

2nd FMD Roundtable Meeting

5-6 October 2003

Cairo , Egypt



Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with The Egyptian Veterinary Medical Association (EVMA)

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Attended by members from FAO, EUFMD, OIE, AOAD, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

**Recommendations
of the
2nd FMD Roundtable Meeting
Cairo 5-6 October 2003**

Second FMD Round-Table Meeting Cairo 5 -6 October,2003

Recommendations:

1. The attendees of the second FMD round table recognize the value of FAO's Regional Animal Disease information and control Network (RADISCON) and the impact it has had on improving the level of epidemiology information, equipment, and training. The participating representatives therefore urge the international donor community and ministries to identify funds for (RADISCON) phase 2 initiative that include investment in equipment, software and continued surveillance for Transboundary Animal diseases and those of public health concern, emergency preparedness, and contingency planning at the national and regional level.

2. The Session supports the establishment of Animal Health Commission for Near East and North Africa (AHCNENA), which has been already endorsed by the Agriculture and Livestock Ministers of the Region. This Commission should become an important body working together with the OIE/FAO Regional Steering Committee.

3. The Session supports activities which will enable an early approval and implementation of a Regional Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for Upgrading of Immunoprophylactic measures for the control of prevalent infectious animal diseases in the Near East and North Africa. FAO is requested to urgently facilitate the application, for example by an advance allocation for the formulation of the project. The activity to identify candidate reference laboratories and the required level of upgrading and potential funding required is recommended to be undertaken under the TCP.

4. The Session recommends that a Regional Reference Laboratory for FMD be established capable of receiving specimens and virus isolates from across the region, including exotic virus strains to which the region is at risk. Upgrading of national laboratories is one possibility to meet international acceptable levels of bio-safety, with national and international support.

5. The Session supports the principles of the AOAD initiative and considers that given the potential overlap with other regional initiatives, close collaboration with international organizations is strongly encouraged to increase effectiveness of planned activities and the feasibility of activities in future phases.

6. A research network should be established with a coordinator who can facilitate the links between the national laboratories, and with the research networks and laboratories in other regions, such as the EUFMD Research group.

7. An FAO/OIE Roundtable on FMD and other TADs in the Near East Region should be organized every two years, with the responsibility to organize the meeting rotating between the FAO and OIE. On this basis, the OIE Regional Representation would be expected to organize the next Session in 2005.

8. Shortage of funds for TADs, and particularly for FMD research, surveillance, and control measures is a critical constraint on the region and the Session recommends that investment in these activities by donors should be given a very high priority.