



➤ **FAO China ECTAD attendance at the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Annual Coordination Meeting of the Project Steering Committee**

The FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Annual Coordination Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 10 to 11 December 2019. The meeting was co-organized by FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China.

The objectives of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Project Steering Committee were to: 1) review SSC TAD project activities and progress according to the work plan; 2) discuss significant issues relevant to the project implementation, including key achievements and main challenges; 3) prioritize activities and agree on the project work plan 2020; and 4) facilitate information sharing and align efforts from development partners and academia as well as private sector's initiatives, to ensure synergies and avoid overlapping of activities. Approximately 44 representatives from the governments of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, colleagues from FAO

Headquarters (HQ), ECTAD RAP and FAO country offices of the four countries attended the meeting. Dr Wang Gongmin, Deputy Director General of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau, MARA of China, Dr Syseng Khounsy, Deputy Director of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, Dr Ye Tun Win, Director General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar, Dr Nou Vonika, Director of the Department of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health, Cambodia led the country teams respectively.

During the meeting, Dr Wang Gongmin, Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Head of Global ECTAD of FAO HQ, Mr Wang Jinbiao, Senior Programme Officer of FAO HQ and Mr Ou Chahai, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Areas of Yunnan Province gave the opening remarks respectively.

The meeting 1) noted the significant progress of the project with challenges directly linked to each project output identified; 2) agreed that most of the activities, specifically to the overall coordination and communication, had been completed and outputs have been delivered according to the work plan and the key areas for improvement were identified; 3) took note that the



Group photo

monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework has been developed, however, additional indicators can be added to the M&E Framework; 4) recognized the importance of providing regular updates on agreements, policies and investments related to trade. Therefore, including a session on "safer trade" in the agenda of cross-border and bilateral meetings and inviting the private sector to provide their inputs is important; 5) recognized general challenges while dealing with ASF related issues, particularly the importance of strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration at all stages and getting higher level support; 6) took note of the indirect support of the project on the proficiency testing (PT) panel programme and the support to the ASEAN initiative to draft the ASEAN Regional PPR strategy.

➤ **FAO China ECTAD attendance at the 5th Multilateral Cross-Border Meeting in the Upper Mekong Sub-region to Strengthen Collaboration of Transboundary Animal Disease Control**

The back-to-back 5th Multilateral Cross-Border Meeting in the Upper Mekong Sub-region to Strengthen Collaboration of Transboundary Animal Disease Control among China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Cambodia was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 11 to 12 December 2019. The Meeting aimed to: 1) built on the outcomes of previous multilateral meetings among the countries, share information on progress made and challenges encountered in the main collaborative areas identified during the previous meeting; 2) share progress made towards the cattle safer trade pilot project, as well as similar pilot projects for trades of poultry and pigs; and 3) identify possible areas of collaboration to strengthen multi-lateral efforts on TADs prevention and control. Aside from the participants of the Annual Coordination Meeting of PSC, representatives from the Government of Viet Nam and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and private sectors participated in the Meeting.



Group discussion

The meeting agreed to 1) specifically to the safer trade initiative: invite the private sector in future cross-border meetings to provide their perspective, investment plans, and share information on livestock movements and link with existing projects to evaluate trade protocols considering their feasibility and effectiveness to reduce risk to acceptable levels; 2) encourage cross-border collaboration at sub-national level among sub-national offices sharing borders; 3) continue to utilize the OIE Focal Points for disease notification to share information on disease situation among countries in a timely manner; 4) continue to collaborate in the following areas: sharing of disease situation and information on risks and drivers; safer trade of livestock; technical collaboration to develop multidisciplinary capacities to support regional disease control and safer trade including laboratory, epidemiology, quarantine management and others.

It was agreed that the next multilateral cross-border meeting will be held back-to-back with the 2020 SSC PSC meeting in Myanmar in the last week of October 2020.



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