



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Summary of the tripartite meeting to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses in selected Asian countries

16 – 18 October 2018, Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Foodborne parasitic zoonoses such as foodborne trematodiasis (including clonorchiasis, opisthorchiasis, fascioliasis and paragonimiasis), taeniasis/cysticercosis and echinococcosis are Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) with significant burden in Asia. Their transmission continues maintained due to poor hygiene and sanitation along food chain from farm to table. However, there are the evidences shown that these transmissions can be controlled, prevented and possibly eliminated using an integrated mix of effective and feasible multisectoral interventions through strong intersectoral collaboration and partnership.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)¹, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), jointly organized the regional meeting to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses in selected Asian countries. This was to build on the previous effort made at the WHO Expert Consultation to Accelerate Control of Foodborne Trematode Infections, Taeniasis and Cysticercosis held in 17-19 May 2017, which recommended adapting a comprehensive One Health approach as a core strategy and the Tripartite to jointly support countries to build capacity to effectively control these diseases. In order to catalyse intersectoral partnership for coordinated multisectoral actions to accelerate the prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses in Asia in line with the ongoing efforts for overall strengthening of national food safety systems, regional physical meeting has been organized. For FAO, the core roles fall in the area of food safety, therefore the concepts and practical examples of food safety risk communication were the focuses during this meeting. All participants performed a risk communication exercise within the respective country contexts.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to review the progress of prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses in Asia;
- To share experience, issues, challenges and opportunities to leverage existing platforms and frameworks and strengthen intersectoral collaboration and partnership for accelerating prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses; and
- To agree on multisectoral action priorities to address identified issues and challenges and accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses in Asia.

Conclusions

- The meeting provided valuable opportunities to bring One Health related multi-sectoral governmental officials to work on prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic

¹ The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) project titled “Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) had jointly organized this meeting.

zoonoses. The sectors included for the strengthened collaboration included public health, animal health, food safety and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors.

- Technical insights, experience, lessons-learned and updates on new guidance and development to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses were effectively shared among experts and country participants.
- A field trip to a local slaughterhouse, a fish and meat market and a community swine farms provided the reality of animal production, food safety and hygiene practices in rural communities in Asia.
- The first sets of food safety risk communication and country-specific action plans to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses were developed by participating countries.

Recommendations for countries

Member States agreed on the following as priorities:

- (1) Strengthen political commitment through high-level advocacy to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses.
- (2) Make a good progress on cross-sectoral collaboration to develop a multisectoral roadmap to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses.
- (3) Identify practical, feasible and cost-effective interventions and monitoring and evaluation approaches for assessing impacts of interventions in the local context and explore opportunities for integration with ongoing programmes or activities.
- (4) Strengthen surveillance and diagnostic capacity required at all level both in human and animal health sectors for early case detection and identification of active transmission foci.
- (5) Enhance health and food safety risk communication for prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses targeting at farmers and consumers at community level.
- (6) Establish a mechanism for data sharing across sectors to facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration and joint actions for prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses.

Recommendations for the tripartite secretariat (FAO/WHO/OIE)

The FAO/WHO/OIE were requested to do the following:

- (1) Provide technical support and guidance and continue to facilitate cross-sectorial collaboration among public health, animal health, food safety and WASH sectors at national and regional level by identifying and engaging relevant partners to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses.
- (2) Facilitate regular communication and sharing of data pertaining to foodborne parasitic zoonoses among public health, animal health, food safety and WASH sectors.
- (3) Develop a network of countries and partners for prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses to facilitate sharing of experience across countries and facilitate public-private partnerships.

Recommendations for partners and stakeholders

- (1) Carry out operational and social researches to guide countries in accelerating prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses, particularly in the area of diagnosis and interventions.
- (2) Mobilize resources to accelerate prevention and control of neglected foodborne parasitic zoonoses.