



By Benson Ameda –President AVTA.

It's very humbling to be part of this 27th Bi-annual Conference of All Assam Veterinary Field Assistants Association. I sincerely thank your Association for inviting me as the guest of honor.

Africa Veterinary Technicians Association was founded in 2013, to promote and improve the animal resources industry through the provision of Para professional veterinary and related services; Provide linkages and empower the Veterinary Para professionals Association; and provide leadership in the relevant areas concerning the paraprofessional's interest, as part of the regional integration efforts.

While ensuring compliance with international standards in development of the livestock sub-sector, we are guided by the fact that there is urgent need to;

-Encourage effective and sustainable livestock development, and;

-Promote a stable Public-Private- Partnership for growth in the animal resources industry.

Given that the livestock sector supports over 1.3 billion people globally, it has the potential of being the leading contributor to economic growth, hence improving health and living standards of its people. In developing countries, livestock is indeed a path out of poverty. Further, it is important to note that India is blessed with enormous land, water, pasture and a vibrant veterinary Para professional profession.

However, the weak linkage between veterinary surgeons and veterinary paraprofessionals is dragging the World behind and fast moving towards disaster levels. The result of this is a deficient animal health system, defective disease control measures, inappropriate policies, lack of or implementable pieces of legislation and weak institutional framework. The livestock farmers and keepers have therefore, been faced with difficulties in accessing the available technologies and services. Most affected are developing countries.

Strengthening of veterinary governance in Africa

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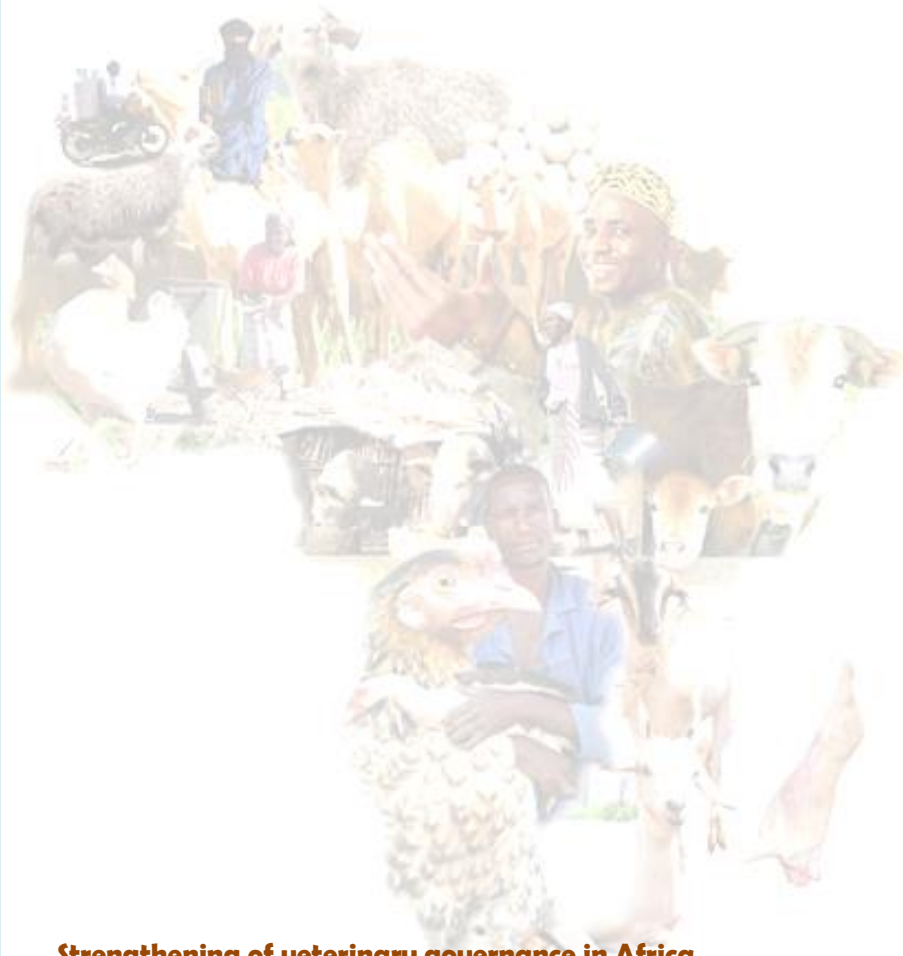
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This conference is therefore very timely and further compliments other efforts being spearheaded by various organizations. The recent launch of Minimum Competency Guidelines for VPPs by Oie will go a long way in improving the practice of Veterinary Paraprofessionals.

In conclusion, I urge all professionals to support their Associations, as this will strengthen the bargaining power and advocacy. As we know, livestock occupies a lower position in the prioritization of resources by the Public sector and it is only through advocacy, this situation can be reversed. Let us focus on Private – Public – Partnerships as a faster way of improving linkages between Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Paraprofessionals.

May the VPPs remain the force behind livestock Industry in the World. God bless Assam.



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