Item 8: Standing Technical Committee report

Eoin Ryan
Chair, Standing Technical Committee
• Progress on projects funded under FAR call

• Themes for 7th FAR call for proposals

• Special Committee on BioRisk Management
Progress on projects funded under FAR call

4th EuFMD-FAR in February 2017: twelve project proposals were in-line with the priorities of the call and submitted for review, four were selected for funding.

5th EuFMD-FAR in July 2017: three project proposals were selected as in-line with the priorities of the call and submitted for review, one selected for funding.

6th EuFMD-FAR in December 2017: one project proposal selected as in-line with the priorities of the call and submitted for review, one selected for funding.
4th EuFMD-FAR (issued February 2017)

*European multi-country FMD Spread model (EuFMDiS)* - Project Lead Applicant: Dr Graeme Garner

Signed: 18 October 2017/Duration: 18 months. Overall cost: € 48 600.00

Modifying and developing the Australian Animal Disease model (AADIS) as a training tool to support FMD planning and response, for use by European Union Member States.

Status update:
An initial workshop to get the project underway was held on 5-7 December 2017, in Vienna, Austria. A dedicated e-learning page was developed, for project partners, to provide a discussion forum and a depository to share resources.

The project is on-track to deliver a working model that will simulate spread and control of FMD within and between the participating central European countries by 30 June 2018.
Validating the use of bulk tank milk for surveillance of FMD among commercial dairy farms in endemic settings) - Project Lead Applicant: Dr Nicholas Lyons, The Pirbright Institute

LoA Signed: 20 July 2017/Duration: 12 months . Overall cost: € 48 881.00

Evaluating the use of bulk-milk as a prospective, integrated surveillance tool for infection among large-scale commercial farms in the endemic settings of Iran and Kenya.

Status update:
Iran: a mission to Iran by researchers at TPI in coordination with collaborators within the Iranian Veterinary Organization (IVO) and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) was undertaken in October 2017. The sampling is started in mid-February and the first sample shipment is scheduled in mid-May and the final at the end of the project.
Kenya: milk samples have been collected (by November 2017) and the duplicates shipped to TPI in December 2017.
Evaluation in field conditions of a safe and cost-effective protocol for shipment of samples from Foot-and-Mouth Disease suspected cases for laboratory diagnostic (FIELD EVAL INACT) – Dr Sandra Blaise-Boisseau, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)

LoA Signed: 18 October 2017/Duration: 18 months. Overall cost: € 75 940.00

To evaluate/validate, in real situation under field conditions, the performance and safety of a protocol for improving the cost-effectiveness of FMD samples shipment, based on the inactivation of FMDV on the Lateral Flow Device (LFD). Samples are currently being collected on the field using LFDs in Turkey, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Status update:
The collection of epithelium and/or vesicular fluid samples from clinical cases (at least 20 samples) is currently being carried out by the national partners in Nigeria, Turkey and Pakistan under the supervision of the leading Institutions (ANSES). The field study started in December 2017 and is due to end in June 2018.
Validating multiplex real-time RT-PCR as a tool for FMD detection in bulk tank milk (Acronym: Tank Milk Multiplex) – Dr. Michael Eschbaumer, The Friedrich-Loeffler Institut (FLI)

LoA Signed: 26 January 2018/Duration: 6 months. Overall cost: € 23 715.23

Providing a proof of concept tool for milk screening, testing the application of multiplex RT-PCR for foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) for the viral detection in bulk-milk sample. The 1st stage of the project consist of a laboratory validation of modified multiplex RT-qPCR assay with spiked milk.

The 2nd stage of the project will aim at evaluating the performance of multiplex RT-qPCR with field samples from an endemic region

Status update:
The project has just started at the end of January 2018.
5th EuFMD-FAR (issued July 2017)

**FMD RiskmapS (FMD Risk map surveillance system): Development of a FMD surveillance program on risk information and mapping tools for southern European neighbourhood, integrating movement patterns of domestic livestock** - CIRAD

Signed*: by the end of February 2018/Duration: 18 months. Overall cost: € 168 000.00

To reinforce national capacities and to assist the veterinary services of countries in North and West Africa with risk-based surveillance systems. To be potentially extended to European neighborhood South countries (Egypt, Libya and Sudan) in 2019, to promote a regional approach. Disease risk mapping of TADs, integrating domestic livestock movements and market prices between countries to better identify high risk areas, and provide decision makers with indicators to target surveillance and control actions

**Status update:**

The first activity under this project will be a workshop that will take place in Tunis (Tunisia) (27 February- 1 March 2018) on surveillance for early detection and confidence of freedom in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia
6th EuFMD-FAR (issued December 2017)

A pilot project for the evaluation of a system for engaging para-veterinarians and animal health workers for FMD surveillance and sample collection and for the preliminary assessment of the demand for FMD control services in Mali - Project Lead Applicant: Dr Abdoulaye Diaoure, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF-Suisse)

Signed*: by the end of February 2018/Duration: 18 months. Overall cost: € 20 000.00 (*although the project proposal has been received though a FAR Call the funds will be mobilized under Component 3.3.2).

Pilot study to assess the feasibility of engaging para-veterinarians, private animal health service providers or other non-state actors in Mali for FMD sample collection and submission to the national laboratories/authorities and international reference laboratories.

Status update: the project is expected to start by the end of March 2018
Proposed themes for 7th FAR call for proposals

Based on discussions with Secretariat, agreed by STC

1. Developing an alternative to the R value as an estimate of vaccine efficacy.

2. Integrating wildlife transmission into the EuMFDIs disease spread model.

3. Environmental sampling as an early warning system.

4. Vaccine stability tests.
Proposed themes for 7th FAR call for proposals

1. Developing an alternative to the R value as an estimate of vaccine efficacy.
   -> This is based on a workshop held last month with various experts and interested parties; the indications appear to be that there may be a good chance of strong and practical progress.

2. Integrating wildlife transmission into the EuMFDIs disease spread model.
   -> Strong interest in this from Central and Eastern European veterinary services
Proposed themes for 7th FAR call for proposals

3. Environmental sampling as an early warning system.
-> This includes both air sampling and samples from the ground, and builds on the promising initial work done recently during real-time training courses in Nepal. There may be an opportunity to apply this to very large scale (30,000 pigs) pig farms endemically infected in Thailand, which could also answer other questions about quantifying the effects of biosecurity, vaccine efficacy in the face of overwhelming challenge, environmental persistence after clinical disease ends, etc.

4. Vaccine stability tests.
-> We have funded work on this in the past but a practical tool for use by veterinary services is not yet available. If this could be developed, the benefits are obvious.
Special Committee on BioRisk Management
Special Committee on BioRisk Management

- Douwe Kuperus, The Netherlands; Cesare Bernieri, Italy; Kathrin Summermatter, Switzerland; Kirsten Tjornehoj, Denmark; Boris Gelman, Israel; Sharon Webster, UK; Gonzalo Pascual, Spain; Ulrika Allard, Sweden; Jens Peter Teifke, Germany
- First online meeting 24th November
- All members of SCBRM except Boris Gelman; observers Lynda Moore and Patrick Houston (TPI) attended
SCBRM online meeting

• Revision of EuFMD minimum standards (MS-FMD) for laboratories: scope and pathway to developing a revised document.

• FMD biorisk management training for EuFMD member states: what is needed, what can be done, how can it be delivered

• Priorities for technical/validation reviews or studies relating to biocontainment

• Provision of technical advice and expertise to EuFMD members
Action points

- survey members opinion on sections of the MS-FMD for updating and attention
- identify/establish ways to achieve information, training and document sharing for the SCBRM, ahead of the next Session

Members agreed to join subgroups:
- Updating of the FMD-MS: Ulrika, Sharon, Kirsten, Douwe, Jens
- Training Group: Kirsten, Kathrin, Lynda -TPI, Sharon, Cesare, Gonzalo
- subsequent to the Online meeting, Jens agreed to review the Draft FAO Biosafety Manual for relevance to the work of the Committee.
Special Committee on BioRisk Management

• Physical meeting next week in Palermo:
  a) Developing a BRM training programme
  b) Minimum Standards revision

Katharina Staerk is the STC focal point
Thank you – any questions?

The Standing Technical Committee:
Stephan Zientara
Sten Mortensen
Ron Bergevoet
Katharina Staerk
Karin Schwabenbauer
Eoin Ryan

Thanks to Keith, Nadia, Mark, Fabrizio, Paolo and the team

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