

Participants:

Lingjiang Yang (LY) - Chair, KR Krishnamurthy (KR), Rajinder Suri (RS), Sonia Pagliusi (SP), Stephen Jarrett (SJ), Sonia Villaseñor (SV).

Meeting started at 12h00 and finished at 12h40 (CET).

LY opened the meeting. Given that many WG members indicated they could not attend the meeting, it was agreed that discussions could continue within the context of a DCVMN Secretariat management meeting.

LY indicated the main objective was to discuss potential projects in supply chain that could be considered for DCVMN support, given that there were unallocated funds from traceability pilots. From the last WG meeting, participants had been given time to propose potential projects. Benoit Hayman shared the results of the survey applied in March with the DCVMN Board, by email of 03 August, where 11 member companies mentioned they need to support to implement the shipping validation according to new WHO guidelines for vaccines international packaging and shipping. Other ideas proposed included support to integrated warehouse management systems, possible new traceability pilots and a webinar by Zebra/Temptime on the testing of their 2D barcode with embedded VVM. SJ confirmed these ideas and will follow up on them (involving WHO and UNICEF), but indicated that the Zebra/Temptime webinar might be for action next year.

Regarding the ongoing traceability pilots, SP reviewed the history of reaching a funding of US\$300,000 reallocated from unused training workshops budgeted, to support such pilots, indicating that so far only less than US\$50,000 had been committed in support of a project by Xiamen Innovax, as other submitted proposals were incomplete/unclear and not approved by the independent review group. RS stressed it was important to follow up with Bharat Biotech and Biological E on their pilots and need for assistance, with a cut-off date of 31 August. It was agreed that SJ would follow up with the companies immediately with RS contacting the company CEOs as necessary. KR requested SJ to send an email with the specific clarification needed, so that he can discuss with their vendor on what is needed to initiate the feasibility study of barcoding of primary package at Bharat Biotech. RS requested to be kept copied on this. It was further agreed that SJ would provide the Chengdu Institute of Biological Products with details on how to apply for support for their traceability pilot which was currently being planned by the Institute, as well as their planned initiative in developing an integrated warehouse management system.

RS stressed the importance of following up on the concerns that 11 DCVMN members had expressed on shipping validation as a result of the DCVMN Help Us Help You survey, carried out earlier in the year by Benoit Hayman. Most of the companies indicated the need for WHO/UNICEF training on the new guidelines. It was agreed however that RS would write to the CEOs of the 11 companies for clarification as to their concerns on shipping validation and whether training was sufficient or specific projects needed to be considered. SJ will write a draft communication for RS to use in his emails to the company CEOs. SP did note that virtual training would be at no cost, e.g. webinar or e-workshops, so it is important to see if the funds that have not been allocated can serve any other purpose.

LY closed the meeting noting the action points made.

Notes taken by Steve Jarrett



Lingjiang Yang
Chair of the Supply Chain Working Group
17 August 2021