The Introductory Course of the fifth cohort of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province from 19 November to 14 December 2018. 44 selected applicants out of 80 from the national, provincial and municipal animal health agencies and university were trained under this course. The introductory course was co-delivered by the international trainers from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), City University of Hong Kong, CFETPV Chinese trainers and FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office.

As the first part of the fifth cohort of the CFETPV Training Program, the four-week introductory course aimed to prepare the participants with basic veterinary epidemiology concepts that will be useful to apply in the daily work to prevent and control the disease. The course consisted of three sections in 15 key topics in total: 1) General epidemiological concepts and methods; 2) Veterinary epidemiology application; and 3) Practical techniques. Moreover, part of the trainees will be further selected to join the fifth cohort two-year advanced veterinary epidemiology training, to strengthen and improve the quality and increase the quantity of Chinese veterinary epidemiology talents.
During the opening ceremony of the fifth cohort of the CFETPV, Dr Huang Baoxu, Deputy Director General of China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) delivered the opening remark. Dr Huang welcomed the group and highlighted the importance of veterinary epidemiology on animal disease control and prevention. Dr Huang also shared the achievements of CFETPV had made in the past four cohorts. Dr Kang Jingli, Deputy Division Director of Epidemiological Investigation of CAHEC further introduced CFETPV Training in detailed information. Mr Liu Lushi from FAO China ECTAD Office highlighted the curriculum structure, training objectives, trainees and discipline.

**FAO China ECTAD Office attendance at the Annual Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Backstopping Seminar**

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Backstopping Seminar was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province from 24-25 December 2018. The seminar was organized by FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and delivered by the regional M&E expert, Mr Frank Pumipuntu. Mr Liu Lushi and Dr Han Zifeng participated in the seminar on behalf of FAO China ECTAD Office. The objectives of the seminar were to: 1) understand the adjusted Global EPT2 M&E Framework and indicators; 2) finalize the data collection of the 4th Data Call, which aligns with the EPT2 M&E Framework; 3) review and discuss the updates on the country program log frame indicators; and 4) validate the submitted M&E data and familiarize with the new online data collection tool.

After the seminar, a half-day meeting was organized between FAO and China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) to discuss the preliminary information gathering for the Work Performance, Skills and Knowledge Study of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) Impact Assessment. A study design on the impact evaluation was introduced by Mr Pumipuntu, which aimed to statistically interpret the achievements of CFETPV, compare the difference between the intervention (CFETPV) and control groups, as well as to evaluate the current status and improvement of CFETPV in the last eight years. FAO and CAHEC discussed the draft study design (including proposed methodologies) on the impact assessment.

**Upcoming activities:**

1. Workshop on case study development for animal disease investigation and surveillance will be held in Qingdao, Shandong Province from 14-18 January 2019.
2. Ms Yu Qi from FAO China ECTAD Office will attend the Inception Workshop of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 January to 1 February 2019.