

ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



ITP: 310/6

Healthy livestock – Safe food

October 2025 in one of the participating countries
April 2026 in Uppsala and Jönköping, Sweden



Closing date
for applications:
➤ **20th December
2024**

Welcome

This International Training Programme is specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of importance on different levels and holding a position in the home organisation with mandate to run processes of change. It offers support to strengthen, adapt and maintain capacity over time in order for your organisation to define and achieve goals in both the short and long term. A participant will take part of the latest development in your area of work supervised by skilled Swedish colleagues and experts, develop a network of colleagues from other countries in the region and enhance knowledge in new working methods. The methodology used is based on the assumption that your organisation wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes.

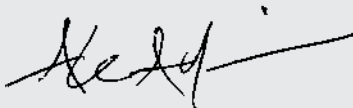
Despite urbanization being one of the biggest trends in the twentieth century, agriculture is still the largest economic sector in many countries. It has been shown that investments in the agricultural sector are more effective in strengthening the national economy, and thus more efficiently contribute to poverty reduction than investments in other sectors. Livestock constitute an important part of agriculture. Sustained health of food producing animals is a prerequisite for the sustainable production of animal derived food products, and for a future where antibiotics can continue to be used effectively to treat serious human and animal infections. This vision is a guiding principle for Swedish animal husbandry and Swedish food production, and it is in this context that the present program has been designed. The program aims to take a holistic approach on the value chains from stable to table, and at the same time highlight specific areas of animal health, food safety and antimicrobial resistance.

Activities will contribute to reinforcing the capacity of existing regional economic institutions and networks. A strong sense of ownership is fundamental. Importance will be placed on improving the cooperation between countries in order to achieve a collective approach.

The Swedish Veterinary Agency is a national authority under the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, with its mandate in veterinary medicine, providing expert advice on infectious animal diseases.

In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. The scheduled programme will take place as local hybrid workshops in May 2025 and January 2026, a regional workshop in October 2025 in one of the participating countries, and finally we meet in Sweden in April 2026.

Sida and the Swedish Veterinary Agency hereby invites you to nominate suitable candidates.



Alan AtKisson
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP
AND INNOVATION
Sida



Karl Ståhl
STATE EPIZOOTIOLOGIST
National Veterinary Institute, SVA

Programme objectives

The overall objective of this programme is to reduce poverty and vulnerability among smallholder farmers. More specifically, the programme will address how better health in food producing animals improve sustainable production of animal derived products, and how this interrelates to reduced usage of antimicrobials and safer food products. The programme should both suit the participants' need and contribute to poverty reduction by promoting a sustainable livestock production. Thus, this programme relates to several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, and especially: SDG1 – No poverty, SDG2 – Zero hunger, and SDG3 – Good health and well-being.

The main objectives are to: improve animal health; reduce the number of zoonotic infections in humans; decrease the development of antimicrobial resistance; and reduce the presence of antibiotics in food. The specific results that the programme aim to achieve for the participants are the following:

- Participants have increased knowledge about
 - a) the importance of preventive measures for improved animal health, animal welfare and reduced antimicrobial use;

- b) surveillance and control of endemic, epizootic and zoonotic diseases, including food-borne zoonoses;
- c) a synergistic approach of the value chains from stable to table, and how their organisation in collaboration with other actors can use this approach.

- Informal networks are established between present and former participants on national and regional level
- Participants have finalised their change projects
- Enhanced cooperation between national and regional actors have been achieved.

Content

The programme aims at providing the experience and knowledge on how to take a composed approach on the value chain from stable to table, and at the same time highlight specific areas of animal health, food safety and antimicrobial resistance.

The training contains the following modules:

- Introduction: the Swedish value chain context
- A common knowledge platform: Disease-causing microbes (bacteria, viruses, parasites, pathogenesis, disease transmission, etc); Epidemiology (measures of frequency and association, study design, descriptive epidemiology, etc)
- Preventive animal health – Prevention is better than cure (biosecurity and disease control, animal welfare, etc)
- Organisations within the food value chain
- Agenda 2030 – How to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Control of foodborne zoonoses (food safety system, risk analysis, etc)
- Antimicrobial substances (antimicrobial resistance development and surveillance)
- Disease surveillance
- Crisis awareness of zoonotic animal diseases (risk assessment, foodborne outbreaks, etc)
- Decentralised management (regulations and structure of food value chain control in Sweden, etc)
- Capacity building – practical project work (project models, leadership, communication, etc)

The modules contain theoretical lectures, seminars, group discussions, study visits to authorities, district veterinary office, farms and abattoirs.

The participants' individual change projects are important instruments for implementing prioritized institutional changes on an organisational, national or regional level. These changes may lead to a more coordinated approach between authorities within the sector. The project should be executed as an integrated part of the participants' ordinary work, and fully endorsed by the organisation.

The basis of the ITP approach is that there is a strong interest among participants to learn from experiences in other countries and organisations. Because of the inclusion of the complete food value chain in the programme, it is an advantage if there are several actors from the same country representing different parts of society and the value chain, to establish capacity within this sector.

Programme structure

The programme is composed of five interrelated phases. Participants are expected to actively work on their change projects during the entire training programme.

Phase I

The first preparatory phase takes place locally, as digital and hybrid workshops, and in the participant's organization. The phase includes the invitation process and selection of institutions and participants. Moreover, identification of problem profiles that shall form the basis for the change projects that the participants shall work on throughout the programme to benefit the respective country and institution. It should be emphasised that a strong commitment towards the programme and the change projects amongst the relevant decision-makers is a precondition for participating in the programme.

Phase II

Phase II is a one-week workshop, where all participants meet in one of the participating countries. There will also be a one-week local hybrid workshop where participants meet at one location in their home country. During the workshops, participants will be provided with information on issues related to the value chain approach, from stable to table. More specifically animal health, food safety and antimicrobial resistance. Study visits, lectures and exercises will be included in the programme. Participants will present their projects and the progress of implementation, and exchange experiences. Additionally, the phase will cover further elaboration on the problem profile and design of the change process that is to take place during Phases III-V.

TIMETABLE

WHERE:

Phase II will be conducted in one of the participating countries (location to be announced) and locally in each of the participants' home countries.

Phase IV will take place in Uppsala and Jönköping, Sweden.

WHEN:

The programme runs from April 2025 – May 2026.

Phase II will run in October 2025 (one-week regional workshop) and in January 2026 (one-week local hybrid workshop) and Phase IV will run in April 2026.

Dates and locations of trainings are subject to change in case of travel restrictions.

DURATION:

13 months.

Phase III

Phase III is of five months duration and covers project work at home base where the change process is developed with support from the programme experts. The projects shall be driven and developed in close co-operation with the relevant institutions nationally and regionally. Co-operation with former participants and co-operation across borders with participants from other participating countries is encouraged.

Phase IV

Phase IV takes place in Uppsala and Jönköping and lasts two weeks. All participants will make final presentations of their projects and share experiences. Study visits, lectures and exercises will also be included in the programme.

Phase V

Phase V is the final phase of the programme. The participants shall then continue the work on developing the projects but with emphasis on the implementation of the projects. The programme experts will monitor and evaluate the results of the change projects, in cooperation with the participating organisations, in order to make full use of the results and enhance the capacity within animal health and food safety.

The total duration of the programme will be about 12 months.

TEACHING

Lectures, seminars, group work and study visits will take place daily during two weeks for the regional and local workshops of Phase II and during the two weeks of Phase IV, estimated at approximately 40 hrs/week. Lectures during Phase II and IV will be given by professionals from the Swedish Veterinary Agency, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Swedish Food Agency, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and other relevant Swedish, regional, and international institutions and companies.

Study visits will be organised to all key institutions.

Participants are strongly encouraged to contribute actively in the training and discussions. Participants will be provided with literature according to the structure of the programme. The number of participants is limited to 25 in order to ensure a close working relationship between the participants and the lecturers.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The programme is planned and implemented by the Swedish Veterinary Agency, Swedish Board of Agriculture and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in close collaboration.

Experts from the Swedish Food Agency are also involved in parts of the programme.

Admission requirements

INVITED COUNTRIES

The programme has a regional approach to promote animal health and food safety in Eastern and Southern Africa. The following countries are invited to nominate candidates: *Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

TARGET GROUP

Only candidates nominated by the appropriate organisations and in accordance with national rules will be considered.

Invited to participate are governmental departments and agencies, including universities, research institutes and laboratories, cooperatives and other interest groups as well as non-governmental organizations engaged in the sectors of animal health, food safety and antimicrobial resistance.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The training programme will be organised and conducted in English, without any translation. Candidates from countries where English is not an official language should do a language test with an official body in the home country, unless other documentation to support for her/his ability can be provided.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

As the training programme consists of international travels and work away from home in a new environment, good health and full working capacity is required. It is therefore recommended that candidates undergo medical examination before filling in the Medical Statement in the Application form.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The participants should be able to participate in all phases of the program and all activities, including social activities. Basic computer skills, access to a computer, internet and an e-mail address are necessary for the entire training, including phase II. Please note that family members are not allowed to accompany program participants.

COSTS

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover costs related to all programme phases except personal expenses, visa fees or any local airport taxes and departure fees.

International travel to Sweden and to the regional seminar, board and lodging, program fee and literature are covered by Sida.

Airline tickets will be booked by the Swedish Veterinary Agency and issued by a Swedish travel agency. The participants or their organizations need to cover costs for executing the project, personal expenses, domestic travel, visa fees, local airport taxes and departure fees.

VISA

The participants are responsible for obtaining all the necessary visas and checking requirements for passport validity for their stay during the training program. Inquiries should be directed to the respective Embassy/Consulate of Sweden or other Schengen representation entities as soon as possible after admission to the program.

For more information, please visit the Sweden Migration Board website www.migrationsverket.se/english.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be accommodated at hotels in single or twin rooms with bath/shower and WC.

INSURANCE

Participants are covered by a group insurance. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident during the training period in Sweden. Medical and dental check-ups are not included. Participants travelling outside Sweden on their free time are not covered by the insurance.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Closing date for applications:
20th December 2024

The application process consists of three steps in order to be completed:

1. Fill in the application form. It can be downloaded from www.sva.se/en/itp. The application form should be filled in electronically and signed before being sent by e-mail to registrator@sva.se indicating "itp310/6" in the subject line.
2. a) The applicant must be nominated by a relevant organisation/institution or authority.
b) The supervisor of the applicant must give her/his signature to confirm that the applicant can participate in the whole program, three plus one weeks away from home.
c) Include a recent photograph.
- d) Fill in required information and documents. A document describing the change project must be included.

Change project

The application should include a draft project concept note relating to healthy livestock – safe food issues to be developed and implemented in the home organization of the applicant.

1. Describe your change project in accordance with the instructions in the form.
2. The project plan must be approved and signed by the applicant's supervisor.
3. Submit the application form and Project Information Sheet electronically by e-mail to registrator@sva.se indicating "itp310/6" in the subject line.

Both men and women are encouraged to apply, as the program aims at equal gender representation.

Selection process

Selected candidates will be contacted no later than 15th February 2025 by e-mail including information on the program and the practical arrangements. Selected candidates should confirm their participation no later than 28th February 2025.

As part of Sida's work with capacity and institutional development Sida offers international training programmes (ITP) for participants from low-and middle-income countries in priority areas. ITP's methodology takes account of the desire to develop and reform that the participants' organisations have expressed in their application to the program.

The programmes cover areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development of co-operating countries and are based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective, the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the co-operating countries.

THE ORGANISERS



Swedish Board
of Agriculture

Swedish Board of Agriculture

www.jordbruksverket.se

The Board of Agriculture is the Government's expert authority in matters of agri-food policy, and is responsible for the agricultural and horticultural sectors



Swedish University
of Agricultural Sciences

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

www.slu.se/en

SLU develops the understanding and sustainable use and management of biological natural resources. This is achieved by research, education and environmental monitoring and assessment, in collaboration with the surrounding community.



National Veterinary Institute

www.sva.se/en

SVA is an expert authority under the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the nation's leading knowledge center for infectious diseases in veterinary medicine.