Sanitary and phytosanitary measures regulating sheep exports from Sudan
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Sudanese sheep is exported from Port Sudan quarantine in the Red Sea to many countries one of them is the kingdom of Saudi Arabia which sometimes rejects some ships using sanitary reasons arbitrarily. If Sudan joins the World Trade Organization (WTO), then, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) will play an important role in regulating animal trade and Sudanese sheep exporting sector can benefit from this agreements in protecting its exports and create new markets for the Sudanese sheep. Data was collected from Port Sudan veterinary quarantine in the Red Sea from the annual and monthly reports during the period from 1999 to 2005. Results showed that about 4.4% to 14.5% from the monthly exports of sheep were rejected in the year 2005 and 5% of the annual exports of the year 2000 due to sanitary reasons, there is no rejection during the months of the Pilgrimage hence there is an increasing demand for sheep to ElHaddi (sheep slaughtering during Pilgrimage). The other important point that the rejected sheep is re-inspected and re-tested thoroughly and then re-exported and it is accepted by the same veterinary administration of Saudi Arabia which reject it due to disease reasons just before days or weeks. This could be an indicator for using sanitary measures as a disguised restriction for trade.