



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES



GALVmed
Protecting Livestock – Improving Human Lives



ILRI
INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



COMMUNIQUÉ

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON DIAGNOSTICS FOR EFFECTIVE RUMINANT DISEASE CONTROL IN KENYA

31 March – 1 April 2026 | ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya | Co-convened by the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), GALVmed, ILRI & Clinglobal

Diagnosics First: A Unified Call to Strengthen Livestock Health and Livestock-Dependent Economy in Kenya

Stakeholders from the government, research institutions, the private sector - including private veterinarians, the pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry and commercial farms, farmer organizations and development partners convened to discuss the role of diagnostics in strengthening ruminant disease control in Kenya.

The **workshop objectives** were to:

1. Prioritise the most critical diagnostic gaps constraining effective ruminant disease control.
2. Explore how integrated diagnostic and service delivery systems can guide vaccination campaigns, treatment decisions and livestock disease control strategies.
3. Share innovations and sustainable models for diagnostic delivery and access.
4. Initiate a roadmap for strengthening diagnostic integration into Kenya's livestock health programs, strengthening intervention effectiveness and system-level impact.

The meeting recognized diagnostics as a cornerstone for early and accurate disease detection, enabling appropriate treatment, improved surveillance and targeted vaccination. Participants emphasized that strengthening diagnostic access and adoption is essential for improving livestock productivity, safeguarding farmer livelihoods and supporting national food safety, food security and trade. This will also enhance the economic return on veterinary interventions and strengthen the commercial viability of livestock systems.

A strong veterinary system is a key enabler of the Government of Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). In turn diagnostics are key to a strong veterinary system and so directly enable BETA.



Issued on behalf of the Workshop Organising Committee
Directorate of Veterinary Services | GALVmed | ILRI | Clinglobal



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES



A programme of presentations and roundtable mixed stakeholder discussion sessions was held over 2 days and revealed the following:

Key Findings

- Transparency and openness among stakeholders to discuss challenges and co-create solutions for improving diagnostics and disease surveillance in ruminants.
- Low diagnostic uptake at farm level, particularly in pastoral and smallholder production systems, resulting from lack of demand as well as lack of availability of timely and affordable diagnostic tests.
- Complementary roles of research and reference diagnostics, routine surveillance diagnostics, and field-level testing within Kenya's veterinary governance framework.
- An existing laboratory network needing operational improvement, particularly in logistics for sample collection, transport and analysis, and in ensuring feedback and information-sharing.
- Fragmented surveillance systems, limited reporting from counties to DVS and un-tapped surveillance contribution from private veterinarians, which hampers effective linkage between field reporting, laboratory confirmation and decision-making.
- Under-leveraged private sector capacity to scale diagnostic access and service delivery.
- Urgent need to ensure that regulatory and policy frameworks support availability, deployment and quality assurance of diagnostics.

Suggested Strategic Priorities to Build an Integrated Diagnostic and Surveillance System in Kenya

i. Strengthening diagnostic systems

- Support adoption of fit-for purpose tests including molecular and point-of-care diagnostics, centering farmer needs and capitalising on industry and research innovation.
- Improve sample referral and result dissemination systems, for example by using harmonized protocols and refresher training on sample collection and transport.
- Equip and capacitate regional and national laboratories to ensure geographical coverage and designate national reference laboratories for particular diseases.
- Strengthen laboratory infrastructure and human resource capacity based on the advocacy case that diagnostics underpin effective disease control and consequent socioeconomic benefits.

ii. Partnerships and coordination

- Promote public-private-community partnerships for diagnostic delivery.
- Consider a range of different diagnostic business models according to the context (e.g. subscription-based, outcome-based, freemium, embedded).



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES



- Strengthen collaboration between national and county governments.
- Engage all value chain actors benefiting from livestock diagnostics e.g. cooperatives, laboratories, farmer groups, service providers and food processors.

iii. Strengthening surveillance systems

- Strengthen data management and data integration systems for actionable surveillance insights.
- Leverage other surveillance stakeholders including private laboratories, private veterinarians, research institutes, universities, VPPs, communities and the wildlife and public health sectors.

iv. Policy, regulation and quality assurance

- Harmonize regulatory frameworks at national and international levels.
- Adopt policies that support private-public partnerships and policies that expedite the import of diagnostic kits and manufacturing raw materials.
- Strengthen quality assurance systems for both laboratories and diagnostic tests.

Stakeholder Engagement and Contributions

Strengthening diagnostic access and integration in Kenya's livestock health system requires coordinated action across a broad set of stakeholders, each contributing complementary capabilities. Participants highlighted the importance of active engagement, alignment and sustained collaboration to translate shared priorities into effective implementation and system-level impact.

- **Government institutions:** Provide an enabling environment through policy frameworks, regulatory oversight and national coordination, while supporting alignment of investments with national priorities.
- **Research institutions and academia:** Contribute to innovation, validation of diagnostic approaches and capacity development, while generating evidence to improve system performance through smarter diagnostic processes, including field triage, sample management, digital tools and data-to-decision workflows. Socio-economic research can further demonstrate how diagnostics improve livestock productivity, reduce losses and strengthen the investment case for diagnostic services.
- **Private sector (industry and service providers):** Advance development of user-oriented products and scalable delivery models, expanding distribution networks and last-mile access to diagnostics and related services.
- **NGOs and development partners:** Support alignment of investments with national priorities, provide technical assistance, and contribute to coordination, knowledge exchange, and system-strengthening efforts.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES



GALVmed
Protecting Livestock – Improving Human Lives



ILRI
INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



- **Private veterinarians and professional associations:** Facilitate adoption, reporting and the linkage of diagnostics to field-level decision-making and service delivery.
- **Producers and communities:** Drive uptake of diagnostic services, contribute to disease reporting and provide feedback essential for responsive and effective system design.
- **Public, private and development financing partners:** Sustainable transformation will require coordinated mobilization of resources from government budgets, private-sector investment and development partners to support priority system improvements.

Participants emphasised that effective implementation will depend on strengthened coordination, shared accountability and aligned financing across stakeholders. In this context, facilitation platforms can play a catalytic role by supporting alignment, fostering collaboration, and helping translate shared priorities into coordinated, actionable and investable pathways to advance Kenya's livestock diagnostics system.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Participating stakeholders agreed to strengthen intersectoral coordination and endorsed a focused set of priority actions to accelerate diagnostic access and integration into livestock health programs. Priority actions include expanding last-mile diagnostic access, scaling digital and real-time reporting, developing the potential of the laboratory network, improving surveillance integration and promoting sustainable public-private partnerships. The voice of farmers must be central for directing progress to embed diagnostics in livestock value chains.

The workshop concluded that coordinated investments, aligned policies and clear public-private roles are essential to build a financially sustainable and accessible diagnostic system that enhances early disease detection, supports targeted vaccination and rational treatment, reduces livestock losses and contributes to national food security, One Health disease control efforts and economic prosperity.

Future outputs, to be co-developed with workshop participants and other stakeholders, include:

- **Workshop Report** by June 2026: A synthesis of presentations, discussions and key findings, structured to inform both national and regional stakeholders.
- **Roadmap for Diagnostic Access and Integration** by December 2026: A roadmap outlining priority actions, stakeholder roles, partnership and investment opportunities to better integrate diagnostics into Kenya's livestock health programs.