

Report on evaluation of the 9th biennial scientific conference and exhibition of the faculty of veterinary medicine, university of Nairobi

1. Most of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the conference activities as shown in in Figure 1.
2. The most interesting sessions were laboratory activity for aflatoxins (55%), animal welfare (52%), disease surveillance, diagnosis and control (52%), while both the opening and closing ceremonies were not ranked highly (Tables 2 and 3).
3. The participants gave an overall score of 7.7 out of 10 for the conference organization and the quality of presentations. This compares favorably with their level of satisfaction. When disaggregated by level of agreement with the quality of presentations made at the conference, those who agreed that the conference was well organised gave a score of 7.5, a score of 7.4 was obtained from those who were satisfied while a score of 8.0 was obtained from participants who strongly agreed that the conference was well organised (Figure 2 and Table 4).
4. However, a number of complaints were reported (see the attached report), and I have highlighted a few of these: need to improve on time management during the conference, the venue was not conducive and suggestion has been made for holding the conference in a different location, and not in the lecture theater, the time provided between announcement of the conference and deadline for submission of the abstracts, the state of toilet facilities at the conference venue and the attitude of the KVB staff registering members for the CPD points.
5. Further details can be found in the list of suggestion and opinion of participants on the quality of foods served during the conference which are provided within this document.

TABLE 1: The number of participants who indicated their level of agreements for the different activities of the conference

Factors	Agree	Satisfactory	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Conf. announcement	32	7	22	2	1	64
Poster display	36	17	8	0	2	63
Information for presenters	27	12	17	1	0	57
Session management	33	18	12	0	0	63
Time for meals	25	24	8	6	1	64
Oral presentations	39	8	16	0	0	63
Oral presenters	25	26	7	3	3	64
Registration services	27	14	20	2	0	63
Support services	30	11	18	4	0	63
Conference venue	22	15	23	3	1	64

FIGURE 1: Graphical presentation of the number of participants who indicated their level of agreements with different activities of the conference

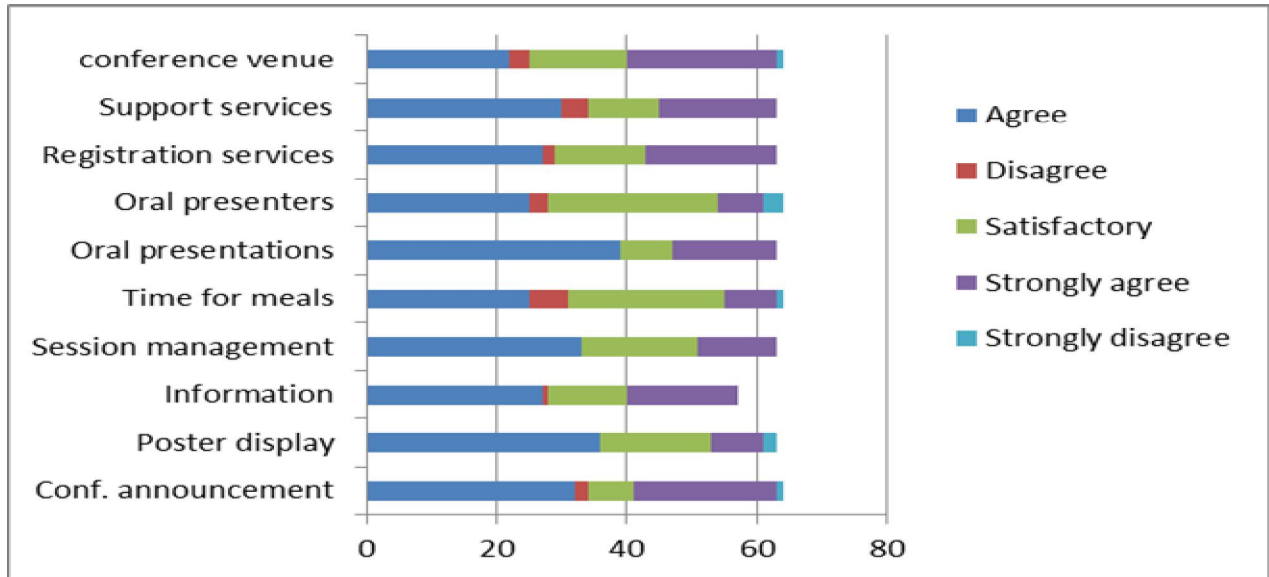


TABLE 2: Participants who responded yes for the question on the most interesting sessions of the conference

<i>Conference sessions</i>	<i>Those reporting “yes” for the most interesting sessions</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<i>laboratory activity for aflatoxins</i>	36(55%)	1
<i>Animal welfare</i>	34(51%)	2
<i>Disease surveillance, diagnosis and control</i>	34(52%)	2
<i>Biotechnology research in livestock production and health management</i>	29 (44%)	3
<i>Emerging and re-emerging diseases in a changing climate</i>	23(35%)	4
<i>Livestock value chains and agri-business</i>	20(30%)	5
<i>One health</i>	16(24%)	6
<i>Bio-prospecting and ethno-medicine</i>	12(18%)	7
<i>Policy and veterinary service delivery systems</i>	9(14%)	8
<i>Opening ceremony</i>	8(12%)	9
<i>Closing ceremony</i>	2(3%)	10

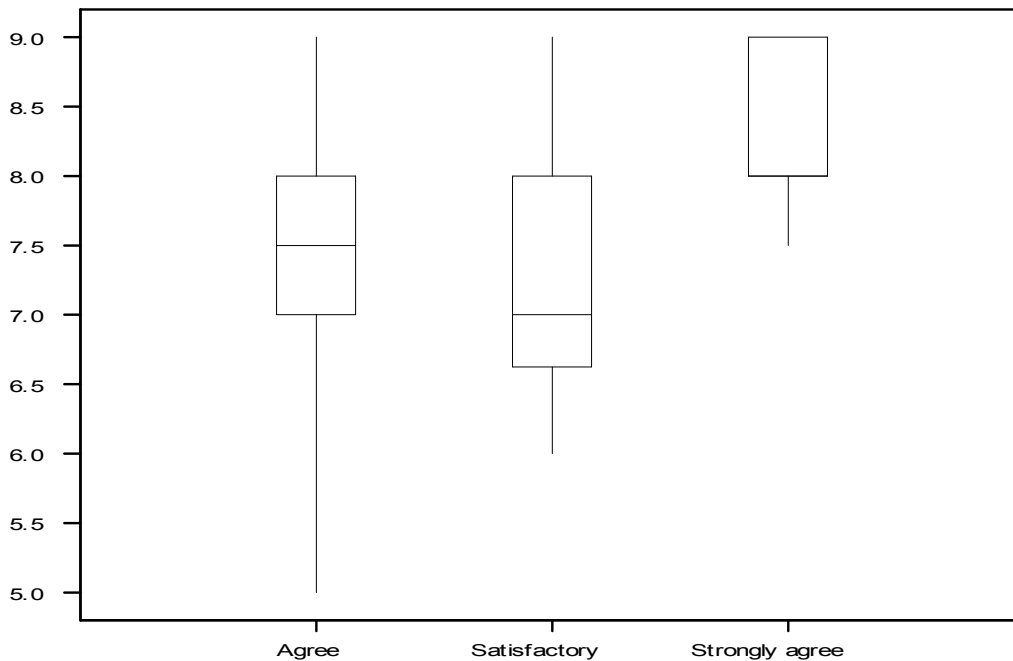
TABLE 3: Participants who responded yes for the question on the least interesting sessions of the conference

<i>Conference sessions</i>	<i>Those reporting “yes” for the least interesting sessions</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<i>Opening ceremony</i>	12(18%)	1
<i>Bio-prospecting and ethno-medicine</i>	10(15%)	2
<i>Biotechnology research in livestock production and health management</i>	6(9%)	3
<i>Livestock value chains and agri-business</i>	4(6%)	4
<i>One health</i>	4(6%)	4
<i>Policy and veterinary service delivery systems</i>	4(6%)	4
<i>laboratory activity for aflatoxins</i>	3(5%)	5
<i>Animal welfare</i>	3(5%)	5
<i>Closing ceremony</i>	3(5%)	5
<i>Emerging and re-emerging diseases in a changing climate</i>	3(5%)	5
<i>Disease surveillance, diagnosis and control</i>	0	6

TABLE 4: Descriptive Statistics for the average score for the conference by the as was scored by participants based on the quality of presentations made

Level of agreement	Number	Mean	Min.	Max.	Median
Agree	36	7.5	5.0	9.0	7.5
Satisfactory	7	7.4	6.0	9.0	7.0
Strongly agree	16	8.3	7.5	9.0	8.0
Overall score	59	7.7	5.0	9.0	7.0

FIGURE 2: The average score for the level of organization of the conference as was scored by participants based on the quality of presentations made



Suggestions for improvement of the future conferences

- Invite more presentations from the field (VIL , NGO's, KARLO) rather than student research thesis
- Participants to be told to manage time well
- The exhibition area should be near or adjacent to the presentation hall
- Posters should have been displayed in the exhibition area, because of the rain people were not able to look at the posters

- Use auto switch microphones for the presenters
- The KVB desk was terrible, I was embarrassed when my professor was humiliated in my presence, KVB staff ought to learn appropriate interpersonal skills otherwise they have no business coming to the biennial
- Time management for breaks as well as plenary sessions
- Allow for adequate time for presenters to give their presentations explicitly to allow audience understand science in what has/is being done and develop interests (if any)free Friday afternoon could be used to spread the sessions
- The session chairpersons should be more time conscious and manage the presenters' better e.g. by starting the sessions in time
- Provide a soft copy of the presentations
- Invite other institutions
- Have a comfortable venue
- Increase the number of days so that researchers can exhaust their findings
- Serving points for teas could be increases and separated
- Power interruption during day one of the conference there should be a bac up to avoid interruptions
- More practical sessions
- The CPD issue -persons involved should be more diplomatic
- Another venue e.g. a hotel
- Have enough space especially during tea breaks (put tents as shelter) just in case of the rains otherwise everything looked ok
- Need more social activities e.g. cocktails involve affiliate universities in animal health
- Small animal and companion animals need to be researched on more and such results presented in conferences, need to accept more abstracts in these areas
- The conference organizers should stick to 10 minutes presentations to allow for everyone to present in the main hall
- Invite farmers for practical demonstrations and the administrators for policy purposes
- Need to invite more researchers from within the region (east and central Africa) and further afield to asses experiences
- Hold the conference outside the faculty probably in a hotel
- Allow adequate time for presenters
- Have sometime other than tea breaks and lunch break for exhibitions
- Publicity period to be increased to 2 months at least for veterinary personnel
- The conference was better organised than the previous ones, big gap is the venue?

- Profile of conference should be upgraded by moving away from the lecture theaters to high profile venues
- Starting the conference sessions on time
- Students in the faculty can be invited
- Change venue
- Improvement on the facilities
- The toilets in PHPT are wanting (ladies)
- Venue needs comfortable seats
- More relaxed program to be provided
- Have *wifi* in the conference hall
- Venue should be changed
- Laptops used should be user friendly the one in PHPT had malfunctioning keys
- There was lack of young veterinarians
- Improve the presentations of practical topics not only academic topics
- Time management
- Consider a better venue
- Improve on time management
- Ask presenters to load presentations a day earlier
- Chairpersons and rapporteurs to be given proper instructions of their roles before starting
- Keeping time for the conference sessions
- Improve on time keeping and management, allow 3 months from the call to submission of the abstracts
- Presentation should be 15 not 10 minutes
- Venue, time and date for the next conference should be known before the end of the year to allow quality and wide range of issues e.g. animal production should be included
- More poster presentations can be considered for the future
- Time management
- Send posters in advance to other training institutions
- Post invitation on social media other than just email
- Conference hall should have *wifi*
- Always provide drinking water throughout the session
- Improve seat comfort in venue
- Improve projection too small a view
- Translate the scientific research to field application

Quality of teas and lunches served during the conference

- Teas well served, variety could be improved .lunches at the club were excellent, need membership for vet?
- The food was of good quality

- Teas –good, lunches –relatively, fruits -mixture not good
- Good
- The service and the food was good, but they should consider non -salt taking people
- Okay
- Good and clean
- The quality of food was good and service way good
- Generally good and well served
- Good service and staff, keep it up
- Good
- Good
- Food was good although variety was limited
- Good
- Good
- Good
- Very good
- Good but maybe not as tasty?
- Good quality
- They were ok (light) people couldn't sleep during the presentation
- Average
- As per expectation, good environment
- Okay
- Excellent food and drinks
- Excellent food
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Very good
- Good
- Okay
- The quality of food was acceptable
- Good -wider menu next time
- Not satisfactory as there was no variety
- Food was okay
- Good
- Fair
- Good
- Okay
- Okay
- Food was okay
- Good
- Good, variety, well cooked
- Fair
- Okay

- Good
- Food was good
- Very good
- Good
- Quality was satisfactory
- Good
- Good
- Food was adequate and was of good quality
- Food was nice and tasty
- The food was great
- Good
- Good
- Quality was good