



Current Status and Perceptions of Agrovet Operators in Kenya

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Agrovets/ Veterinary Pharmacy



70% of farmers seek animal health services first from agrovets

It is clear that Agrovets play a key role in primary animal healthcare.

But only 50% agrovets are licensed and **Many agrovets are poorly equipped with the technical knowledge** to professionally dispense veterinary medicine and **offer professional advice to animal owners**

Agrovets

Agrovets are located in urban and remote areas and play an important role in last mile animal health service delivery.

Agrovets play a central role in veterinary drug supply chain e.g. essential medicines

However, poor training, weak regulation and harmful non evidence-based practice weakens the animal health system

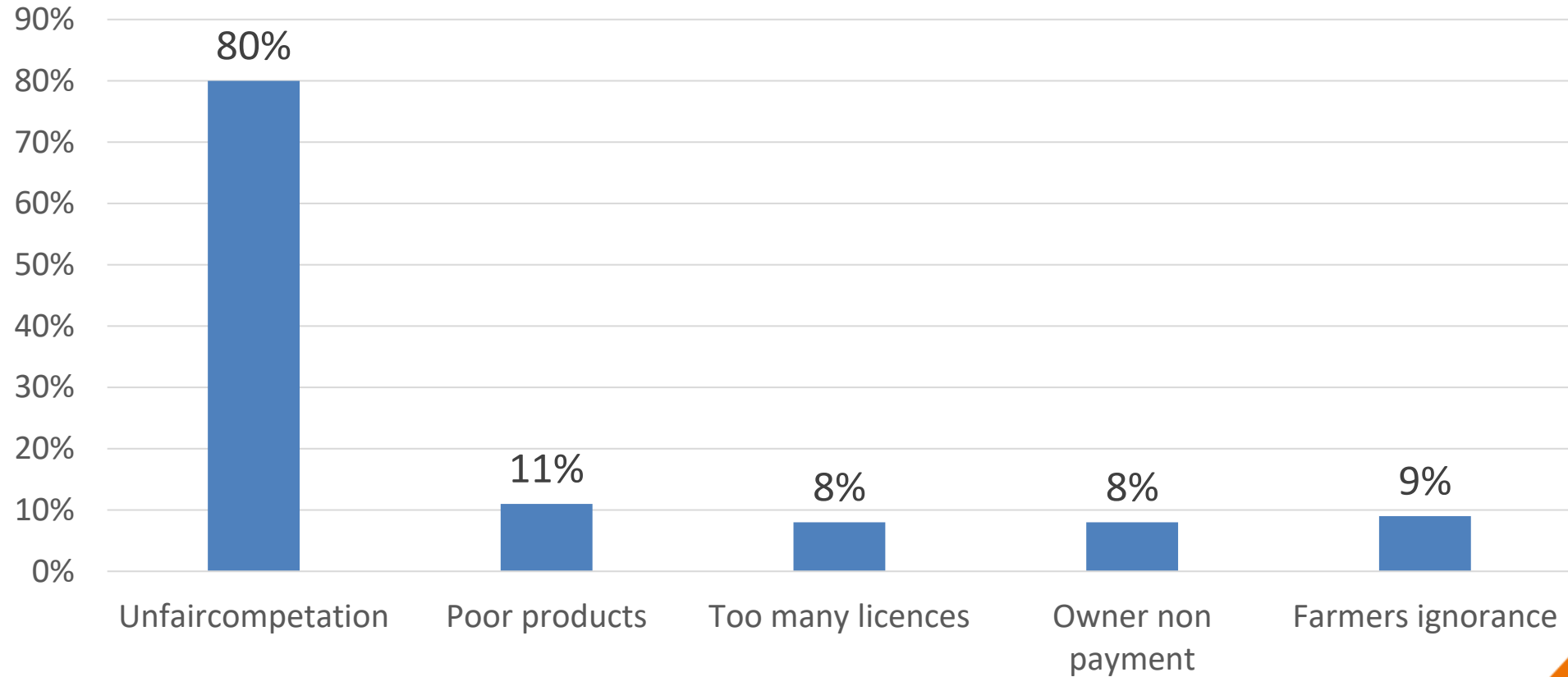


Some agroveter operators related statistics

- **Gender of operators:** Men = 67% and Women 33%.
- **Age:** 26 - 45 (80%); 46 – 60 years (16%) and over 60 years (4%)
- **Education:** Certificate (53%); Diploma (29%) and Degree (18%)
- **Ownership:** Employees (18%) and Owners (82%).
- **Agroveter Business Weak Areas:** Business management (51%); Digital Recording (24%); Antimicrobial use (18%) and Pain Management (13%)

Some agroveter operators related statistics

Challenges facing Agroveter operations



Challenges faced by regulators (KVB and VMD)

- Low capacity due to very few field inspectors
- Non-cooperation by County governments in streamlining the licensing of agrovet premises; This is because, presently, county licensing authorities do not require any evidence of qualification for someone to be licensed to start an agrovet shop
- Cases of offenders not given adequate priority by office of public prosecution **but** KVB records show 80% conviction rate.

Identified operation gaps

- **Weak regulation of the agrovet business**
- **Too many licenses required to operate an agrovet business leading to non-compliance**
- **Lack of adequate coordination between the regulators and County governments to streamline licensing and operations of agrovet business**
- **No agrovets training on AMR, Disease surveillance, Pain Management**

Agrovet perceptions on AMR

Antimicrobials dispensed: Antibiotics (98%); Antiprotozoals (2%); Antifungal (0%)

Dispense with prescription: Always (51%); Sometimes (29%); Rarely (13%) and Never (7%). However, no agrovet produced any prescription for verification.

What contribute to AMR: Wrong diagnosis (78%); Underdosing (73%); Additives in feeds (20%) and I don't know (4%).

How to recognize AMR: Non-response to treatment (69%); Disease recurrent (71%) and don't know (4%).

Agrovets perceptions on AMR

Advise owners on withdrawal periods: Yes (93%); No (7%)

Does AMR pose danger to humans: Yes (98%); No (2%).

Heard of superbug: No (84%); Yes (16%).

Why sell Antimicrobials without prescription: Owners demand (80%); Profit motivation (13%) and trained that way (7%).

***** operators said that owners need to be sensitized on AMU and regulators to up their game.***

Agrovet perceptions on Disease surveillance

- Keep clinical records: Always (38%); Sometimes (42%) and Never (20%). However, not a single agrovet operator was able to produce the said clinical records for perusal.
- Heard of Notifiable diseases: Yes (100%) and they all report to County veterinary Authorities
- Are you engaged by county vets in outbreaks: Yes (91%) especially in vaccination campaigns
- How do you update your knowledge on diseases: Consulting colleagues (56%); CPD (27%) and internet search (18%).

Agrovets perception pain recognition

- Is pain important in Animal Welfare: Yes (89%); No (11%)
- Knowledge on pain signs : Correct (96%); didn't know (4%).
- How often they give pain relieve drugs: Frequently (29%); Rarely (60%) and Never 11%
- It is a paradox that the knowledge of pain in animals is high but the use of painkillers to manage it was low.

Agrovet perception pain recognition

- Pain relieve drugs availability in the market: Readily available (24%); moderately available (58%) and Never available (18%)
- Stock pain relieve in the shop: No (100%)
- Have pain relieve drug on their ambulatory kit: Yes (30%); No (70%)

*** 80% of the agrovet operators acknowledged having gained more knowledge on pain management in animals from BEA mentorship*

Agrovet Mentoring Framework



Legal Compliance



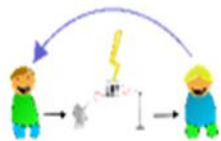
Agrovet Content



Pharmacological Expertise



Governance



Communicator

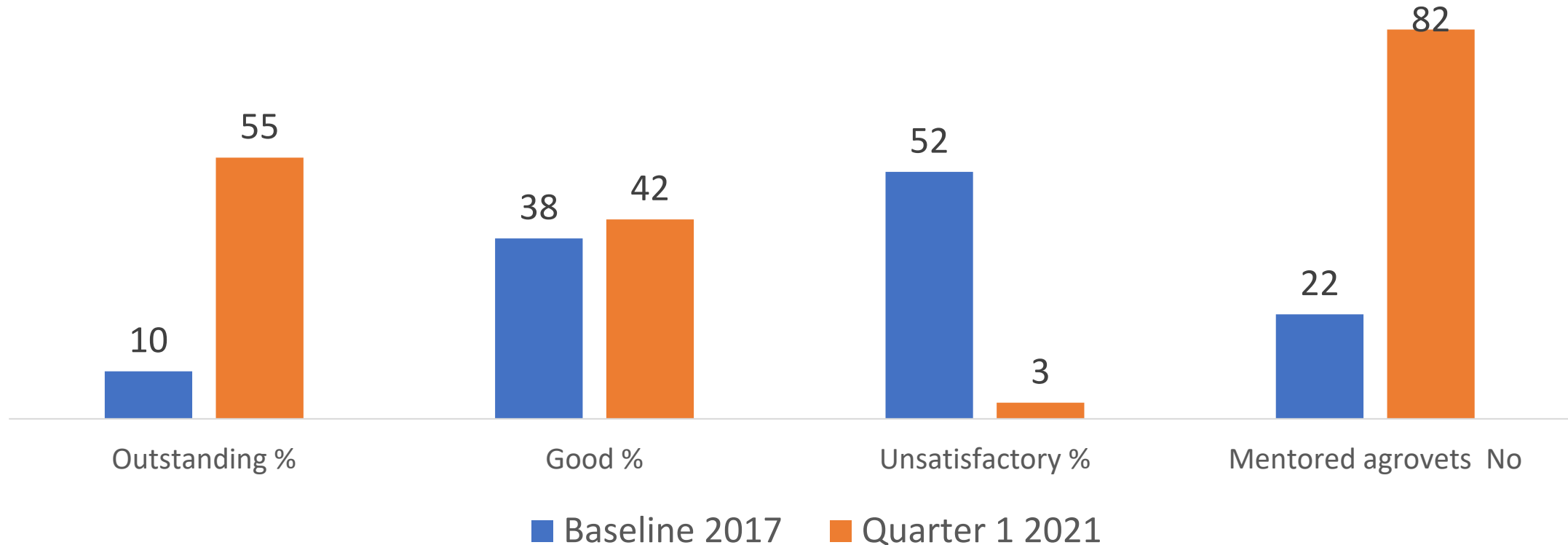
Agrovet provider centered mentoring approach

Mentors and Mentees procedurally recruited , enrolled and trained

Mentor empowered to focus on practical skills and background knowledge that are relevant to the work of agrovet practitioner.

Agrovet mentoring rubric has a set of 35 indicators clustered into 5 competencies

Brooke's Agrovets Mentoring progress



The aim of AMF is to support as many agrovets as possible to offer outstanding services

Conclusions

- ❖ Agrovets are critical to frontline animal health and welfare in Kenya. They play a key role in appropriate use of antimicrobials and therefore Agrovet training and regulation is essential.
- ❖ Brooke's AMF is an effective tool to build skills in the agrovet workplace and help combat gaps within the animal health system.
- ❖ AMF has the potential to improve the health of animals, people and the environment at grass root level.

Thank you for listening

