

THE DEVELOPMENT AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

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Abstract: The development and operational efficiency of the animal disease reporting system in Nigeria is reviewed by critically examining the completeness and immediacy of data supply by the system for the period between January 1977 and December 1984 on two serious diseases of livestock. The system was found to be characterized by late, inaccurate and gross under-reporting. While higher notification efficiencies were obtained for rinderpest than Newcastle disease, lateness in reporting was also higher for rinderpest outbreaks. Less than 65% and <25% of the total outbreaks of rinderpest and Newcastle diseases, respectively, were reported to national veterinary authorities. As much as 80.8% of all cases of rinderpest and 51.6% of Newcastle disease outbreaks analyzed were reported late. There were significant correlations between the time-lag before farmers reported to the veterinarians and the total recorded morbidities and mortalities at the close of the outbreaks. The constraints in the reporting system include inadequate veterinary personnel and poor diagnostic and reporting facilities.