Actualization of strategies for national project on pest des petits ruminants control in Liberia
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Under the African Union (AU) Vaccines for the Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa (VACNADA) programme, the Republic of Liberia instituted a nationwide mass vaccination project against Pest des Petits Ruminants (PPR), a killer disease of small ruminants that is enzootic in West Africa. An estimated 80% of sheep and goats population in the country was targeted for primary vaccination and booster in 2011 to attain antibody level above threshold immunity against PPR. Serological evaluation of sheep and goats’ response to mass vaccination against PPR was subsequently carried out at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Fendal, Liberia as part of the VACNADA-Liberia 2011 project. The aim was to evaluate outcome of the nationwide vaccination exercise and conduct real-time hands on training of Laboratory Technicians in the evaluation of mass vaccination exercises in-country. This paper presents the epidemiological strategies and achievements of the project. The authors present developments in the infrastructure for veterinary services in Liberia, with emphases on field epidemiology and technical manpower capacity development in the use of c-ELISA test in monitoring seroconversion among vaccinated animals. This project has made significant impact on reducing morbidity and mortality losses associated with PPR outbreaks in sheep and goats in the county. The 2011 mass vaccination against Pest des Petits Ruminants was mainly supported by the European Union and has contributed significantly to national capacity building for improving food security and animal health in Liberia.