First joint workshop between CFETPV and university academics networks

The China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) and university academics networks conducted their first joint workshop in Jingzhou, Hubei Province from 21st to 25th November 2016. The first two days focused on case study development, while the remaining three days focused on the application of value chain analysis. The workshop was organized by the Veterinary Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) with FAO’s support. It aimed at facilitating the sustainability of veterinary epidemiology capacity building by developing curriculums, course materials and the case bank with Chinese context, and enhancing participants’ understanding on value chain analysis to promote its application in China. Around 20 participants attended the 5-day workshop, including university academics from China Agricultural University, Huazhong Agricultural University, South China Agricultural University, Shandong Agricultural University, Henan Agricultural University and Zhejiang Agricultural and Forestry University, and Chinese trainers and graduates from the CFETPV program.

During the workshop, participants reviewed ‘the basic veterinary epidemiology training manual’, which was developed by the CFETPV Chinese trainers in 2016, and discussed the workplan for the course materials and case study development in 2017. The last three-day workshop also invited Prof Dirk Pfeiffer and Dr Guillaume Fournie to attend. Prof Pfeiffer gave a lecture on the brief introduction of value chain analysis (VCA), and some international examples were also shared by Dr Fournie. Most participants expressed that their understanding on the linkage among value chain mapping, risk assessment, network analysis and value chain analysis was improved. Several participatory sessions were conducted to stimulate participants’ thinking about how to apply VCA for the disease control in China. Through the organization of such joint activity, the linkage between the university academics and CFETPV networks has been strengthened.

CFETPV and CFETP planned for future joint collaborations to promote One Health application

Two Field Epidemiology Training Programs for veterinary and medical professionals (CFETPV and China Field Epidemiology Training Program [CFETP]) aimed to assist the Chinese government in training epidemiologists in support of zoonotic disease control and prevention in animal and human sectors. Although both programs are running separately, joint collaborations to promote One Health application in China deemed to be necessary. To further strengthen the collaborations, FAO called a meeting with Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and US CDC on 14 November 2016. Dr Vincent Martin, FAO Representative, Dr Guo Fusheng and Mr Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD Office discussed future joint initiatives with Dr Linda Quick, USCDC Resident Advisor and Dr Lu Mei, CFETP Project Manager. Over the short but productive meeting, a number of proposals were made, including conducting the Train of Trainer Workshops, workshop on One Health, frontline joint-training for the province, trainer resources exchanges, etc. Long-term collaborations, such as integrating the CFETP/CFETPV joint program into the South-South Cooperation, sharing and supporting Africa, engaging the neighbouring countries had also been discussed.

In the aim of strengthening the collaboration with public health sector, Dr Kang Jingli from the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) and Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD Office attended the TEPHINET (Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network) 8th Bi-Regional Conference from 28 November to 2 December in Siam Reap, Cambodia. This was the
first time that the CFETPV representatives participated in the TEPHINET event which was a network of 65 field epidemiology training programs (FETPs) in 90 countries around the world. A side meeting was held among the TEPHINET CEO, key staff of FETP-China, CFETPV, FETP-Thailand, FETPV-Thailand, US CDC, and FAO to discuss how to strengthen the collaborations between FETPVs and TEPHINET in the future.

FAO China ECTAD attendance at the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Expert Committee meeting

As a Member of the Expert Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), who was appointed by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Dr Guo Fusheng from FAO China ECTAD Office attended the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Expert Committee Meeting in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from 1 to 2 November 2016. In recent years, AMR has become a globally concerned issue. This meeting mainly focused on the discussion of the drafted papers, including Principles and Approaches to Contain Antimicrobial Resistance in Hong Kong; Overview of Antimicrobial Resistance in Farm Animal and Food in Hong Kong; Overview of Antimicrobial Resistance in Community and Healthcare Setting in Hong Kong, and Overview of AMR Surveillance, Health Promotion, Education and Evaluation to combat AMR. During the meeting, Dr Guo also delivered a presentation entitled “United Nations AMR action plan, regulation, projects and activities in China”.

Veterinary epidemiology roll-out to provinces - Shanghai ACDC is engaging in capacity building and practices

The China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) keeps facilitating the veterinary epidemiology development at different levels since its launching in 2010. Some provinces use their own resources to develop their institutional and personnel capacities with support of the program, Shanghai is one of them.

The directors of Shanghai Animal Disease Control Centre (ACDC) became more cognizant of the importance of veterinary epidemiology to veterinary public health services after they attended the veterinary epidemiology executive training (FETPV-E). Since 2012, Shanghai ACDC has been sending young professionals continually to attend the CFETPV 2-year core course. It has 3 graduates and 1 trainee up to now. The CFETPV trainees played an important role in training their local staff. 7 epidemiology trainings were conducted in the past four years, attended by more than 200 participants. Shanghai ACDC also organized their provincial veterinary epidemiology executive training in 2015 to strengthen district ACDCs directors’ understanding of veterinary epidemiology. It was the first provincial FETPV-E training in China. In addition, Shanghai ACDC established their epidemiology team cross departments by using the graduates resources that built up gradually through the attendance of CFETPV. This team is now active in the fields of the outbreak investigation and epidemiological study to provide sound evidence for animal health services in Shanghai. Their performance also received recognition from Shanghai government and was awarded as “The 2016 excellent vanguard of Shanghai City”.

Shanghai ACDC also actively promotes the applications of veterinary epidemiology. More than 20 outbreak investigations were conducted, including bovine tuberculosis, sheep brucellosis, pig Pseudorabies, piglet diarrhea and H7N9, etc. Several studies have been done to help Shanghai pig breeding farms to eradicate Pseudorabies. In the aim of improving H7N9 risk management of Shanghai, it also conducted live bird markets trade network study by adopting value chain analysis approach. In addition, Shanghai ACDC makes the best use of epidemiology to provide technical supports for animal disease control decision marking, such as surveillance plan, control strategies, etc. What is more, Shanghai ACDC applies ‘One health’ approaches to address public health risks. It closely works with Shanghai CDC, not only for emergency issues such as H1N1 and H7N9, but also established regular communication and collaboration mechanism to work together on the control of brucellosis, rabies and other zoonoses.

Upcoming activities

1. Mr. Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD Office was invited to attend and present on the One Health EcoHealth Congress in Melbourne, Australia from 3 to 7 December 2016.
2. Dr. Guo Fusheng will attend the Conference on Agriculture Development in Central Asia in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province from 5 to 7 December 2016.
3. Dr. Guo Fusheng will participate in the Project Formulation Workshop on FAO-China South-South Cooperation Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in Greater Mekong Sub-Region in Bangkok from 19 to 21 December 2016.
4. Mr. Tang Hao will attend the CAHEC annual workshop for Veterinary Epidemiology Strategic Development in Qingdao on 20 December 2016.