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INTRODUCTION

Veterinarians manage the health and welfare of animals, diagnose animal disease, and provide many other services that impact the health and welfare of animals, humans, and the environment. Husbandry advice, herd health evaluations, animal pasture interactions, and other activities performed by food animal veterinary practitioners help to ensure global food security and adequacy of human nutrition. Several factors contribute to the challenges of achieving global food security including armed conflicts, rapid population growth, difficult economic environments, improper production system and climate change.

Attaining food security at a global level requires a holistic approach that includes recognition of causes of malnutrition, resilience of production systems, efficient animal and plant productivity, fluctuating incomes of small food producers, and the sustainable use of ecosystem biodiversity and genetic resources. Veterinarians make significant contributions to the four pillars of food security and nutrition: availability, access, use, and stability. Veterinary work improving animal health and welfare leads to a more secure, sustainable, non-polluting, safe, and nutritious food supply free of unwanted substances.

Veterinarians should and will continue to take a proactive approach towards achieving global food security. Integrating veterinary expertise into current and future global food security programs and identifying possible workforce opportunities for veterinarians outside of clinical practice would further leverage WVA member expertise.

WVA POSITION

The WVA supports the promotion of the veterinary role in achieving global food security through the establishment of relevant partnerships between the veterinary profession and other networks such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Global Action Programme on Food Security & Nutrition, Zero Hunger Initiatives and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and such other future programmes/projects.

WVA RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The World Veterinary Association encourages the integration of veterinary expertise in global food security initiatives.
2. The WVA recommends greater collaboration between the veterinary profession and other key stakeholders in food security and nutrition.
3. The World Veterinary Association urges member organizations to conduct a food security and nutrition workforce assessment to determine additional positions that veterinarians may be qualified for, outside of those traditionally filled by veterinarians.

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