



Tackling FMD globally

Global control of foot and mouth disease takes a step forward in Bangkok this year

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The global effort to control foot and mouth disease (FMD) consolidated the gains of recent years and took a step forward in Bangkok on 27-29 June this year with the successful completion of the FAO/OIE Global Conference of Foot and Mouth Disease Control. Attended by representatives from more than 100 countries and international donors, the conference was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) with support from Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Participating in the event were ministers, high-level officials of veterinary services, veterinary private practitioners, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientists, and multilateral and bilateral funding partners. The first half of the conference was devoted to scientific and technical sessions, followed by a day and a half to consolidate national and international commitment and support.

FMD, a highly-contagious viral disease, affects cloven-hooved animals, both domestic and wildlife, including cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other ruminants. More than 1 billion smallholder farmers around the world depend on livestock for their livelihoods but outbreaks of FMD inflict an estimated annual global loss of US\$5 billion. Developing countries are often hardest hit, with small farmers suffering devastating impacts to their earnings and survival. Consumers are also affected as they pay more for milk, meat and other foodstuffs when FMD severely depletes livestock productivity and limits regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products.

The global strategy developed by FAO and OIE advises countries on their risk management policy for controlling FMD outbreaks, allowing them to take early steps to prevent the disease from spreading to other farms, communities and across borders. The strategy will have a big impact not only on decreasing the ravages of FMD but also improve countries'

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A veterinary doctor in Cambodia administers an FMD vaccine to a cow. INSET: Lesions on the hoof and mouth are the major symptoms of FMD.

A significant outcome was the endorsement by a number of FMD-endemic countries of the FAO/OIE Progressive Control Pathway approach to FMD control



ABOVE LEFT: A group line-up including (left to right) Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer, FAO; Hon. Maj. (Ret.) Dhado Gaddae Godhana, Assistant Minister, Kenya Ministry of Agriculture; Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, ECTAD-RAP; and Dr Ronello Abila, Sub-regional Representative, OIE. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dr Juan Lubroth addresses the conference. **BELOW:** Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General of FAO RAP, speaks at the conference.

situation with regard to many other diseases, some which affect human health directly, the joint FAO/OIE statement added.

"For the global strategy to succeed, it needs . . . the producers and marketing sectors to participate as well as veterinary services, and pharmaceutical and vaccine companies. It will need sustained support from financial institutions and the generosity of funders," said FAO's Assistant Director-General Hiroyuki Konuma.

As the world population expands from just under 7 billion people today to more than 9 billion in 2050, the demand for milk, meat and animal-based products is expected to rise by 76 percent and demand for dairy by 62 percent. The vast majority of that increase will come from developing countries and the emerging economies of sub-Saharan Africa and south and southeast Asia. To meet the demand, the world will have to produce 65 percent more eggs than it does today.

Aiming for FMD freedom

Increasing cross-border trade also contributes to making FMD a regional threat requiring a regional approach and response.

"When it strikes, the damages are enormous, ranging from losses in production to culling of animals and trade bans," said OIE Director-General Bernard Vallat. "Good governance of national Veterinary Services using the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway is a critical element of mitigating FMD with a positive impact on food security and poverty. Global control is in the interest of FMD-free countries because it avoids the reintroduction of the disease on their territory."

Even developed countries that were previously free of the disease can suffer outbreaks of FMD: a severe event in the United Kingdom in 2001 caused losses as high as \$30 billion, and a 1997 epidemic in the Taiwan province of China cost \$15 billion.

Included in the process is OIE's official recognition of national



control programmes and of FMD freedom: today 66 out of 178 OIE member countries are free from FMD.

The global strategy will help improve national veterinary services responsible for animal disease control so that they can comply with OIE standards on quality. The strategy is an opportunity to initiate actions that will have beneficial consequences far beyond the control of just one disease. Veterinary services will be better able to combat and prevent other major diseases that affect livestock and other animals.

One of the most significant outcomes of the meeting was the broad acceptance and endorsement by a number of FMD-endemic countries of the FAO/OIE Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) approach to FMD control. This important component of the global FMD control strategy provides a structured, step-wise approach to controlling FMD.

As a result of the global strategy it is expected that most countries will succeed in controlling FMD; some will even eliminate it.

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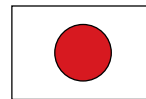
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REGIONAL UPDATE

The importance of linking sectors

FAO conducts a workshop to bring together field veterinarians and laboratory staff

ToT workshop on the basics of field and laboratory diagnosis

21-25 May 2012 • Chiang Mai, Thailand

Recognizing the importance of strong linkages between field veterinarians and laboratory staff, FAO, with the University of Georgia and other implementing partners, organized a workshop to train trainers on the Basics of Field and Laboratory Diagnosis on 21-25 May in Chiang Mai, Thailand, supported by funding from USAID and the European Union. The workshop's goal was to develop resource trainers and the course materials needed for a practical approach to laboratory strengthening, and building field linkages for animal health service authorities.

The workshop equipped resource trainers with the skills to deliver practical refresher courses to national service veterinarians and enhance the communication between field and laboratory veterinarians, one of the goals of the event. The courses focussed on pathogenesis as a way to get both field and laboratory veterinarians to think together about the mechanisms of disease.

Inception workshop for FMD control in southeast Asia through application of the Progressive Control Pathway

12-13 June 2012 • Bangkok, Thailand

The project titled *FMD Control in Southeast Asia through Application of the Progressive Control Pathway* was flagged off with an inception workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand on 12-13 June. The



Participants at the Training of Trainers workshop on the basics of Field and Laboratory Diagnosis, practice dissection of live poultry in a hands-on session.

three-year project is funded by the Republic of Korea, and the three countries currently supported are Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam, all endemic for FMD.

The project will improve the control and management of FMD through the application of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP). This approach, developed by FAO and OIE for classifying each country's progress in FMD risk management, recognizes that differences in the risk of infection occur between and within infected countries, and that affected countries may be at different stages in managing the risk of infection. PCP applies a risk reduction approach in which each country is encouraged to develop national risk reduction strategies that are supportive of the regional effort. It is expected that by the end of the project participating countries will have achieved the status of PCP stage 2 for FMD.

Among the workshop's other objectives were informing focal points of the member countries, FAO country teams and key partners about the project concepts and implementing plans; and identifying partners and

coordination mechanisms, and defining their roles and responsibilities

Workshop to develop Mekong Region Control Plan for HPAI

April 2012 • Hanoi, Viet Nam

FAO and Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health (DAH) conducted a 4-day strategic planning exercise in April 2012 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, with epidemiologists and animal health officials from 14 provinces in the Mekong Region, together with representatives from human health and the private sector to develop a Mekong Region Control Plan for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The workshop was supported by funding from USAID.

The plan, developed in consultation with experts, sets out a targeted disease control strategy organized into a step-wise PCP. Though PCPs have been successful in many countries, this is the first time the approach is being adopted in Viet Nam.

"The Control Plan is crucial not only in terms of HPAI prevention and control but also for other infectious zoonotic diseases. It will help sustain the livelihoods of poultry producers as well as the region's economic and social development," said Dr Nguyen Thu Thuy, Deputy Director, DAH.



LEFT: Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General, FAO, speaks at the inception workshop to launch the Southeast Asia Regional FMD control project. To his right is Mr Sungchul Shin, the Republic of Korea's Economic Counsellor in Thailand.

Brockie gets his SHOT

How the peaceful, dog-loving islanders of Bali faced down a deadly epidemic of rabies, and in three years brought the rabies virus to heel through an island-wide control strategy

Alvin loves animals — cats, chicken, grasshoppers, dogs. Every day, within minutes of returning from school, he would be with his friend and favorite pet, his neighbour's puppy Brockie. But Brockie playfully bit Alvin in the chest one day. When his parents discovered this, they took him to the clinic right away, and the doctor there administered an anti-rabies vaccine. Was Brockie infected with rabies? Was Alvin in trouble?

Bali's first rabies case was confirmed in November 2008. By then the disease, presumed to have arrived with a fisherman's dog from a nearby island, had already been spreading within the dog population. Suddenly, in a community where humans and dogs lived in mutual affection and dependence, a deadly virus threatened the well being of both.

By May 2010, 11 people were dying every month from rabies. Over the next three years, over 140 humans and 643 dogs would die of rabies in Bali. But the island's government, with FAO technical support, responded with commitment and determination. Science indicated that vaccinating only 70 percent of the dogs in a community would confer immunity on the entire dog population. Bali's strategy was based on the mass vaccination of outside dogs, supported by massive training and skill building, community mobilization, and an Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) protocol that was driven by collaboration between human health and animal health services.

Through its own government funding as well as supplementary donor funding leveraged from AusAID and USAID, FAO helped the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services of the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture and the Bali Provincial Livestock Service to develop and implement a coordinated rabies control programme in the province.

Since October 2010, when the first island-wide mass dog vaccination was carried out, there have been three mass vaccination campaigns, each one improved by the lessons from the previous ones. Approximately 250,000 dogs have been vaccinated in each round, estimated to be 70 percent of the total dog population in Bali. The impact of the three mass dog vaccination campaigns has been a steady decline in both human and canine rabies in Bali. From the peak of 11 persons a month dying from rabies in 2010, the incidence has reduced and remained steady at one or no deaths each month from December 2011 to the present.



1. The first step in mass vaccination is communication to let dog owners know about the importance of vaccination.
2. Alvin favourite puppy was Brockie, so when it bit him on his chest during play, it became a crisis.
3. After two weeks observation, Brockie was judged to be uninfected, and his owner Komang decided to have him vaccinated.

Fortunately for Alvin, Brockie was judged to be uninfected after two weeks observation. To protect Brockie, his owner Komang had the puppy vaccinated against rabies. He had understood the basic truth of rabies control — when you protect a community's dogs through vaccination, you protect the community itself.