



**FAO and OIE International Conference for the
Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)
Abidjan 31 March – 2 April 2015**

Recommendations

Considering that

- Livestock is an important component in nutrition and food security, income generation, agriculture production and soil fertilization, livelihoods of pastoralists and small holders and in the alleviation of hunger and poverty. In subsistence livestock production systems and their associated value chains, millions of people, especially women and their families, depend on small ruminants to generate nutrition for their families and revenue for their daily life;
- Impact of infectious diseases of small ruminants can severely affect and disrupt community livelihoods and regional and international trade in live animals and their products causing significant financial damage. In developing countries these diseases undermine access to quality nutritional products, food security and economic development, at the level of village smallholders and the entire production chain;
- Since PPR was first identified in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, it has spread to around 70 countries in Africa, the Near and Middle East and Asia that are home to over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat and to more than 330 million of the world's poorest people who depend on them for their livelihoods. Economic losses caused by PPR and its ever increasing threat of spreading to non-infected areas, further cripple already vulnerable livelihoods as well as national and regional livestock production opportunities;
- Globalization of trade with rapid and long distance movements of animals and animal products increases the risk of major pathogens spreading from one country or region to another;
- Controlling transboundary animal diseases (TADs), such as PPR, at their source is a shared interest between infected and uninfected countries and should be considered as Global Public Good;
- In response to a resolution voted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE and recommendations of FAO's Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Council of FAO, the GF-TADs Working Group on PPR has developed a PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy, that has been presented at the FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), from 31 March to 2 April 2015;

- The control of PPR and other TADs cannot be sustained if good governance of animal health systems, including effective Veterinary Services complying with OIE Standards on quality with the required and updated appropriate legislation is not in place in many countries and further supported by efficient public-private partnerships;
- The Global Strategy is not presented as a ‘stand-alone’ activity but rather as a combination of three inter-related components, namely the Control and Eradication of PPR, the Strengthening of Veterinary Services and the parallel Prevention and Control of other major diseases of small ruminants. The overall aim of the PPR Global Strategy is to eradicate PPR and should be used as an entry point to achieve sustainable progress in the performance of Veterinary Services and, in turn, improve the animal health status concerning other small ruminant diseases. The organization and governance to implement the Global strategy of this PPR Global Control and Eradication Programme will follow the FAO-OIE GF TADs principles and practices;
- Many countries in Africa, the Near and Middle East and parts of Asia are committed to the prevention and control of PPR, but that more support and investments are needed;
- FAO and OIE worked on new agreements for a joined fund raising mechanism to support PPR control and eradication programme in the improvement of small ruminant production, their health and to those communities that rely on them;
- Additional socio-economic studies including cost benefit analysis are needed to justify investing in the eradication of PPR, and other high impact animal diseases in overall national animal health systems,, including the Veterinary Services and those conducted by the other competent authorities, professional education, extension services, and the access to goods and services;
- The key principles of control strategies and lessons learned from the rinderpest eradication campaign, such as regional (particularly in Africa under AU-IBAR leadership) and international cooperation and coordination will be adapted in PPR control and eradication programme; as demonstrated during the rinderpest eradication programme where regional and sub-regional organizations had a pivotal role with the technical support from OIE and FAO;
- The lessons learned from country projects such as those implemented by FAO (in particular in Somalia and other countries supported by several donors) and by the OIE (in particular in Burkina Faso and Ghana supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation);
- PPR situations and socioeconomic contexts can be different in each region and country and control and eradication programmes have to reflect these differences;
- The eradication of PPR is achievable since there are several favorable factors such as the fact that the disease is caused by only one serotype, that there is neither a carrier state nor a sustainable reservoir outside domestic small ruminants and that effective diagnostic tools and vaccines are available;
- Vaccines must be quality certified in compliance with OIE standards and independent regional certification bodies should be encouraged (such as the African Union-Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Center AU-PANVAC for Africa);

- Diagnostic laboratories and epidemiology teams are major tools to prevent, detect, control and eradicate PPR and national/regional collaboration between them is crucial; however, several gaps and challenges have been highlighted with regard to quality assurance in diagnostic laboratories and their proficiencies, or epidemiological understanding of seasonal movement patterns or climatic influences for potential disease spread, which will have to be addressed;
- There is a need to develop animal health delivery systems particularly for the delivery of quality assured safe vaccines that can in amplitude and frequency reach all production systems including in remote and insecure areas to create effective flock immunity;
- A specific PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) and a Post Vaccination Evaluation(PVE) tool have been developed for this Global Strategy and a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) is being established;
- The OIE Terrestrial Code articles adopted in 2013 establish PPR as a disease with official status recognition and the possibilities of official national control programmes endorsed by the OIE World Assembly as important steps and incentives that encourage countries to engage in PPR control and eradication programmes;
- Despite country specificities with regard to PPR and other small ruminant diseases, regional approaches are needed in order to harmonise and coordinate national programmes and share experience and information on PPR situation and the implementation of prevention and control programmes; these approaches must be aligned with the Global Strategy;
- There is value for national and regional vaccine banks to respond to vaccination and control programmes as well as to emergencies to ensure availability of quality assured vaccines complying with OIE standards and selected by a panel including independent experts from OIE and FAO reference Laboratories/Centers. Their demographic and strategic positioning should be a regional or global decision;
- Regional epidemiology and diagnostic laboratory networks are needed to harmonize surveillance and diagnostic methods, to undertake quality assurance, to support regional/national laboratory proficiency and training programmes and to share and transfer technologies and expertise;
- Capacity building at the technical (both at the laboratory and field levels) and managerial levels as well as regular and effective communication to build public-private partnerships and to gain the support of animal owners and the private sector veterinarians are crucial for any control strategy;
- Additional research would be important to understand the possible role of wildlife in PPR dynamics, to develop new vaccine that can allow differentiating infected animals from vaccinated animal when used with its companion test, companion diagnostic assays that would differentiate serologically infected animals from those vaccinated (DIVA: Differentiation between Infected and vaccinated Animals), and possible use of multivalent vaccines, value chains and connected to socioeconomic analyses;

The Conference and in particular the Honourable Ministers, donors and national and international high level participants

Declare that the control and eradication of PPR worldwide is officially and solemnly launched during the ‘Abidjan Conference’ with the vision of a world free of PPR by 2030. PPR is expected to be the second animal disease eradicated from the globe after the success of rinderpest eradication in 2011;

Declare that, as a consequence, they officially endorse the FAO-OIE Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) with its three components and encourage all national competent authorities, the international community, the veterinary profession and all stakeholders as a whole to commit to its implementation and thereby take the necessary political, technical and financial means to ensure that this Vision is accomplished in a timely manner;

and recommend:

A. To the countries:

- 1.** PPR be considered as a top priority disease to address in the next two decades in the global context of improving nutrition and food security, income generation, small holders’ livelihoods and in the alleviation of poverty and hunger; and that agricultural development programmes, both at regional and national level, systematically include a component on PPR (and other small ruminants diseases whenever feasible) prevention, diagnosis, control and eradication in line with the GCES and tailored to local context and needs;
- 2.** National Veterinary services – including their public and private components and by extension the Veterinary Statutory Bodies - and their good governance be concomitantly strengthened so that the PPR specific activities are properly and sustainably implemented; in doing so, the countries take steps to improve compliance with OIE standards, notably those related to surveillance, early detection, animal disease notification to the OIE; and quality of Veterinary Services including updated veterinary legislation;
- 3.** Key principles based on rinderpest eradication lessons and PPR country experiences such as national control programmes adapted to local situations and regional and international cooperation and coordination of control methods and protocols be respected;
- 4.** The countries use vaccines compliant with OIE international standards and comply with the guidance provided in the GCES, including in terms of Post-Vaccination Evaluation (PVE); combined vaccinations with other small ruminant diseases be encouraged provided the vaccination protocols are compatible;
- 5.** Delivery systems be adapted to local conditions and situations to be able to reach out to all susceptible animals in national herds; These systems should aim at delivering a safe vaccine to create effective flock immunity, particularly in regard to the cold chain;
- 6.** The countries strengthen their national diagnostic laboratory systems, quality assurance (ring trials/proficiency testing), transfer of technologies, capacity building and staff training and address gaps that might have been identified in their capacity to support the implementation of the GCES;

7. The countries design and implement robust surveillance plans to ensure that the global surveillance system for PPR in all susceptible species and other small ruminant diseases obtains a good understanding of PPR variants circulating (or the lack thereof) and their worldwide distribution;
8. The countries promote the development of Public-Private-Partnerships between official Veterinary Services, livestock owners, private veterinarians and other partners to ensure the acceptance and thereby effective implementation of GCES particularly for the delivery of vaccination campaigns and other animal health goods and services; special attention be paid to women whose role in the small ruminant husbandry is crucial;
9. The countries regularly attend the regional PPR roadmap meetings under the GF-TADs umbrella, to ensure the continuous evaluation and monitoring of the PPR situation and of the implementation of the GCES worldwide; the countries use the PMAT and PVE specifically developed for this purpose;
10. The establishment or strengthening of regional epidemiology, laboratory and -socio-economic networks are supported to provide relevant technical assistance to countries in the region;
11. Communication strategies at national and regional levels be developed;
12. The countries put in place robust data management system to collect PPR data with a view to conducting cost/benefit analyses. Countries are also encouraged to carry to small ruminant population census;

B. To FAO and OIE and other international and regional organisations

13. The FAO and OIE put in place the proper GF-TADs governance for the implementation of the GCES and the subsequent Global Control and Eradication Programme (GCEP), including a global joint FAO-OIE PPR Global Secretariat and joint fund raising agreements as well as strong collaborations with regional and sub-regional organizations;
14. The OIE and FAO develop a full-fledged GCEP aligned with the GCES, learning from the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and Pan African Control of Epizootics (PACE) programme experience, these last under AU-IBAR leadership and using north-south and south-south cooperation and OIE and FAO multi-lateral trust funds to implement the Global Strategy;
15. The establishment of regional vaccine quality certifying bodies should be encouraged where possible or where advisable, and AU-PANVAC be supported in Africa;
16. Appropriate mechanisms be established to reduce the unit cost of produced vaccines, or a mechanism implemented by which livestock owners could be subsidized. In order to respond to emergencies, regional vaccine bank(s) could be established or strengthened. Regional PPR vaccine banks be established using OIE successful experiences to respond to emergencies and improve quality controlled vaccine delivery in countries on a competition basis on quality and prices;

- 17.** FAO and OIE to call for an expert meeting to discuss the cost of the Global Strategy including cost effectiveness of Veterinary Services compliance with OIE standards on quality and of prevention and control of other small ruminant diseases; results from experts groups be made available urgently;
- 18.** The FAO and OIE provide annual reports on the implementation of the GCES and GCEP to their Member Countries. A GCES mid-term review shall be conducted after the 5 first years of implementation of the GCES (2020) as well as indications whether the vision can be achieved by the proposed timelines, with ‘corrective actions’ if needed. A second International PPR Conference be organized after 5 years to maintain the mobilization of the MCs towards the eradication vision;
- 19.** The FAO and OIE assist Member Countries in implementing the GCES and in strengthening their Veterinary Services and other competent authorities to promote good governance practices including appropriate national legislation complying with intergovernmental standards and regulatory frameworks for PPR control and eradication using, when pertinent and on a voluntary basis, the OIE PVS Pathway;
- 20.** The FAO and OIE conduct additional socio-economic surveys and cost-benefit analyses on PPR (and other small ruminant diseases) for the purpose of additional advocacy and preparation of national control and eradication strategies; impact of control measures on the environment and biodiversity be part of those cost/benefit analyses as well as the benefit of increasing small ruminant meat availability to allow substitution of bush meat;
- 21.** All stakeholders are requested to support the PPR-GREN and FAO and OIE establish PPR-GREN with a strong research component/expert group;
- 22.** The OIE, FAO, IAEA and centres of excellence in scientific research, including those of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (International Livestock Institute ILRI, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas ICARDA, International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI), contribute and support PPR research and technology transfer through PPR-GREN on e.g. vaccines (DIVA vaccines and companion diagnostic tool, thermotolerant vaccines, combined vaccines against several diseases...), diagnostic assays, epidemiology (role of other domestic animals than small ruminants, wild animals), value chains, socioeconomics and other aspects that will contribute to the effective control and eradication of the disease by 2030.