

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING MODULES FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND POPULATION MEDICINE

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ABSTRACT

In recent years the Veterinary Public Health (VPH) unit of World Health Organization (WHO) has devoted a significant component of its veterinary public health activities to the initiation and reorientation of epidemiological training. In particular, the focus has been on the need to provide better qualitative and quantitative training for public service veterinarians and especially district veterinary officers. With the support of the VPH unit, WHO and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G Caporale', Teramo, Italy, a series of workshops has been held in Hanover, Germany (1990) and Teramo, Italy (1991 and 1992), attended by invited individuals from both academia and public service with background in teaching and using epidemiological principles and practices. By consensus, it was recommended that a series of teaching modules be developed, initially in English, that could be used especially in developing countries where either veterinary school instruction or opportunities for graduate level course work in epidemiology have been very limited.

The 18 modules that have been developed to date are intended to serve as a manual and aid to teachers to use within different contexts and diverse venues. Each module has been organized and standardized into six sections to include the objectives, sub-objectives, the approach to be used (including not only 'what' will be taught but 'how' to teach the material), evaluation, exercises and any attachments or appendices. Selected modules may be used in any sequence according to the needs of the audience. A variety of teaching methods are encouraged to ensure that the learning objectives and sub-objectives are met. The emphasis is on problem solving and using 'real life' data with and without computer aids. Current plans are to field test selected modules in summer 1994 and use outcome assessment techniques to guide future developments and modifications. The objectives and sub-objectives of each module, together with selected examples of completed modules, are available for evaluation by symposium participants.

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