

The 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand – 1-2 July, 2010

Conclusions and Recommendations

Recognising that:

1. The GF-TADs initiative is a crucial mechanism accepted by the major stakeholders in the Region for the prevention and control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs).
2. GF-TADs provides a coordinating platform for the national veterinary services of the region, regional organisations, international organisations, and donors to promote synergies and avoid duplication and fill gaps in addressing issues related to the prevention and control of TADs and EIDs.
3. WHO active participation in this meeting is considered as a significant step in promoting the one health concept in addressing zoonotic diseases. GLEWS, OFFLU, CMC-AH must be utilised through greater linkage to Regional GF-TADs mechanisms and initiatives.
4. At the Asia-Pacific region level, a number of donor-funded programmes (AusAID, USAID, EU, JAPAN, ADB, USDA, France, Netherlands and Cooperazione Italiana) have made a significant contribution to improve prevention and control of on HPAI, FMD and other TADs and EIDs.
5. Level of emergency response to HPAI has improved in all the countries and in many countries the disease has been successfully controlled and prevented due to support by the stakeholders, due *inter alia* to the investment made in this context. Nevertheless, in some countries due to the complex factors of livestock density, biosecurity level and other socio economic elements, endemicity of H5N1 virus is still a challenge to the region.
6. Recent outbreaks of FMD in the East Asia region reemphasise the importance of the regional control of TADs, highlighting the fact that the existence of a transboundary animal disease in a country is a threat to the neighbouring countries which are free from the disease.
7. GF-TADs is a strategically important coordination mechanism for regional projects in animal health and zoonoses which are supported by many bilateral and multilateral donors, and the meeting welcomes the intention of EU to be a partner to this mechanism.

Recommendations

1. GF-TADs should continue to address capacity building and strengthening of veterinary services to meet the OIE standards. In doing so, as a result of the PVS Gap Analysis of veterinary services of each country in the region, the resource limited countries should be given high priority under the GF-TADs initiative through broader sub-regional collaboration in

supporting veterinary services to comply with OIE standards, using ASEAN+3, SPC+2 and SAARC GF-TADs programmes.

2. FAO should be an important implementing partner of OIE PVS and PSVS outcomes in the region because of their strong presence in all the countries and experience of implementing field programmes.
3. Economic importance of TADs control is more evident in the developed countries with high sanitary status. Incursions of TADs have a far more devastating impact on the livestock industry thereof. Hence GF-TADs regional approach should gain the support and further collaboration from those countries under the umbrella of GF-TADs.
4. Tremendous efforts have been made to eliminate HPAI from the poultry sector in this region. The successful elimination of HPAI from this region will be a public good for the region as well as for the world. Continued efforts should be promoted including more funding for surveillance in domestic waterfowl and wild birds in endemic countries and zones, and in certain defined hot spots.
5. GF-TADs, with the participation of WHO, will focus on the important TADs and potential zoonoses targeting the principal source in animals. In zoonoses, cross sectoral collaboration between animal health, human health and ecosystems should be promoted to achieve the principle of a One Health approach (in line with the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite concept note of April 2010)
6. GF-TADs should maintain a good balance in addressing issues: specific issues and cross cutting issues, medium to long term approaches.
7. In addressing animal health and zoonoses, the livelihood and wellbeing of people and animal welfare issues should be taken into account, at the national level.
8. More holistic and multidisciplinary approaches are needed, considering globalisation, climate change and spread of TADs. In some cases, it may even call for forecasting of TADs under certain sets of changes in weather and socio-economic status.
9. The GF-TADs Asia Pacific regional steering committee should continue to be the regional coordination forum for the management of the EU-funded HPED Programme.
10. GF-TADs should continue to encourage the engagement of economically advanced countries of the Sub-regional GF-TADs programme of ASEAN+3 and SPC +2, with the respective sub-regional organisations.
11. GF-TADs should continue close collaboration with the Regional Organisations ASEAN, SAARC and SPC (RSOs) through continued engagement in the Animal Health Authorities Working Group of the respective organisations (e.g. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock, SAARC CVO forum and the SPC PHOVAPS) and raising awareness of GF-TADs and its activities.
12. In this regard People's Republic of China should be invited to participate in relevant GFTADs activities (beyond SEACFMD).

13. Professionals of the lead technical (OIE, FAO and WHO) and regional intergovernmental organisations of GF-TADs (ASEAN, SAARC, and SPC) should cooperate in the programming of activities of GF-TADs and relevant components of HPED. It is recommended that the lead managers, through meetings and teleconferences, communicate regularly and coordinate activities to make efficient use of the expertise available for capacity building work (e.g. laboratory training to OIE standards, laboratory networks, surveillance, risk analysis and identification of critical control points for intervention, wildlife capture and sampling).
14. Concepts expounded in the FAO Progressive Control Pathway (PCP), and endorsed by OIE, as evolved through the GF-TADs FMD WG, should be used in the review and planning of SEACFMD, to ensure further success, and other country or regional initiatives.
15. The PCP should be explored by the FAO and OIE technical leadership to other high impact diseases such as brucellosis and peste des petits ruminants in which intervention (prevention and surveillance) can incorporate species-based health (i.e., small ruminants, production systems and surveillance for EIDs); or, classical swine fever, Streptococcus suis, and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (i.e., swine health, production systems and surveillance for EIDs).
16. The Field epidemiology training programme for veterinarians (FETPV) programme of Southeast Asia and China with its holistic modules, such as socio-economic principles, wildlife, communication and advocacy should be expanded to other sub-Regional GF-TADs particularly SAARC and SPC.
17. GF-TADs should promote the need for more effective coordination at the country level, including among specialized agencies to realize the 'One Health' framework.
18. OIE and FAO under GF-TADs are requested to consider supporting inter alia initiatives on updating/developing national legislation (using OIE guidelines), veterinary education (using OIE core Curriculum), engaging non-governmental organizations, academia, private sector including private veterinarians in addressing TADs on a long term basis in the region.
19. GF-TADs should enhance capacity of veterinary services to carry out surveillance complying with OIE standards in all countries with a focus on early detection, rapid response and characterisation of pathogens, and related animal and animal product movements.
20. In this regard GFTADs should focus on risk analysis due to movement of live animals, animal production materials and animal products.
21. GF-TADs should promote strengthening the function of regional reference laboratories with higher capacity to collect and supply epidemiological information.
22. GF-TADs should continue to pursue cross-border and regional collaborative projects on priority diseases in SAARC and ASEAN using an integrated approach.
23. The GF-TADs Steering Committee endorses the recommendations (annexed) of the first SC Meeting of the HPED programme (1 July, 2010).