Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) is one of the most important livestock diseases within Africa affecting the livelihood and food supply of many livestock-dependent people. CBPP appeared to be under control, but after almost 20 years of respite there has been an alarming resurgence of the disease on the continent. Today, CBPP is regarded as the most serious infectious animal disease threatening cattle populations in Africa.

The impact of CBPP on beef, milk and crop production – the latter through the work of plough oxen – is devastating, and there are particular implications for food security within countries affected by the disease. CBPP has contributed to great economic losses and, therefore, to increased poverty levels in many parts of Africa.

To confront the challenge of the resurgence of CBPP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) assists affected countries in their efforts to contain disease outbreaks and prevent disease spread within the region. Recently, FAO organized two coordination meetings to promote regional cooperation and information sharing.

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON CBPP IN AFRICA**

FAO Regional Office for Africa, in close coordination with FAO’s Animal Health Service (AGAH) and with the support of the regional office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), organized a consultation to develop a **regionally coordinated strategy for the prevention and control of CBPP in Africa.** The Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal hosted the regional consultation in Dakar from 19–21 November 2013. The consultation was organized under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in Africa and constituted a follow-up of previous consultations, with the last one being held in November 2006.

Directors and representatives of veterinary services from 12 countries attended the meeting in addition to representatives from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), from FAO headquarters, and from FAO country offices across Africa. Other representatives were from the International Cooperation Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL/Mali), L’Ecole Inter Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar (EISMV), the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), the Institut Sénégalais des Recherches Agricoles (ISRA), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), the USDA regional office and livestock professional organizations.

The meeting was officially opened by Her Excellency Mrs Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal in the presence of Dr Vincent Martin, FAO representative in Senegal who was formally working with EMPRES from 1997 to 2013, the regional OIE representative for Africa, the representative of AU-IBAR and the regional representative of USDA in West Africa.

The objectives of the regional consultation were to: (i) review current knowledge on disease prevention and control; (ii) provide an update on CBPP and control measures in the participating countries; and (iii) identify the key elements for a collective strategy for sustainable control of CBPP in Africa using the knowledge and experience of countries.
The participants reviewed the latest developments in CBPP diagnostics and prophylactic tools and discussed different prevention and control strategies in different epidemiological settings. The participants debated the possibility of developing a progressive approach to CBPP control based on a realistic assessment of the disease’s impact and of the control options available, similar to the progressive control pathway for foot-and-mouth disease (PCP-FMD). Such a pathway would support countries in attaining higher levels of disease control in the vulnerable sectors. It would also guide them at a national level through achievable steps in the progression toward increased and sustainable disease control. The key elements for CBPP control were identified in three epidemiologically distinct regions (i.e. Sahel, coastal west Africa and eastern and southern Africa) taking into account technical, institutional and financial limitations.

The participants agreed on a number of recommendations, which focused on some of the below-mentioned areas:

- harmonizing national and regional strategies for the progressive control of CBPP and for the coordination of actions at the subregional level;
- strengthening cross-border cooperation through animal health agreements between countries;
- mobilizing funding for research to develop improved vaccines, diagnostics and antibiotics for strategic treatment schemes;
- conducting economic studies on the impact of the disease and cost-benefit analyses of CBPP control programmes;
- ensuring regional economic communities embrace CBPP control initiatives in order to ensure sustainability;
- strengthening the capacity and governance of veterinary services using the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) tool;
- reinforcing capacity of veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals through appropriate training and continuing education programmes;
- developing advocacy initiatives and documents on the socio-economic impact of the disease and the benefits of its control;
- fostering public-private partnerships in the planning and implementation of animal disease policies and strategies;
- lobbying national and regional decision-making bodies with action plans in order to request funds to manage CBPP; and
- seeking support and coordination from international (e.g. FAO and OIE) and African organizations (e.g. AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC).

The objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for the representatives of the participating countries to agree on coordinated strategies to monitor and control CBPP within the subregion and to strengthen communication between the national veterinary services.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Ada Gaye, Permanent Secretary of the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture and officially opened by Her Excellency Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal in the presence of Dr Vincent Martin, FAO representative in Senegal.

Discussions during the meeting resulted in important commitments from the participating countries, which included:

- prioritizing the prevention and control of CBPP in their countries;
- harmonizing and adopting similar approaches to the containment of the current CBPP epidemic in countries within the subregion;
- increasing vaccination coverage to reduce prevalence to levels where alternate strategies become applicable;
- ensuring the use of quality-assured CBPP vaccines within the subregion;
- intensifying surveillance of CBPP to monitor the outbreaks and report new cases;
- improving the management of cross-border livestock movements through measures including issuance of vaccination certificates and movement permits, identification of vaccinated cattle and notification of third parties about the ongoing efforts to control CBPP.

CONAGTIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA IN THE GAMBIA (TCP/GAM/3504 (E)) – CROSS-BORDER MEETING

Following the regional consultation, FAO organized a cross-border meeting on 22 November 2103 between the veterinary services of the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal as part of a technical cooperation project entitled Emergency Assistance to Control CBPP Outbreak, which started in early 2013. The funds for this project were mobilized by FAO when CBPP re-emerged in the Gambia in 2012 after 41 years of absence. Directors and representatives of veterinary services from the five countries attended as well as participants representing FAO and USDA.

At the end of the meeting the participants drafted a final communiqué with main recommendations agreed upon.