



PAKISTAN FMD BULLETIN

Significant Project Activities

1. FMD Outbreaks Reported

FMD outbreaks reported and attended in different regions of Pakistan from January to March 2015 are shown in Table 1 & Map 1.

Table 1: ELISA Results of FMD Outbreaks (January - March 2015)

Province	Total Outbreaks	FMD Serotypes						ELISA Negative
		O	A	Asia-1	O+A	O+Asia-1	A+Asia-1	
Punjab	90	36	23	2	-	-	-	29
Sindh	163	31	93	-	22	1	-	16
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	25	7	10	5	-	-	-	3
Balochistan	29	6	17	-	-	1	-	5
Gilgit-Baltistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FATA	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
AJK	43	11	18	2	-	-	-	12
Islamabad	13	6	2	3	-	-	-	2
Total	364	97	164	12	22	2	-	67

2. Project Steering Committee Meets

Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the project was held on 15th January 2015 at the Hotel Marriott, Islamabad. Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Mr. Seerat Asghar Jaura chaired the meeting. Mr. Patrick T. Evans (FAO Representative in Pakistan), Dr. Jack Mortenson (Animal Health Advisor, US Embassy, Islamabad), Dr. Qurban Ali (Animal Husbandry Commissioner of Pakistan), Dr. Giancarlo Ferrari (Consultant, FAO HQ Rome), all regional/provincial secretaries and their nominated Directors Generals/ Directors attended the meeting. Progress made under various activities of the Project was presented by the Project Coordinator Dr. M. Afzal. Since Project is completing its life in September 2015, proposed work plan and budget from January to September 2015 already endorsed by the Technical Working Group was presented by Dr. Manzoor Hussain

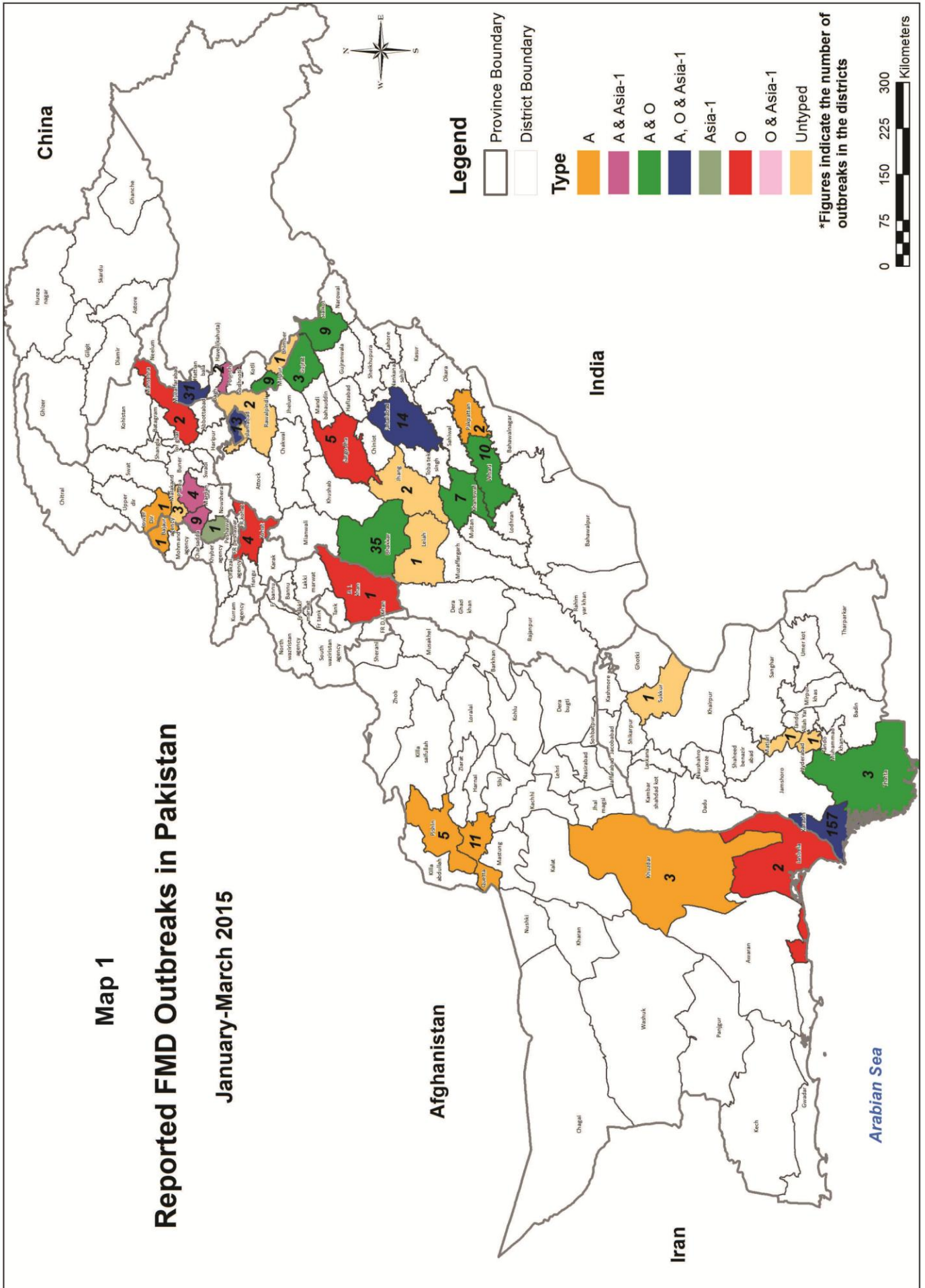
(National Project Director). The Steering Committee appreciated the progress made by the Project and approved the proposed work plan and budget for remaining period of the Project.



3. Dr. Jack Mortenson, Animal Health Advisor, US Embassy visits Project area in Karachi

Landhi Cattle Colony (LCC) Karachi provides the

Map 1 Reported FMD Outbreaks in Pakistan January-March 2015





most conducive environment for the persistence and transmission of different pathogens in the country. Number of FMD outbreaks reported during the last 3 years (>60 % of all outbreaks reported from the country) under the Project is a direct evidence of this fact. Looking at the amount of work done by the Project at LCC, Dr. Jack Mortenson, Animal Health Advisor USDA showed his interest to visit the Colony and observe various factors contributing to the occurrence of FMD and the control measures being implemented by the Project. The Project organized his visit on March 10, 2015. Deputy Director Livestock Karachi (Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh) received Dr. Mortenson and briefed him about the Project activities and its contribution for the control of FMD in Karachi. Later, the Mission visited the ELISA Lab and incharge Dr. Mehmood Iqbal described various protocols and work done for the diagnosis and serotyping FMD virus. Dr. Mortenson also visited four livestock farms (including one on-cost-sharing basis) and observed various animal husbandry practices being employed in this unique production system. An active case of FMD was also shown to Dr. Mortenson. Mr. Aaron Tennessee Carlton, Economic Officer at US Consulate General Karachi also joined Dr. Mortenson in the afternoon. A meeting with Karachi Dairy Farmers Association (KDFA) was also held and FMD control efforts were discussed. While sharing his views, Dr. Mortenson stated that visit to the Colony was a great experience and he found it the most exciting place he has ever seen in his life.

4. Project arranges Training in Quality Control of FMD Vaccine

The project arranged first ever training for the “Quality Control of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine” at National Veterinary Laboratories (NVL), Islamabad arch 17-28,

during March 17-28, 2015. A total of 7 scientists including two from NVL, two from FAO FMD Project and one each from University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, Foot and Mouth Disease Research Centre, Lahore and Veterinary Research Institute, Peshawar participated in the training workshop. The Project hired the services of Dr. Can Cokcaliskan, Quality Control Manager at SAP institute, Turkey, for providing training on the subject. Training involved both theoretical aspects of the tests employed for the quality control of FMD vaccines as well as hand-on experience. Various quality control tests performed during the training covered sterility, innocuity, TCID50, virus neutralization test, plaque assay, determination of 146S component, cell count, raising of hyperimmune serum, potency and purity of FMD vaccines. Elution of antigen from various types of vaccines was also undertaken during the training. The Project has already equipped the 'Vaccine Quality Control Section' at NVL to undertake this activity in future. In the concluding session of the training workshop, Dr. Jack Mortenson, Animal Health Advisor, US Embassy, Islamabad appreciated the efforts of the project in organizing training workshop on such an important topic. He also



distributed certificates among the participants of the training workshop.

5. Project Participates in Exhibitions to Create Awareness among Different Stakeholders

Project participated in two exhibitions during this quarter to create awareness among the stakeholders on the importance of the FMD to the livestock industry and how this disease can be effectively controlled in cattle and buffaloes. Project participated in the 4th Dawn Sarsabz Pakistan Agri Expo held from March 19-20, 2015 in Expo Centre, Lahore. This Expo is the Pakistan's largest agricultural exposition, bringing together participation from all business sectors directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. More than 40 national and international companies participated in this exhibition. Project exhibition was part of the USDA stall at the Expo. Awareness material for the prevention and control of FMD was distributed and explained to more than 950 veterinarians, progressive farmers and students who visited the Project stall. Dr. Farukh Javed, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Punjab along with US Council General Zachary Harkenrider inaugurated the Expo. During their visit to the Project stall, Project Coordinator Dr. Muhammad Afzal explained the contributions and achievements of the project for controlling FMD in Pakistan.

Project also participated in 3rd annual FAO - AAN Share Mela 2015 held at NARC, Islamabad from 11-12 March, 2015. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in collaboration with the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) organized this two-day AAN Share Mela - Farmer's Alumni Association Network. About 200 Farmers from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh provinces participated in the event. These



farmers have strong association with FAO during last 20 years and continue to exhibit innovative leadership in their own communities. The Farmer representatives presented their experiences and innovations in this Farmer-to-Farmer forum, followed by interaction with provider of services and goods from private sector. An exhibition displaying agriculture and finished products was established which has farmer's pavilions from all over Pakistan. At this event Project participated by exhibiting its awareness material. The Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research, Islamabad Mr. Sikandar Hayat Bosan inaugurated the Mela. He visited the Project Stall and appreciated the work done by the Project team. More than 350 scientists, farmers and students of various universities visited the Project stall and were provided brochures explain control of FMD in animals.

6. Project continues to build capacity of field veterinary staff and farmers

Capacity building of veterinary staff plays an important role in control of FMD in the country. Although project has already exceeded the target of training field veterinarians envisaged in the project document, it continues to receive requests from the provincial





livestock departments to train additional field staff. Special emphasis is being given for the training of female veterinary staff. In this quarter, 12 training workshops were organized in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 297 Veterinary officers and veterinary assistants were trained and 292 sample collection kits distributed among the trainees (Table 1).

Province	District	Seminars (#)	No. of Participants	
			Vets	Veterinary Assistants
Punjab	Sahiwal	03	40	15
	Gujranwala	02	23	26
Sindh	Karachi	02	23	30
	Hyderabad	02	30	22
	Hyderabad	01	35	-
KP	Peshawar	02	28	25

One training workshop in Hyderabad was exclusively organized for the female veterinary staff in which 35 women participated. These included 25 from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Development Program, three from Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Tandojam, four from Animal Husbandry Department Sindh, one from Veterinary College, Baqai Medical University Karachi (1) and two final semester students at the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam. Inaugural Session was chaired by Dr. Ali Akbar Somroo Director General Livestock Sindh. Concluding Session was chaired by Mr. Noor Muhammad Laghari, Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Sindh. In his concluding remarks, he appreciated FAO Project for bringing female veterinarians on board. He advised the

participants to utilize project resources to contribute for the control of FMD in Sindh province. Sample collection kits and certificates were distributed by the Chief Guest among all the participants.

Seven seminars for the awareness and capacity building of farmers (162 farmers) were also conducted during this Quarter. Two seminars in Bahawalpur (55 farmers), two in Vehari (55) and one each in Bajour Agency (13 farmers), Mohmand Agency (14 farmers) and Islamabad (25 farmers) were arranged by the Project. Farmers were educated in the areas of FMD prevention and control. Provisions offered by the Project during an FMD outbreak were also elaborated. The FMD awareness documentary video was also shown during the seminars and the effort was well appreciated by the farmers. The video is proving to be a useful tool in communicating the message to all the stakeholders for the control of FMD in the country.



7. Risk Based Control Strategy for FMD in Pakistan

The Project with the help from an international consultant developed FMD National control Program for Pakistan for next 3 to 5 years. The strategy proposed in the National Control Program will follow a



risk-based approach and will address FMD control in two ways: (a) targeting areas/farming systems where the virus is mainly maintained; and (b) targeting hotspots associated with local spreading of virus. National control program for next phase is based on five crucial elements including:

- i. Further strengthening of diagnostic capability for serotyping and genotyping;
- ii. Improving surveillance while effectively maintaining elements of current model;
- iii. Making available good quality vaccine for FMD control;
- iv. Effectively involving all stakeholders in the control
- v. Enacting legal framework for effective FMD control

This national control program was developed by involving all major stakeholders including provincial livestock departments. Two national workshops were held on this national program and each provincial and regional government presented their views on the subject. The document was also sent to the provinces and their views and comments were duly incorporated in the document. The draft national FMD control program was then sent to Animal Husbandry Commissioner (chief veterinary officer) of the country. AHC office has also sent the national FMD control program document to the provinces for their final

comments. The National FMD control program is currently under approval of the Ministry of National



Food Security and Research. It may be recalled that development of a risk based control strategy or a national program for the control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a basic requirement to move a country from Stage 1 to 2 on FMD Progressive Control Pathway. This national FMD control program also fulfills this requirement.

CONTROL FMD FOR PROFITABLE LIVESTOCK FARMING

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