

# PAKISTAN FMD BULLETIN

## Significant Project Activities

### 1. FMD Outbreaks Reported

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

**Table 1: ELISA Results of FMD Outbreaks (April - June 2015)**

Province	Total Outbreaks	FMD Serotypes						ELISA Negative
		O	A	Asia-1	O+A	O+Asia-1	A+Asia-1	
Punjab	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sindh	123	29	57	1	19	2	3	12
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Balochistan	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gilgit-Baltistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FATA	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
AJK	17	4	5	-	-	-	-	8
Islamabad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>

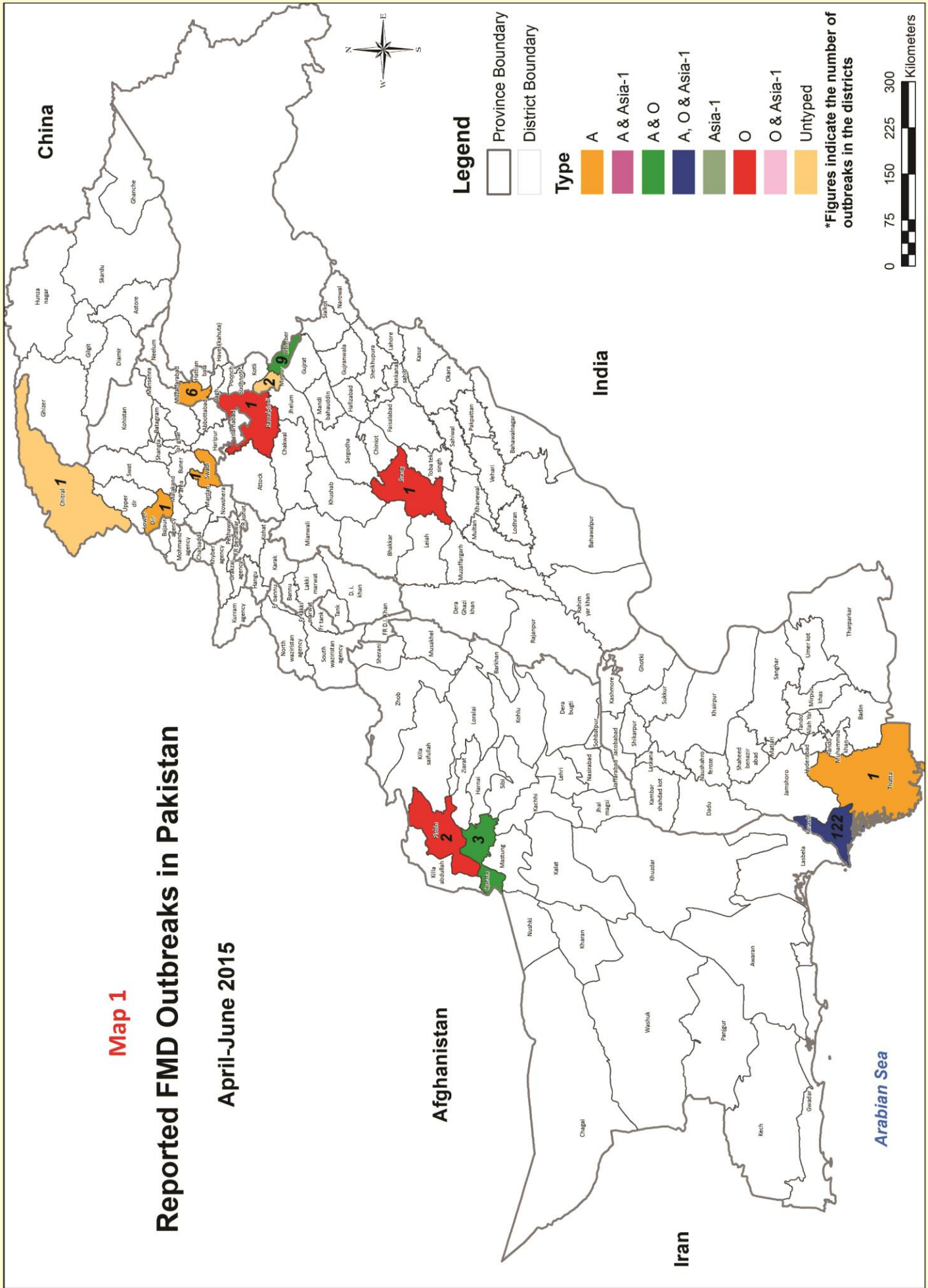
### 2. Capacity Building of Field Staff

Trained field force plays an effective role in disease surveillance and control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases. Thus capacity building of the field veterinary staff is a regular feature of the project. During recent Technical Group Meeting, provincial livestock departments asked the project to expand the capacity building program to include additional veterinarians and also include veterinary assistants in the training program. Female veterinarians posted in the field service of livestock departments were particularly targeted for the training. Training module used for capacity building of the field staff includes clinical recognition of FMD, its differential diagnosis, control and prevention including FMD vaccines and vaccination and samples collection, storage and

transport to the diagnostic laboratories. All trained veterinarians and veterinary assistants are also equipped with FMD sample collection kits. During this quarter a total of 20 training workshops were undertaken in for veterinarians and veterinary assistants of Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. 275 veterinarians (including 42



# Map 1 Reported FMD Outbreaks in Pakistan April-June 2015







females) and 251 veterinary assistants were trained in these workshops.

### 3. Project Participated in ILDPC 2015 and Monsanto Kissan Mela

To create awareness among the stakeholders on the importance of FMD to the livestock industry and how this disease can be effectively controlled in cattle and buffaloes, the Project participated in two events during this quarter.

International Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Congress (ILDPC) is an annual activity organized by Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) in collaboration with provincial livestock departments. The event is attended by a large number of veterinarians, veterinary assistants, progressive farmers, veterinary students and persons from pharmaceutical industry throughout Pakistan. Besides exhibition, scientific papers are also presented for the information of the participants. This year, it was organized at Expo Centre Lahore from April 14-15, 2015. The Project considered it a useful forum to put up a stall



illustrating different Project activities for the visitors. Chief guest visited the project stall and appreciated the efforts of FAO for the control of FMD in the country. Technical presentation was given by the National Project Director on 'Progressive Control of FMD in Pakistan'. A large number of participants visited the project stall and discussed their role in FMD control activities. Awareness material was also distributed amongst the visitors of the project stall.

The project was invited by the Monsanto Pakistan Agritech (Pvt.) Ltd. to participate in Monsanto Farmers Mela being arranged at Monsanto Learning Center, Manga Mandi, Lahore on June 9, 2015. The Monsanto is a well established agriculture company in Pakistan and deals in seed business. The company has strong interaction with the farmers throughout Pakistan and organizes events for the awareness of farmers. In Monsanto Farmers Mela 2015, five stations/stalls on Animal Health, Silage, Agronomy, Production and Grain Collector were arranged for the event. The project was requested to create awareness among the participating farmers regarding animal health in general and Foot & Mouth Disease in particular. The event was attended by more than 400 farmers from Faisalabad, Kasur, Gojra, Pillinwal, Chiniot, Depalpur, Summundri, Jarranwala, Aminpur, Toba Tek Singh and Tandlianwala. Dr. Muhammad Afzal (Project Coordinator) and Dr. Muhammad Javed Arshed (National Field Officer) briefed the visitors who came in groups of 20 to 25 at the animal health station about measures to be taken for the





prevention and control of FMD in their animals. The main emphasis was given on bio-security, disease reporting, and selection of appropriate vaccine and proper and timely vaccination program against the disease. Farmers' queries regarding FMD and other animal health issues were duly answered. Awareness material such as FMD Urdu brochure and Urdu leaflet having information regarding FMD vaccine and vaccination were distributed among the farmers.

#### 4. Awareness Raising of Livestock Farmers (Male and Female)

Twelve seminars for the awareness of farmers (464 farmers) were conducted during this Quarter. Women play an active role in performing various livestock related activities in Pakistan, so project has started arranging trainings for women also. To train female farmers on the prevention and control of livestock diseases, Project conducted two trainings in District Tando Allah Yar in Sindh Province on 20 May 2015. To ensure better understanding of training content, local



veterinary staff including female veterinarian were also involved to assist in delivering these trainings. 53 female farmers in village Chhatan Ariser and 41 female farmers in village Bachal Khaskhaily participated in these trainings. The training focused on the identification of FMD and prevention and control of the disease. The female participants gratefully acknowledged FAO for reaching remote areas of the country and providing useful information and knowledge especially to the smallholder female farmers. The female farmers shared that they will be utilizing this knowledge for the control and subsequently eradication of the disease from their livestock. The participants also discussed other livestock diseases and illnesses with the project team and were properly responded.

Other farmers awareness workshops were held in Mirpurkhas (Sindh), Mirpur (Azad Jammu and Kashmir), Quetta (Balochistan), Chitral, Upper Dir, and Buner districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Mohmand agency of FATA.

#### 5. Pakistan Qualifies for Stage 2 in Progressive Control Pathway of Foot and Mouth Disease

With the excellent support of all federal and provincial livestock departments in the country, Project has achieved its primary goal i.e. upgradation of Pakistan from Stage 1 to Stage 2 on FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP). It was announced by the Regional Advisory Group comprising of FAO/OIE experts during the 6<sup>th</sup> West Eurasia FMD Road Map Meeting held from April 28 to 30, 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Meeting



was attended by the delegations from 13 Regional countries, experts from OIE/FAO, EU-FMD Commission, FMD Reference labs at Pirbright UK as well as Vladimir Russia. Officials (37) of Committee of Veterinary Control, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Kazakhstan also participated in the Meeting. Pakistan participated with a strong contingent that included Project Coordinator Dr. Muhammad Afzal, National Project Director Dr. Manzoor Hussain, National Field Officer Dr. Aftab Ahmad, Assistant Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Akram and Additional Director FMD Research Centre Lahore Dr. Rashad Munir Khawaja. Project achievements presented by Dr. Muhammad Akram were highly appreciated by the participants. Pakistan was also specially asked to make presentation on its Risk-Based FMD Control Program because it was evaluated and considered by FAO/OIE as a model to be followed by other countries that are in the process of qualifying for Stage 2 of the PCP. Project Coordinator made the presentation highlighting the process of formulation and contents of the control program. The presentation was followed by an active discussion and many countries desired to get an electronic copy of the control program developed by Pakistan.

#### **6. Wildlife Staff Sindh Joins FAO Project for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases**

In an effort to determine the possible role of wildlife in maintaining/spreading the FMD virus and to bring the wildlife departments on board to join the efforts initiated by the FAO for the control

of FMD in Pakistan, the project organized a day long training workshop for the field staff of Sindh Wildlife Department, Karachi Safari Park, Karachi Zoo and Hyderabad Zoo on Tuesday May 19, 2015



at Hotel Indus Hyderabad. Twenty staff members participated in the workshop. The participants were trained in disease recognition/investigation, collection, storage and dispatch of samples, biosecurity measures and possibilities of vaccination against FMD in the susceptible wildlife. The capturing of wildlife is very sensitive and a bit difficult due to non-availability of appropriate tools, so a strategy for collection of blood samples at the time of shifting and or treatment of animals was developed. The inaugural session of the training workshop was chaired by the Deputy FAO Representative Mr. Francisco Gamarro. Sample collection kits were distributed to all the participants by Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Project Coordinator Livestock project JICA/Ex-Director General Livestock Department Sindh. Later on, during June 10-11, 2015 visit, SOPs for collection of blood samples from wild mammals were





delivered and demonstration for the collection of blood sample from Ibex was given to the technical staff of Karachi Safari Park.

### **7. Proficiency testing of provincial diagnostic laboratories**

The project requested National Veterinary Laboratories, Islamabad (NVL) to develop diagnostic proficiency testing for all provincial and regional laboratories strengthened by the project for FMD diagnosis by ELISA. NVL developed the testing panels and distributed to all participating labs. The results of first ever national proficiency scheme launched by the project have been received and analyzed at NVL. All the designated ELISA laboratories in the country were able to detect FMD virus through ELISA. Six lab were able to correctly diagnose all samples in the panel. There was diagnostic problem in two labs for one out of six samples which indicates need for improving specificity of the test results. The results from proficiency test will be discussed in detail with each lab staff during refresher course on ELISA to be held in August 2015. This important milestone will build the confidence of all the stakeholders on the newly established ELISA Labs network for the diagnosis of FMD in the country and would be helpful in controlling FMD through the provision of prompt and accurate FMD lab diagnosis. It is expected that NVL as a reference laboratory for TADs in the country will organize such proficiency schemes in future also.

### **8. Mass Vaccination Against FMD in Punjab - Presentation Made to the Policy Makers**

Project Coordinator participated in the meeting on FMD control in Punjab and made a presentation on the "Mass vaccination against FMD in Punjab.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Irfan Ellahi, Chairman Planning / Additional Chief

Secretary and participated by Mr, Arshad Jatt Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab on Livestock, Vice Chancellor, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, representatives of departments of Finance and Agriculture, Livestock department Officials and university professors of Microbiology. Project Coordinator suggested that the Punjab government may adopt risk based control strategy already approved by the Government of Pakistan. Punjab may strengthen lab diagnosis, adopt smart vaccination against FMD, strengthen disease surveillance and undertake outbreak control activities including emergency vaccination. Project Coordinator also proposed short, medium and long term measures needed to control FMD in the province. Project Coordinator presented that Pakistan needs to produce quality FMD vaccine locally for long term efforts to control FMD in the country. However, the institutions have to undertake proper R & D before going into vaccine production. Minimum R & D required for FMD vaccine production include:

- i. Use FMD vaccine strains in the vaccine which neutralize and protect against recently circulating field viruses.
- ii. Vaccine standardization is to be based on internationally recognized criteria of 146 S determination and not TCID<sub>50</sub>.
- iii. Vaccine manufacturers need to make sure that 146 S content of the vaccine remain stable during storage and does not degraded to 12 S content significantly.
- iv. Each vaccine batch has to be tested for potency beside other recommended tests, otherwise quality cannot be assured.

Vaccine which does not meet quality standards should not be used in the field. Quality standards have to be followed whether these are expensive or not. Use of uncertified quality of vaccine damages the confidence of farmers in the whole vaccination process and brings bad name to the institution and the government.



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