Maintaining Global Freedom from Rinderpest
Regional Meeting for Africa

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt • 5-6 August 2015
Sheraton Sharm Hotel
Background

The official declarations of global freedom from rinderpest were made during meetings at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2011. At these historical celebrations the Member States of each organization directed the two organizations to work jointly in managing all aspects of rinderpest in the post-eradication. The agreed strategy is to reduce the number of laboratories holding the virus whilst ensuring global, regional and national preparedness in case of an outbreak.

The Member States of the African Union recommended in 2011 that all African countries should destroy their rinderpest virus stocks or send them to the AU-Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre in Ethiopia for safe keeping. In 2015, AU-PANVAC was recognized jointly by FAO and OIE as an approved Rinderpest Holding Facility (RHF) and some countries in Africa have already sent their viruses to this laboratory for safe keeping. FAO questionnaires in 2010 and in 2011 confirmed that rinderpest virus containing material were kept in several laboratories under low level of biosecurity. In 2014, OIE questionnaires showed that rinderpest virus are still kept in at least 24 countries in 27 institutions.

The following countries have been invited to attend this regional meeting: Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Objectives

• To share information on the current situation of rinderpest virus in the region and review the progress of each country towards their obligations to destroy or safely relocate (sequester) their stocks of rinderpest virus in an FAO-OIE approved RHF.

• To illustrate the risks and possible impact of not destroying or sequestering stocks of rinderpest virus in an FAO-OIE approved RHF.

• To support countries in their commitment to destroy or sequester their stocks of virus in an FAO-OIE approved RHF.

• To emphasize the need for continuing awareness and preparedness for an outbreak of rinderpest.

Outcomes and outlook

1. Countries commit to destroy or sequester their rinderpest virus stocks.

2. Countries are aware of the potential risk and impact of virus re-emergence to livelihood, trade and food security.

3. The roles of national, regional and global preparedness plans for rinderpest are mutually agreed.

4. FAO and its partners are better prepared to assist countries to reduce the risk of rinderpest in Africa.

Organization

The meeting is being held by FAO and will be attended by the OIE, AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC, global and regional partners with FAO in rinderpest risk reduction. The event will be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Republic of Egypt with assistance and organizational support from the FAO Representation in Egypt and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa.

Language: English with French translation.
5th August • Wednesday

08:30  Registration
09:00  Opening and welcoming remarks
       Objectives and adoption of agenda

Chair / Speaker

Official representative of Egypt, international and regional organizations (FAO, OIE, AU-IBAR)
Samia Metwally (FAO)

Chair: Abdulganiyu Abubakar
(CVO - Nigeria)
Paul Rossiter (FAO)
Samia Metwally (FAO)
Ahmed Elsawalhy (AU-IBAR)
Dawid Visser (OIE)

11:15  Break
11:30  FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee: its mandate, processes and outputs
       The risks posed by keeping the virus
       Rinderpest disease spread computer model
       Round table discussion

Chair: Kisa Juma Ngeiywa
(CVO - Kenya)
Junaidu Maina (JAC)
Paul Rossiter (FAO)
Ben McMahon (Los Alamos National Laboratory)
All participants

13:00  Lunch

14:30  Session 2: What is the current threat of rinderpest in Africa and why?
       Breakout groups:
       i.  Where is the virus in Africa?
       ii.  Are there ANY justifiable reasons for keeping the virus?
       iii. How can we discourage countries from keeping the virus?
       iv. How can the international organizations facilitate the process?

Chair: Musa Tibin Musa Adam
(Minister - Sudan)
(South Africa)

16:00  Break
16:30  Presentation from breakout groups
17:30  Closing remarks of day 1

19:00  Gala dinner
09:00  Summary of day 1
       Samia Metwally (FAO)

09:15  Session 3: Preparedness to reduce impact
       (15 min ppt and 5 min Q&A)
       Chair: Mbargou Lo
       (CVO - Senegal)
       Components of the global plan of actions (GPA)
       Paul Rossiter (FAO)
       FAO-OIE rinderpest holding facilities
       and virus sequestration/destruction
       Samia Metwally (FAO)
       Diagnostics, virus sequencing and rescue:
       what is available & what we need?
       Michael Baron (Pirbright)
       Vaccine: what is available & what we need?
       Nick Nwankpa (AU-PANVAC)
       Raising public awareness (options)
       Paul Rossiter (FAO)
       Round table discussion
       All participants

10:45  Break

11:15  Session 4: Country input and feedback
       Chair: Mesfin Sahle Forsa
       (Ethiopia)
       Breakout groups:
       i. Global - GPA
       ii. Regional - regional plan of actions & simulation exercises
       iii. National - awareness, surveillance and removal of virus

12:30  Lunch

14:00  Presentation from breakout groups

15:00  Session 5: Going forward - commitment
       Chair: FAO/AU-IBAR
       Pledging for destruction or relocation
       of national virus stocks
       Preparation of draft communiqué

16:30  Break

17:00  Summary of meeting and the way forward
       Samia Metwally (FAO)

17:30  End of the meeting