sector.

23:09

It’s really important for Assam

23:09

Akshy kesari

Everyone agree with you on the opinion that veterinarian role on health. But they mostly remains back seater.

And other stakeholders are taking lead role.

Recently yoga preacher Ayurvedic are actively participators on health problems.

College can plays a leading role to sensitise the role of veterinarian in human health sector.

10:24

Dr Krishna kanta Baruah. Working at Hyd since 2005 in animal vaccine and antisera production.

Welcome... Simultaneous messenger discussion is going on. plz join

10:38

Dr Ranjan Das suggested strong investment to revive State Biologicals

11:04
drkkbbb
That is needed as outbreaks observed every year for HS, BQ, Swine fever, FMD, Duck plague etc
11:12

–jaya
Veterinary care should be provided at grassroots level, many villagers are out of reach for veterinary care, where they are raising animal for livelihood.
11:17

–Ranjan😊
Following point's I would like to mention. Revival of state vety. biologicals to produce quality cost effective vaccines for the disease prevalent in Assam. Surveillance on all imported animals to Assam for meat and breeding purpose. To develop a sustainable urban or rural marketing and distribution system or promoting direct marketing reducing involvement of middleman to give maximum benefits to the producer as well as to the consumers. It will help to mitigate the demand and supply gap and to have a more or less uniform price across the state. Involvement of state govt. at district level. Motivate people to for large scale production. Thank you.
Ranjan Das.
11:55

Dr. Himadri Sen
I think the world wide strategy for "One Health concept" for expanding the interdisciplinary involvement and understandings in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment, are still to be acknowledged by our Union Government.

This is evident from the NRHM activities (a mega event in this field), as of now, although one or two states are trying to take some preliminary steps. And If I'm not wrong NRHM, Assam is no exception.

Under the given scenario, I think we the caretakers of Animal Kingdom should always try to knowledge the society about the importance of nutrition, zoonosis, companion animals and above all the involvement of livestock sector in GDP.

I think this mammoth task can be achieved by our consorted efforts. Of course we will have to beat our own�rally.

Further, while inducting new ideas and technologies, I think we should strengthen our basics to enhance and sustain our productivity. Lots of losses are incurred every year due to lack of inputs in primary animal health services, viz deworming, poultry vaccinations etc.
20:13
Dr. Himadri Sen

I think the world wide strategy for “One Health concept” for expanding the interdisciplinary involvement and understandings in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment, are still to be acknowledged by our

Sir., Appreciate your input. GOI have recognized the importance of One Health. IDSP program of health dept (under the aegis of National Center for Disease Control) is fast integrating human and animal disease surveillance. Veterinary consultants are now working with Ministry of Health. As per govt. notification, RRT (Rapid Response Team) at each district must have compulsory participation of Vet. There are increasing instances of joint investigations. GOI is planning for a national cadre of public health professionals (including vet public health). In Assam Health dept appointed a Vet to bring in coordination between both the department. You will agree that job of vet is primarily to ensure health and wellbeing of human. (Disease control + Prevention of bio-terrorism + Mental health e.g. companion animal and Nutrition). We need to stop/minimize such livestock production which lacks nutrition, damages environment and are unsafe for human consumption. The second job of vet is to protect and promote livelihood of farmers and other value chain players. The 3rd Job is conservation, environmental protection and wellbeing of animal world. You may add many more ancillary role of Vet. Many of us have forgotten our 1st and 3rd role! Any comment ....

21:32 ✓

Miftahul Islam Barbaruah

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX —kalyanjit

A friend of mine needs some guidance in Vet care. Am from Non Vet background and friendly IT consultant of Dr Barbaruah.

@KalyanjitHatibarauh Many thanks for flagging a key issue related to companion animal care. Participants need to go through the FB link added by Mr Kalyanjit to understand the post. We will post a snapshot of same shortly. We have made a very little discussion regarding the need of large number of companion animals lovers and their expectation from State Veterinary Department. Number of skilled veterinarians in companion animal sector is limited. Those who are in such practice needs to market themselves and their services. We badly need investor who can support or bring in small time qualified and skilled companion animal vets to start a state of art private hospital. Investment can also be made to scale up any select pet clinic on professional lines. In recent years there are positive developments within the state where companion animal practitioners have formed a professional group to institutionalize continuous medical education for skilling themselves. Please discuss your views and highlight what can department do ensure/strengthen companion animal health care facility to people? Dr Barbaruah for Vet Roadmap Team.

09:22
Need of the hour is the development and uplifting of large animals rather than pet animal. Need to develop a matrix of farmers, vets and govt.

Need to strengthen the roots

Miftahul Islam Barbaruah
Need of the hour is the development and uplifting of large animals rather than pet animal. Need to develop a matrix of farmers, vets and govt.

We are already discussing many aspects of large animals. Companion animal health care and public health is also a part of overall mandate of department. Our post is to seek more opinion as to what is the expectation of citizens from the department in the context of companion animal care.

I agree but I still emphasis on what I said we have serious works to do.

Dr Sapsota Prof

Miftahul Islam Barbaruah
We are already discussing many aspects of large animals. Companion animal health care and public health is also a part of overall mandate of department. Our post is to seek more opinion as to what is the expectation of citizens from

Importance of companion animals is gaining popularity in recent times. So, some importance be given for them too
Thanks Dr Ranjan. Companion animal care is also a serious area as same is directly related to human health and wellbeing. Vet's first role is protection of human health and environment. Livestock production is meant for providing healthy food to human. A production system that gives unsafe, non nutritious food and that is detrimental to environment is not desirable. The department priority is first consumers or citizens in general. At department, we badly need to connect with general public. Many people think that department exist only for production of livestock base food or to create farming related employment.

Investible Projects
Assam has 238 investible projects for business under 8 focus sectors. Industrial infrastructure ranges from Food Parks, Software Parks, Biotech Parks, Plastics Park, advantageassam.com

The government of Assam under its Advantage Assam program (https://advantageassam.com/investible-projects), have already listed some opportunities for private investment. This includes various opportunities in livestock sector. Please check above link. It is interesting to note that government has agreed to provide developed land with electricity and water source to livestock sector investors through Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department. How will department ensure land subject to interest by investor? Are we going to witness leasing out of departmental infrastructures to private entities? How will the department benefit from PPPs? Please post your views and suggestions for Vet Road Map Team. Dr Barbaruah

I think priority shall be given to increase the AI coverage as much as possible and to do it cost effectively...department shall outsource the AI service from reputed agencies.
Miftahul Islam Barbaruah

I think priority shall be given to increase the AI coverage as much as possible and to do it cost effectively...department shall outsource the AI service from reputed agencies...

You have raised the pertinent issue of outsourcing of AI services. The attempt failed in Assam few years ago and private entities refused to start operations in Assam. Not much information is available regarding the reason for same. How is outsourcing working for other states? What are the pros and cons? Please discuss. Also reference to Advantage Assam program, keep posting on your views related to PPPs.

Dr Jayanta Hazarika

All progressive states in terms of Animal husbandry (Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Maharashtra etc) has been outsourcing AI services through NGOs under RKVY.

If department is interested...I can make a detail presentation.

If we can improve the germplasm...all other related activities will look economically viable...and germplasm can be improved by govt. efforts only.

Dear All, There are limited official post in this group for last few days. This is because the roadmap team is finalizing its draft report for submission to authority. We intend to seek permission of the authority to share various aspects of the draft report with you all in due course of time. This group will remain a important platform for sharing of our views related A H and Veterinary sector in Assam. We really appreciate your participation in this group and hope that discussions will become more lively once we share the draft report. Till then, please avoid posting common messages to this group.