



AFRICAN UNION  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



# **African Union policies, strategies and guidance documents that identify science, technology and innovation as an important vehicle for socio-economic development**

**Fourth International Workshop on Regulatory Approaches  
for Animal Biotechnology**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**



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# AU-IBAR AT A GLANCE

**PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA**



- 1951**     **Interafrican Bureau of Epizootic Diseases (IBED)**  
aimed at rinderpest eradication
  - 1956**     **Interafrican Bureau for Animal Health (IBAH)**  
transformed to widen the scope
  - 1965**     **Part of OAU**  
integrated as a regional technical office
  - 1970**     **Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)**  
to reflect the expansion into livestock production and marketing issues
- AU-IBAR has been specialized technical office of the AUC-DREA from 2003**



# Geographical coverage



**African Union Member States**

**African Regional Economic  
Communities**





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## ***VISION***

An Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to the reduction of poverty and hunger

## ***MISSION***

To be a vehicle of the AU for providing leadership and integrated support services for the development of animal resources in Africa

## ***MANDATE***

To support and co-ordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources to enhance nutrition and food security and contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the people in Member States of the AU



# *Core functions*

- 1. Improve animal health, disease prevention and control systems**
- 2. Enhance animal resource production systems and ecosystem management**
- 3. Improve access to inputs, services and markets for animals and animal products**



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# **STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 - 2023**



## **Strategic Objective 1: Human and Institutional Capacity Utilization and Strengthening**

**Objective:** To Support Capacity Development for Improved Human Resources and Institutional Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Delivery of Services

## **Strategic Objective 2: Promoting policy development and coherence for the development of Animal Resources in Africa**

**Objective:** To facilitate the formulation and harmonization of evidence-based and promote coherent policies for increased public investment and private sector productivity and competitiveness in order to transform the animal resources sector.



## **Strategic Objective 3: Coordination, Participation and the African Voice**

**Objective:** To enhance coordination, partnership and the African Voice at national, regional and continental levels.

## **Strategic Objective 4: Active Private Sector Engagement**

**Objective:** To Support Active Private Sector Engagement for Increased Investment from both public and private sources for the transformation of the animal resources sector to enhance its contribution to socio-economic development and equitable growth.



## **Strategic Objective 5 - Knowledge Management, Information, Communication & Advocacy**

**Objective:** To improve generation, dissemination and utilization of knowledge for sustainable animal resources development.



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# AFRICAN UNION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

*PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA*





# *Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024)*

- In June 2014, the 23rd Ordinary Session of African Union Heads of State and Government Summit adopted a 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024).
- The strategy fosters social transformation and economic competitiveness, through human capital development, innovation, value addition, industrialization and entrepreneurship



## *Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024)*

- It emphasizes the need to **focus on science, technology and innovation as tools of change.**
- The highlight from this strategic document is the emphasis that through the **application of modern technologies**, the most significant impact on the growth trajectories of most African economies will be observed.



# *Agenda 2063*

## *The Africa We want*

- Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.
- Identifies key Flagship Programmes which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent.



## *Freedom to innovate: Biotechnology in Africa's Development*

- Report on the role of biotechnology in the transformation of African economies as requested by Heads of State
- Key recommendations were on:
  - Biotechnology and its importance in various sectors (vaccines development, diagnostics etc.)
  - Strengthening capacities in Africa across various sectors
  - Governance in biotechnology (regulations, regional agreements etc.)



# AU-IBAR ENTRY POINTS IN ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY



**It is important to reiterate that AU does not set standards and regulations on the biosafety of animal biotechnology but supports Member States to develop policies and capacities for the regulation of GMOs**

*Provision of science-based information to empower Member States to make decisions on regulation of genetically modified animals and animal products*

- Convene Expert Panels to provide scientific opinion and guidance on different aspects of genetically engineered animals and food
- Support review and updating of animal components of national biosafety regulations to reflect the state of science





***Provision of science-based information to empower Member States to make decisions on regulation of genetically modified animals and animal products***

- Build the capacity of Member States to enhance the review and approval process for genetically engineered animals and foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals
- Strengthen the capacity of Member States in the utilization of tools for evaluating the health status of genetically engineered animals



## *Provision of guidance on animal biotechnology where Member States may not have capacity*

- Fundamental principle is that African Member States have the sovereign right on adoption, development or utilization of biotechnology
- AU-IBAR can provide guidance and advice on policy development, formulation, adoption and utilization of animal biotechnology in line with their national aspirations

*Provision of guidance on animal biotechnology where Member States may not have capacity*

- Therefore, there is need for greater collaboration and cooperation between the Member States, AU-IBAR and developers of animal biotechnology
- Working closely with biotechnology developers, AU-IBAR can build the capacity of Member States, on new animal biotechnologies through national, regional and continental training sessions

## *Status of some biotechnologies in animal reproduction, genetics and breeding in Africa*

Biotechnology	Status
Artificial insemination	well understood and widely practiced
Progesterone monitoring	mainly used with AI
Sperm sexing	this is relatively new in Africa, but used in mainly in dairy and poultry
Oestrus synchronization	widespread use in Africa, together with AI
Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer	although technology has been available for a while, only a few African countries are practicing it

## *Status of some biotechnologies in animal reproduction, genetics and breeding in Africa*

Biotechnology	Status
Embryo sexing	few African countries using this
Cryopreservation	some of African countries have some form of cryogenic facilities
Cloning	not used in Africa, apart from probably South Africa
Transgenesis	not used in Africa, apart from probably South Africa

## *Status of some biotechnologies in animal nutrition and production*

Biotechnology	Status
<b>Nutrients and feed additives</b>	these have been widely used in Africa
<b>Amino acids</b>	these have been used in Africa
<b>Enzymes</b>	these have been used in some African Member States
<b>Ionophores</b>	<i>monensin</i> was a popular ingredient in poultry feeds
<b>Probiotics and prebiotics</b>	compounds and live microorganisms used in the livestock feed industry in Africa



***Support Member States to adopt and apply international standards for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals and products of other biotechnologies***

- Promote harmonization of safety assessment approaches to facilitate uniform application of risk assessment principles across the continent
- Facilitate participation of AU Member States in international discussions on standardization on animal biotechnology and genetically engineered food





***Support Member States to adopt and apply international standards for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals and products of other biotechnologies***

- Promote sensitization and awareness on animal biotechnology and biosafety development among Policy Makers, Regulators and consumers to foster trust and transparency
- Facilitate partnerships and cooperation to strengthen regulation of biosafety issues in Africa



***Everything around us  
constantly changes  
and so creative  
options for adapting  
to this change  
become the only  
guarantee we have  
for a meaningful  
existence***



*The Late Professor Calestous Juma  
Internationally recognized scholar in the  
application of science and technology to  
sustainable development worldwide*



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**Thank You**

**Merci**

**شكرا**



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