



## Building veterinary epidemiology capacity of China, we never stopped! - Launching of the CFETPV 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort



As a flagship collaboration project between FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of China, the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) launched its 4<sup>th</sup> cohort in October 2016, to keep on strengthening veterinary epidemiology capacity of China.

On behalf of the FAO, Dr Vincent Martin, FAO Representative in China and DPR Korea, attended the opening ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. He congratulated the MoA for the significant progress in veterinary epidemiology development in the past six years. Since the CFETPV was launched in 2010, more than 80 graduates have played a significant role in the national, provincial and local animal health agencies. Dr Martin highlighted that a self-sustaining in-service training platform on veterinary epidemiology would improve the animal and public health

in China, thus benefits the sustainable agriculture, the economy and the community.

According to the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort framework, a four-week introductory course of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort of the CFETPV was held in Qingdao from 10 October to 4 November 2016. 50 trainees who were selected from more than 70 applicants all over the country attended the training. They are from 4 national institutes, 28 provincial and 5 municipal veterinary agencies. To date, a total of 31 provinces of mainland China had at least one trainee who attended the CFETPV program, which was one of the key milestones of the program.

In addition, the 4<sup>th</sup> CFETPV Annual Seminar was held in Qingdao on 2 November 2016, which focused on veterinary epidemiology application in disease control strategies. Around 80 participants attended and had interactive discussions on the how to use veterinary epidemiology for improving disease control strategies, especially the compulsory vaccination programs. The annual seminar has become a regular event among CFETPV network which brought the graduates and trainees together for practices sharing, communication, and networking.



## LinkTADs project successfully concluded in October



The final events of the 'Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in China and EU (LinkTADs)' project were held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 18 to 21 October 2016. With the joint efforts by the EU and Chinese partners over the past three years, the project successfully concluded at the end of October 2016.

The LinkTADs project established an effective communication and collaboration platform for veterinary research institutes and universities in the EU and China in the field of animal health. The completion of the project did not mean the end of collaboration. In fact, the project consortium, together with external partners, decided to jointly develop a H2020

project targeting at the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) issue in farm animals in China and the EU, to maintain the sustainability of the LinkTADs project. Meanwhile, online platforms established by the project, which opened to the public for free would be maintained and updated by partners, including LinkTADs website, a search engine for research funding opportunities and LinkTADs communication platforms and networks on social media.

A series of meetings were organized in Kunming, including the final progress meeting, dissemination event and sustainability workshop. Around 60 participants from the EU and Chinese research institutions, universities, government institutions and industry attended the dissemination event. During which, the key project achievements, collaborative opportunities and platforms were showcased. During the sustainability workshop, the EU and Chinese partners which would be involved in the H2020 project were identified. The partners from both sides will work together to develop a joint project proposal over the next few months. Dr Guo Fusheng and Dr Li Shuo from FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office hosted these events and coordinated with the Chinese partners.

## ➤ Strengthening China's clinical veterinarians' emergency preparedness and response capacity on FMD

In order to strengthen China's clinical veterinarians' emergency preparedness and response capacity on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), a four-week online training course for China's clinical veterinarians on FMD emergency preparation was jointly held by EuFMD and the FP7 project, Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in China and EU (LinkTADs), from 21 September to 21 October 2016. The course was designed to target at Chinese veterinarians who would be involved in diagnosing and investigating an outbreak of FMD. The main topics of the course included FMD aetiology and pathogenesis, clinical diagnosis, FMD epidemiology, outbreak investigation and biosecurity. Besides, two webinars were organized, which provided opportunities for trainees to have more interaction with their trainers.

About 50 Chinese trainees who are from national and local level animal disease control centers, FMD national reference laboratories, research institutes and livestock companies participated in the course. The training received very positive feedbacks from the trainees. One of the trainees from Xiamen Animal Disease Control and Prevention Center considered this on-line training was very helpful, which not only enhanced trainees' understanding to FMD, but also strengthened trainees' capacity in conducting outbreak investigation. FAO China ECTAD Office facilitated this activity from preparation to dissemination, and assisted in identifying the suitable Chinese participants to attend the training.

## ➤ China, Mongolia and Russia Federation signed the Minutes to further strengthen the collaboration on TADs



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The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting on "Cross Border Trade and Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) Risk Reduction" between China, Mongolia and Russia Federation was held in Vladimir, Russia from 12 to 13 October 2016. The three participating countries had a productive meeting, through which, a meeting minutes was signed, with particular recommendations to strengthen the collaboration on TADs and emerging infectious diseases.

Building on the success of the previous meetings, this meeting focused on enhancing cooperation and sharing information on five TADs: African Swine Fever (ASF), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). It was attended by senior officials from the veterinary authorities

of China, Mongolia and Russia, technical/laboratory experts, epidemiologists, provincial representatives and FAO. The Chinese delegation was led by Dr Wang Gongming, Deputy Director-General of the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor/Team Leader of FAO China ECTAD Office attended and facilitated the meeting, who also delivered a presentation on the PPR global eradication program. China, Mongolia and Russia has established a good cooperation mechanism in combatting TADs and minimizing the negative impacts of these diseases, since the first trilateral collaboration meeting. Thanks to the efforts of FAO, which has played an important role in providing coordination and bridging communication among the three countries, and would continue providing support to this initiative.

It was agreed that the 7<sup>th</sup> trilateral collaboration meeting will be held in Qingdao, China in 2017.

## ! Upcoming activities

1. Dr Guo Fusheng was invited to attend the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Expert Committee Meeting in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from 1 to 2 November 2016 and the Regional Meeting to Strengthen IHR (2005) Core Capacities at Designated Points of Entry in Xiamen, Fujian Province from 3 to 4 November 2016.
2. The Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on Case Study Development will be held in Jingzhou, Hubei Province from 21 to 22 November 2016.
3. The Workshop on Value Chain Analysis Application will be held in Jingzhou, Hubei Province from 23 to 25 November 2016.



No. 2-151C Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building, No. 14 Liang Ma He Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, P.R.China

Tel: (86 10) 8532 3634 | Fax: (86 10) 8532 3681

E-mail: [FAO-CN@fao.org](mailto:FAO-CN@fao.org)