

Training Notes
For
Community Animal Health Workers

**Foreword
and Acknowledgements**

Small Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program
PO Box 1604, Lilongwe Malawi



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Agriculture represents the single most important element of food security in Malawi today. It is also a major contributor to poverty reduction through foreign exchange earnings. Provision of support services to the agricultural sector is therefore a vital requirement in the continued production of food and agricultural products.

In its work in the livestock sector, SSLPP recognises the many challenges faced by the key providers of livestock support services, particularly government, NGOs, research institutions, and industry.

In recent years, support services to the livestock sector have declined due to several factors. One way to redress the problems caused by this decline is to utilise the resources available within rural communities themselves. This can be done through providing basic training to selected individuals based within the communities. This principle is not new; it has been a system used in Malawi since the 1990s and has been utilised in other countries in the region for some years.

These Training notes for Community Animal Health Workers are derived using local knowledge as well as experiences of other institutions such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the South Pacific Commission, and Heifer International. Local sources of advice and assistance also included the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development and the Department of Extension Services. SSLPP acknowledges and is grateful for the input and ideas of these institutions in producing these notes. The training notes are designed with particular reference to Malawi but hopefully will be of potential use in other countries in the region.

SSLPP hopes that these training notes will help in the establishment of community based animal health workers who will work in cooperation and partnership with government field staff and other providers of extension services to enhance livestock health and production in Malawi and thereby assist in poverty reduction and food security.



Sute Mwakasungula
Executive Director

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Mr C L K Chiwayula, Translator

Mr B F Lwara, SSLPP

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SSLPP

We acknowledge the significance of this assistance which has helped in the production of a set of training notes which will serve the interests of smallholder farmers in the livestock sector in Malawi.

Pat Boland, Field Veterinary Officer, SSLPP

Editor

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