



Regional Expert Group Meeting on Foot and Mouth Disease

14 – 16 May 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Strengthening national laboratory capacities, collaboration as well as information sharing among the laboratories within the region through the “Regional Laboratory Network (RLN)” is essential for the effective surveillance and control program against transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) in Southeast Asia (SEA). The South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEACFMD) LabNet, a sub-regional laboratory network focussing on FMD activities was established in 2004 to support SEACFMD. The Regional Animal Health Laboratory Technical Advisory Group (Lab-TAG) was established in 2009 to provide technical advice to the member countries on strategic planning and laboratory capacity building activities related to emerging, re-emerging and priority animal diseases of the region.

The 10th Lab-TAG meeting was held on 29-31 October 2018, in Singapore, back-to-back with the 6th ASEAN Laboratory Directors’ Forum meeting held in November 2018. During the 10th ASEAN Lab-TAG Meeting, one of the recommendations was to establish a regional working group on FMD - in coordination with SEACFMD - to evaluate the current situation on FMD (molecular) diagnosis and other relevant issues, including vaccine matching and post vaccination monitoring. This is in line with the recommendation from the OIE SEACFMD LabNet meeting in 2017 on using more advanced tests such as PCR and SPCE for routine diagnosis to complement the traditional assays including antigen ELISA and serological LP ELISA.

To follow up with the recommendations and ensure the strengthening of national laboratory capacities on FMD molecular diagnosis, evaluate other FMD relevant issues among FMD experts in coordination with SEACFMD, the inaugural Regional Expert Group (REG) meeting on FMD will be jointly organised by the Food and agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR) in Bangkok, Thailand during 14-16 May 2019.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The meeting aims to:

1. Discuss and identify ways to improve the current situation on FMD molecular diagnosis;
2. Draft a sub-regional FMD molecular diagnostic protocol including:
 - Selection of suitable primers and probes for pan-serotyping
 - Selection of suitable primers and probes for serotyping
 - Drafting a sub-regional FMD molecular diagnostic protocol from detection to genotyping





3. Propose a way to improve sequencing processing in some countries where it takes several months from sampling to sequencing, analysing and final reporting
4. Propose approaches to improve virus isolation, including improvement of sampling protocol and identification/clarification of sample quality and quantity requirements
5. Discuss scenarios under which swab and Probang sampling could be applied to support FMDV molecular epidemiological investigations
6. Discuss the value of alternative sampling approaches to improve outbreak samples collection and submission, such as biting loops, FTA cards, swabs, filter papers, and explore the feasibility of their wide application in the sub-region
7. Explore how to provide the national lab people the background information to understand and adapt protocols.

PARTICIPANTS

The participant number is tentatively 15~20 including;

- Australian Animal Health Laboratories (Australia) (1)
- Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (China) (2)
- Yunnan Animal Science and Veterinary Institute (China) (1)
- National Institute of Animal Health (Japan) (1)
- Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (Korea) (1)
- Ministry for Primary Industries (New Zealand) (1)
- Regional Reference Laboratory for FMD in South East Asia (Thailand) (2)
- The Pirbright Institute (UK) (1)
- OIE SRR (3)
- FAO RAP (4-6)
- Observers from Thailand

DATES AND VENUE

- 14-16 May 2019
- Bangkok, Thailand

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Meeting report
2. Draft FMD subregional molecular diagnosis algorithm and protocol for detection and genotyping
3. Proposal for timely sequencing of FMDV isolates within the region
4. Technical guidelines on applying probang and swab sampling to support FMDV molecular epidemiological surveillance
5. Technical guidelines on sampling approach during field outbreaks to improve virus isolation
6. Date and topic of discussion for next REG meeting



NEXT STEPS:

1. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented to the ASEAN Lab-TAG, the ASEAN Laboratory Directors' Forum and the SEACFMD Laboratory network.
2. The next working group meeting is proposed to be held back-to-back with the SEACFMD LabNet meeting in October 2019, in Pakchong, Thailand.

Annex 1. Tentative Agenda

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