Capacity building and training program in animal health in Peru

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US Agency of International Development and US Department of Agriculture entered into a 3-year Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) in support of the US-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement that went into effect in 2009. This agreement fosters commerce between the 2 countries through the liberalization of trade in goods and services. Activities implemented under the PASA agreement address sanitary and phytosanitary issues that result in technical barriers to trade of agricultural products. The PASA supports the development and implementation of sector-specific programming in the areas of animal health, plant health, food safety, education and research. The University of Florida (UF) is collaborating with USDA Foreign Agricultural Services and the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) by providing technical expertise and training in targeted areas of the animal health system in Peru. The main objective is to enhance SENASA’s surveillance systems for, and response to, priority diseases of economic importance to animal agriculture. To accomplish this objective, this project considers (a) delivery of workshops in the areas of: (1) epidemiology and health policy; (2) transboundary diseases; (3) laboratory biosafety and biosecurity; and (b) delivery of a mentoring program in epidemiology and health policy to SENASA veterinarians. In each workshop, participants complete a pre and post evaluation instrument to assess learning objectives. In the mentoring program, each participant is given a project assignment that requires the use of epidemiologic methods to generate scientific data as the basis for formulation of health policy. The participant is assigned a mentor who provides guidance and assistance. The project is expected to produce results, conclusions, and recommendations to animal health policy makers on the need (yes, no) to update or implement new uniform methods and rules for disease control and eradication in animal populations in Peru. Project outputs and outcomes will be presented at the Symposium.