

## Introduction

- Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is endemic in Iraq .
- Disease known clinically in Iraq since 1937 . But the scientific monitoring of the disease and diagnosis began in 1952 As the most countries of ME region the main virus serotypes occurred in Iraq (O,A,Asia ) .
- The virus serotypes serocoded in Iraq which was diagnosed by FAO are as follows:
 

1952	1955	1957	1959	1963	1964	1965
SAT 1	O,A22	O				

1969	1970	1973	1975	1978	1983	1984
O	O, A	O	Asia	A	Asia	Asia
1985	1993	1998	1999	2000	2002	1
O 1	O 1	Omanis	Omanis	AIran96	AIran9	

### Current FMD Situation

- During 1998 – 1999 Iraq has been severely affected (13 governorates) by **O. manisa**, which affected large and small ruminants (**Cattle, Buffalo, Sheep, Goat**) with total infected cases about

- 2,594,504 in sheep and Goat (population 14,432,976 )  
18% - 145,060 in cattle and buffalo  
(population 1,484,606 ) 13%

- Since 2000 disease reported every year ( depended on monthly reports through 18 vets. Services in Iraqi Governorates (, without typing the virus through local and Reference Laboratories because of :

- The bad security situation of the country .

- The lack of the lab. Facilities for identify and typing the virus .

Except in north Governorate (Kurdish area) with the cooperation and the specialist of FAO, virus subtype **A (Iran 96)** was identify in Pribright lab (2000 and 2002) .

•Building the information contained in the monthly reports from the veterinary services of ( 18 ) hospitals in the country can be summarized data on the disease during the years between 2000 – 2008 and shows the virus circulation through the governorates .

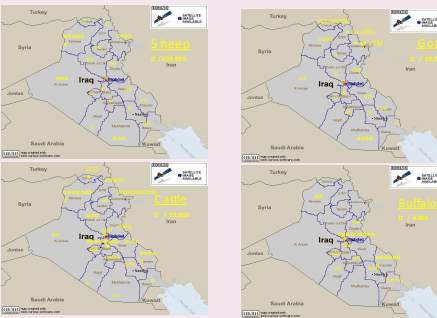


## Country – Livestock (Livestock census)

- The estimated livestock populations for Iraq in 2006 ( According to Village and Animal Assemblies Coding System ) are as follows :

Governorate	Animals Population				
	Sheep	Goat	Cattle	Buffalo	Camel
1 Nineveh	380692	174939	16552	9695	1297
2 Kirkuk	851104	46721	19371	301	0
3 Sulahdin	118025	15015	69917	101	0
4 Anbar	1445364	38637	39671	438	383
5 Diyala	1019550	47458	82303	6768	0
6 Wasit	813400	92578	76690	2694	686
7 Baghdad	237763	23816	65315	36644	0
8 Babel	518473	20640	106750	13759	1591
9 Karbala	318448	10016	31523	12923	744
10 Najaf	474279	0	24845	8692	0
11 Dwanahly	104000	40404	7393	837	16
12 Muthanna	133203	85476	32668	291	230
13 Nasiriyah	567790	6943	72258	11467	10
14 Musan	746551	26837	99222	14020	2063
15 Basrah	89188	5069	20035	17801	0
16 Dohuk	505802	160612	60866	441	0
17 Erbil	548049	407184	109939	92	0
18 Sulaymaniyah	1959398	1510922	215669	209	0
Total	16811308	2708075	1450482	146824	93034

**(Country Livestock (Distribution))**



**Country – Livestock( Livestock Husbandry )**

- Cattle and Buffalo are kept as small contained herds living in the villages and towns or their environs mostly near the rivers . They have a restricted movement outside the village , and fed on limited local grazing supplemented with seasonal crop residues.

Numbers of larger commercial dairy "stations" with several thousand animals have become less active due to the current situation in Iraq.

**Buffaloes** have a more localised distribution than cattle predominantly are found in the southern marshes of Iraq (**Basrah**, **Nassiriyah** and **Missan**, **Wasit** ) , and governorates near the two main rivers in the centre of the country (**Babel** and **Baghdad**), and in (**Nineveh**) in the North .

SHEEP have a wider distribution in the country than cattle and buffaloes , they are kept under semi-closed condition in the riverine villages and towns and grazed on local pasture, In some governorates (Nineveh,Anbar,Salahddin,Muthanna and Najaf) the sheep flocks range over much larger areas in search grazing and move between governorate and cross international

### FMD control strategies

- Strategic plan in place in the country to control the disease is based on vaccination programs for cattle and sheep in all Governorates managed by vets. teams in each vet. clinic.
- Table below show vaccination numbers and % in Governorate during 2006 – 2008 .

No	C	-----vaccinated animals----- Sheep, Goat, Cattle, Bull	TOTAL	%
3	2006	4, 959, 968	477, 000	5, 436, 968 %34
4	2007	2, 702, 728	205, 368	2, 908, 096 %18
5	2008	2, 530, 586	134, 225	2, 664, 811 %18

- In 2008, veterinary authorities established the Iraqi National Center for Transboundary Animal Disease (TADs center), which have 2 TADs central labs. and overseas field teams in all the 18th Governorates.
- The main TADs center missions is to control the main list A OIE diseases by monitoring and early warning diseases, FMD one of them.
- The Center now has the task to conduct a serosurveillance for FMD by isolation and identification local FMD viral strains through cooperation and assistance of OIE /FAO and reference laboratories.

#### Vaccination

- Two types of ( **Oily** ) vaccines used ;
  - Trivalent (O1 , A22 , Asia 1 )**  
Dose used : 2ml = Cattle , Buffalo \ 1ml = Sheep , Goat
  - Monovalent ( O1 ) : 1ml = Sheep , Goat**
- Vaccination implemented ; yearly in Cattle , Buffaloes , Sheep and Goat . ( +urgently )
- No local production of vaccine .
- Amount of vaccine imported /Year :
  - Trivalent** – 2,500,000 dose (Rakish –India)
  - Monovalent** – 5,000,000 dose (Vital – Turkey)
- Quality control department of State Company of VS responsible for evaluation of all imported Vaccines before use .

#### Iraqi Veterinary Laboratories



#### Iraqi Veterinary Laboratory

		Baghdad	Erbil
Biosafety		2	2
Assay	Virus	Yes	NO
	Cell Culture	Yes	NO
	ELISA	Yes	Yes
	PCR	New established	Yes
Professional Staff		4	4
Technical Staff		4	4
Resources		Iraqi University	
No. of samples	2006	Virus isol. = 1 Serology = 37	---
	2007	Virus isol. = 3 Sero. =	---
	2008		---

#### Iraqi Epidemiological Unit

- Field teams in all Iraqi Governorates send a reports to the TADs center monthly , in addition to the urgent reports with required samples.
- Surveillance Strategies : Depending on the TADs field teams , the action will take place at once , in case of any new foci for the FMD and related diseases ( inside Iraq or in the neighboring country ).

- In future we plane to make a real contact with OIE to supply that organization with all events of animal health situation occur in Iraq , through the Iraqi TADs center .

#### Border and movement control

- The quarantine system of Iraq is managed by the quarantine department of the SCVS. **Iraq ceased the legal importation of live animals for meat or livestock production after the 1985 outbreak of Rinderpest.**
- Red meat and other animal products (following OIE international animal health code guide lines). are controlled through 16 permanent border points which located in :
 

	<b>South border</b>
(Kuwait - Gulf, Iran)	5 Quarantine
West border (Syria , Jordon , )	4 Quarantine
East border ( Iran )	6 Quarantine
North border (turkey)	1 Quarantine
- Some major national markets (for alive animals) are situated close to an international border (Basrah, Missan, Diyalah, Nineveh, and Anbar Governorates) **some livestock may found their away illegally to**



#### Weaknesses in disease control

- Illegal movement of animals through international borders and the weakness in bounded measurement .
- Weakness and lack of information of viral epidemiology and circulation .
- Weakness in planning and strategic in the control programs and surveillance .
- The use of imported vaccines which may contain in its structural antigens not compatible with the local serotypes .
- The lack of laboratory supplies , especially the requirements for isolation and detection of virus .
- The lack of the cooperation with the neighboring countries .
- The absence of laboratories diagnostic activity in most governorates .

#### Suggestions for strengthening disease control

- Classification and identification of local viral serotypes to be included in the vaccines used for control programs .
- Determine the viral focuses to be concentrated in controlled programs .
- The use of high quality vaccines in the vaccination programs and vaccinate large number of susceptible animals to developed highly immunized herds especially near the international borders .
- Development a potential laboratories for rapid and early diagnosis of viral diseases to support the early controlling measure .
- The need of long course of training for detecting virus trough PCR technique .
- Supporting the Quarantine measures for controlling animals and animal products through the borders .



*Thank you*