

Abstract

Biotechnology has become increasingly important for improving animal health worldwide. However, in Kenya, the application of this technology in animal health is not as established as in the field of crop science. Therefore, the objective of this presentation is to highlight some of the biotechnology tools that have been used in animal health for the developments of diagnostic biologicals, vaccines and drugs, worldwide. The recombinant DNA strategy, which is biotechnology tool for development of diagnostic kits, vaccines and drugs, is highlighted. Specific examples of available commercial diagnostic kits, vaccines and drugs produced by the recombinant DNA technology are presented. The potential role of this technology in improving animal health in Kenya is described. Additionally, we present the role of Director of Veterinary Services in regulating the use of these genetically modified biological products in Kenya, based on the Kenya biosafety act 2009. Finally, we propose the way forward for strengthening regulation of genetically modified organism for use in animal health research and veterinary medicine in Kenya. Key words: Biotechnology, Animal Health, Kenya.