

Evaluation of the animal health surveillance system in Uganda, 2012

Henry Mulondo, F. Monje, G. Asiimwe, B. Lubwama, R. Ademun, T. I. Nabukenya

Background

Animal disease surveillance system in Uganda is largely passive with data being collected and submitted to National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiologic Centre (NADDEC) by District Veterinary Officers on a monthly basis. Thirty eight priority diseases are reported, six of which are zoonotic in nature. However, the performance of the surveillance system has not been evaluated.

Objective

To evaluate the performance of the animal health surveillance system in Uganda

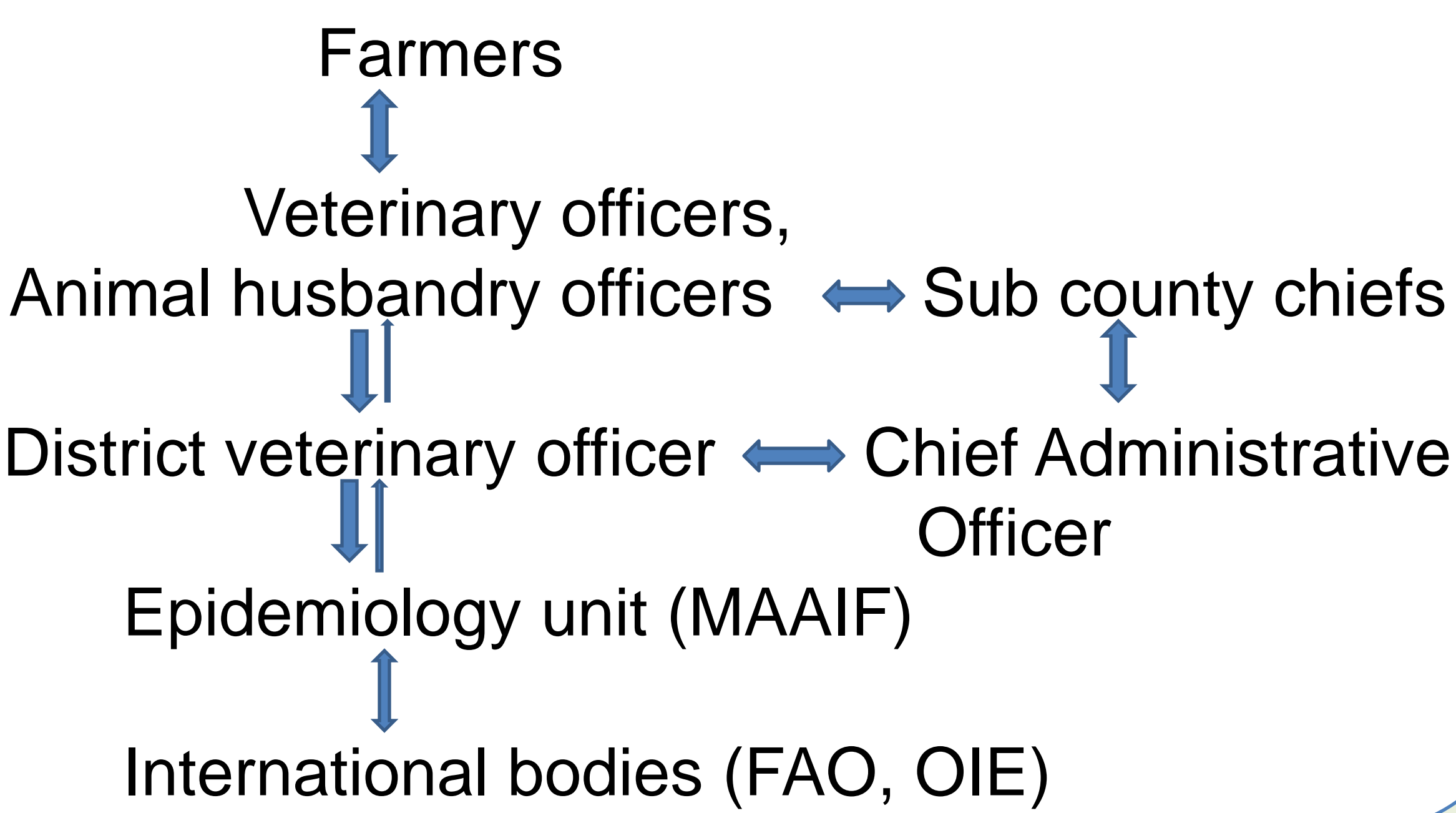
Methodology

- Updated CDC guidelines (2001) for evaluation of surveillance systems were utilized
- Attributes evaluated were; simplicity, timeliness, representativeness, sensitivity and acceptability
- Records for 2009 were reviewed
- Five key informant interviews with staff in the epidemiology unit were conducted
- Data was entered and analyzed in Epi-Info version 3.5.1 and MS-excel 2007

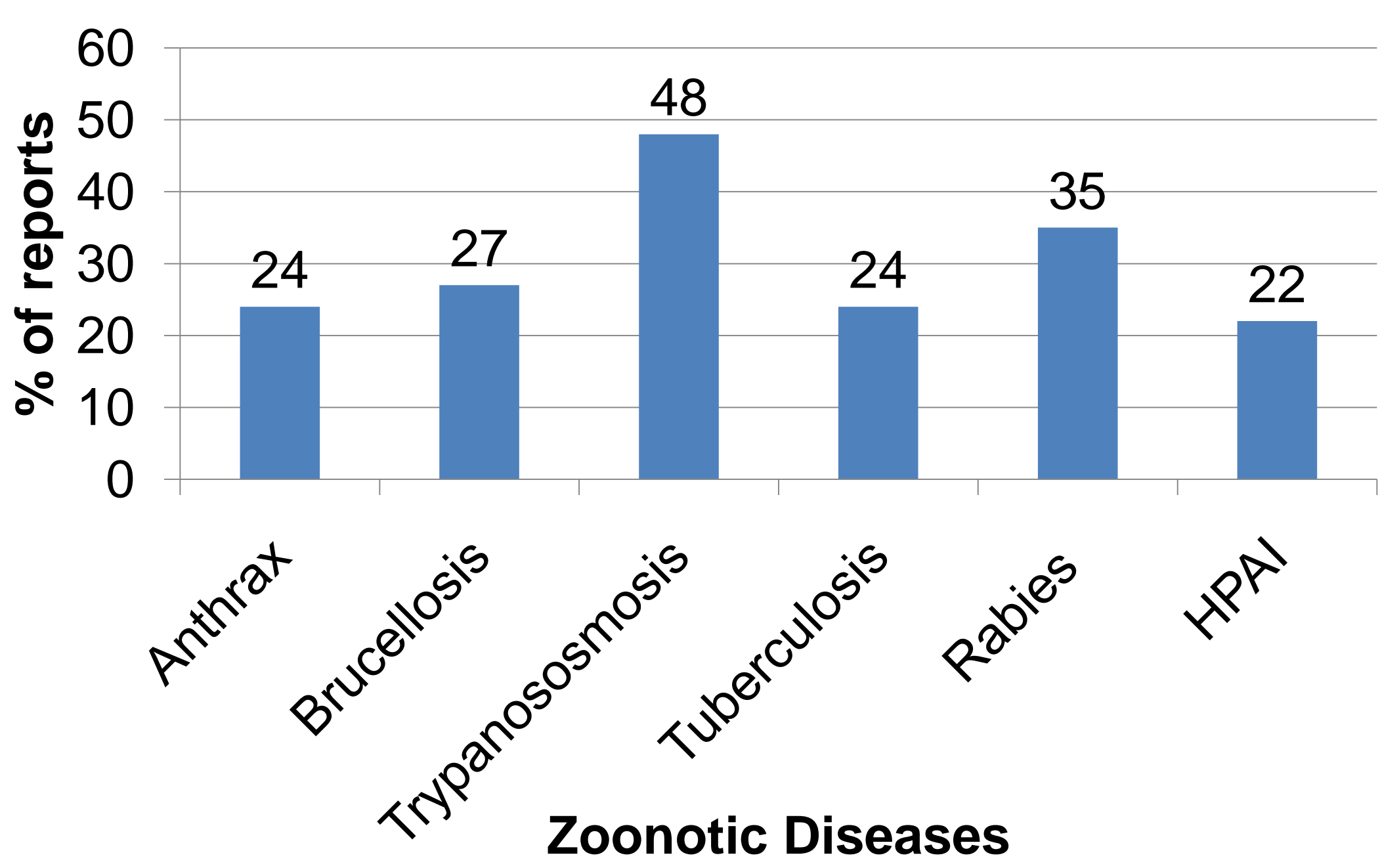
Results

Attribute	Performance
Simplicity	The system is complex. Data tool is bulky (15 pages), Lab and abattoir data is scanty, no data dissemination and data is manually transferred on forms
Representativeness	Only 25.2% (245) of 972 reports were received. of these, less than 50% reported zoonoses due to limited diagnostic lab facilities.
Acceptability	Of the 81 districts in Uganda, 15% (12) submitted all reports, 11.7% submitted before the 15 th day of the following (dead) month and 25.2% of the reports were complete.
Timeliness	Only 11.7% (9) of the 81 districts submitted reports before the deadline.
Sensitivity	Out of 245 reports, 27% indicated zero reporting for Rinderpest and 22% for HPAI while 35% were for rabies outbreaks
Flexibility	Twenty seven percent of the desired 60 staff are employed at NADDEC. Little funding, lack of field staff in some districts, limited lab facilities and little knowledge on data reporting make the system rigid.

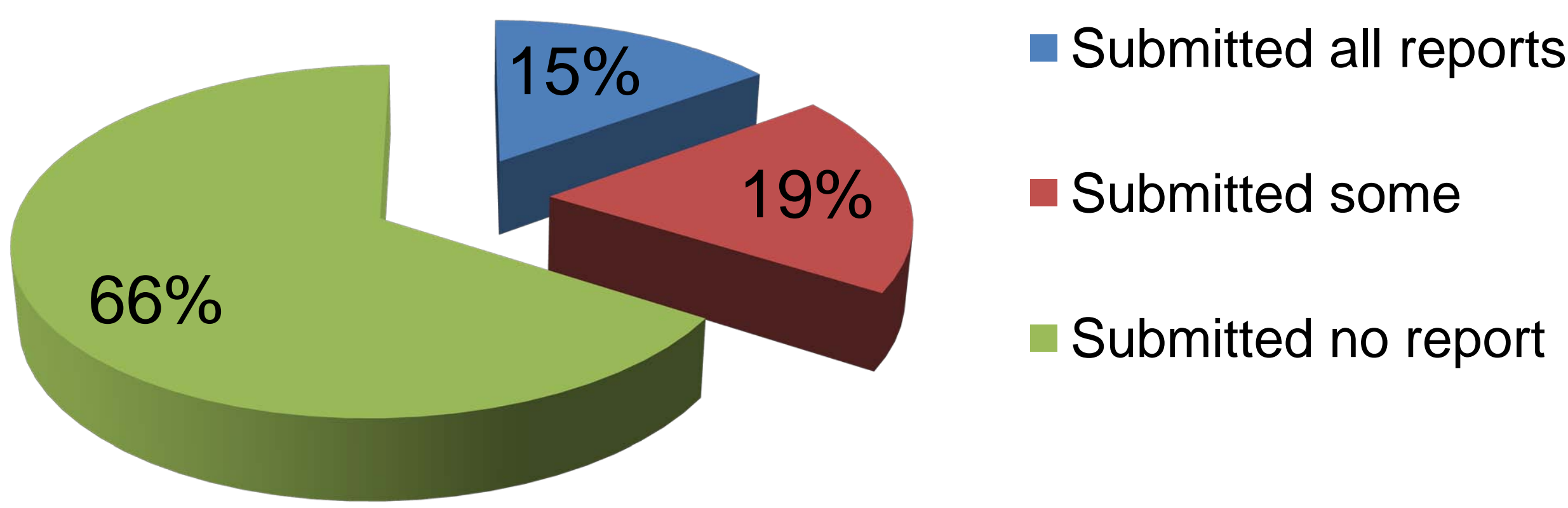
Data flow



Reports received on zoonoses



Districts that submitted reports



Conclusions and Recommendations

- The performance of the surveillance system was generally poor .
- Low staffing and limited funding affected performance.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal industry and fisheries should increase funding and train staff to improve on the surveillance.