Collaboration to Fight Falsified Veterinary Products

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Topics

• World Customs Organization (WCO) and Customs Administrations

• Statistics and Analysis

• Possible future collaboration between Animal Health Ministry and Customs to tackle Falsified Veterinary Products
What is WCO (World Customs Organizations)

The WCO represents 183 Customs Administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.

3 Main Strengths of the WCO

✓ Capability and responsibility for global standard setting for Customs

✓ Cooperation with other international organizations

✓ Network of accredited experts from Customs Administrations

✓ Capacity Building / Technical Assistance delivery

33 WCO Members in the Asia Pacific Region
Customs Roles and Responsibilities

✓ **Facilitation of International Trade**  
   (Simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures)  
   - as one of the key factors for economic development  
   - potential cost reduction in trade: 15-17% (OECD estimate)

✓ **Revenue Collection**  
   - remains as a top priority for many Customs Administrations  
   - revenue collected by Customs in tax revenue: 1% -70%(WCO report)

✓ **Protect Society, Public Health and Safety**  
   - drugs, fake medicines, weapons, ammunition, illicit environmental trade etc.
Collaboration between the OIE and WCO

➢ Cooperation Agreement

- Purpose: cooperate closely in the common interests
  -- Fight against smuggling and fraud in veterinary medical products
  -- Implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WTO TFA) through coordination between national Customs Administrations and Veterinary Services (Coordinated Border Management)
WCO Statistics (WCO Illicit Trade Report)

Information from WCO Members

**Counterfeit Medicines (Reference)**
(2018) - 5,799 Seizures, 346 million pieces, 43,000 kg
(2017) - 7,629 Seizures, 270 million pieces, 283,000 kg
(2016) - 2,415 Seizures, 186 million pieces

**Counterfeit Veterinary Agent**
(2017) - 32 Seizures, 7,000 kg
(2016) - 226 Seizures, 200,000kg
WCO Statistics and Analysis

Detection Method
- Risk profiling information is the key
- Routine control
- Random selection
- Intelligence and investigation

Medical product trade flows by region
- Asia Pacific Region has been the most common region of origin of illicit products
Agenda

What would be the possible future collaboration between Animal Health Ministry and Customs to tackle Falsified Veterinary Products?
Customs Enforcement of Falsified Veterinary Products

Two Possible Approaches for Customs (Legal Ground)

1. Pharmaceutical Related Laws
   - Do the products meet the standards or regulations?
     (Licence? Approval/permission by other government agencies?)

2. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Laws and Customs Law
   - Counterfeit medicines?
     - IPR Violations?
     (IPR infringement, Customs law violation)
Regulations under Pharmaceutical Law

How can trade flow be streamlined?

Approximately 58% of Customs administrations use Single Window systems.
Enforcement with IPR Law

How can Customs better target at the border?

- Importer/Exporter
- Clearance System
- Advance Information Exchange
- Animal health related Ministry/Department
- Customs
Possible Challenges in Single Window and Information Sharing

✓ Lack of information and communication technology (ICT)
✓ Budget and human resource constraints
✓ Inadequate legal framework
✓ Difficulties in **inter-agency co-ordination**

**Coordinated Border Management** (TFA Article 8)
- Domestic Cooperation (among related authorities and agencies)
- International Cooperation

Note: Single Window (TFA Article 10.4)
Key Components for Successful Enforcement

✓ Policy and Strategy
✓ Organizational structure
✓ Legal frameworks and procedures
✓ Cooperation with right holders
✓ Cooperation with other government agencies
✓ Targeting
✓ Human resource development in Customs
✓ Information sharing in Customs
✓ Public awareness
Thank you for your kind attention

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