



FAO China ECTAD attendance at the Inception Meeting of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS)

The Inception Meeting of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 January 2019 to 1 February 2019. Under the framework of the FAO-China Trust Fund in support of SSC, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China and Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) signed the agreements to implement the FAO-China SSC Project on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the GMS in July 2018. The project's objective is to strengthen collaborations and policy dialogues among the countries in GMS including China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The meeting was organized by FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, aiming to: 1) officially inform representatives of the relevant animal health authorities of the participating countries, FAO country teams and key partners on the project concept, objectives and implementation plan; 2) discuss and identify priority activities and agree on the project work plan; 3) discuss and agree on implementation arrangement, including coordination mechanisms, as well as roles and responsibilities of relevant partners; and 4) share information and align efforts from different stakeholders, including development and academic projects and private sector's initiatives, to ensure synergies and avoid overlapping of activities. Ms Yu Qi from FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office attended the meeting.

The three-day meeting involved 59 participants, including representatives from the governments of China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, FAO staffs from the headquarters (HQ), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and participating countries, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), relevant research institutes and livestock traders.



Group photo

Followed by a series of presentations and discussions, the meeting 1) agreed on the project concept, objectives and expected outcomes and outputs; 2) discussed the implementation arrangement including coordination mechanism, as well as roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders; 3) decided the related rules and regulations of the project; 4) identified the members of the Project Steering Committee; 5) discussed the priority activities for each project expected outputs and agreed with the proposed work plan; 6) recommended the solutions to ensure the smooth project implementation, good governance as well as the longer term impacts/benefits of the project; 7) recognized the importance of involving General Administration of Customs, P.R.China (GACC, previously General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of P.R.C.) into technical discussions for implementing safer cattle trades in the region. In addition, Australia Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), FAO and OIE as well as other collaborating partners to closely coordinate on studies related with safer cattle trades including the socio-economic studies, risk assessment, and others; 8) proposed the activities to be implemented for African Swine Fever under SSC project in 2019; 9) recommended the activities to contribute to the Global Eradication Campaign of peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

! Upcoming activities:

1. The first training module of the fifth cohort of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) will be organized in Qingdao, Shandong Province from 4-29 March 2019.
2. Mr Liu Lushi et al. from FAO China ECTAD Office will attend the 2019 Annual Regional Meeting for Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific (AREM) in Phuket, Thailand from 6-8 March 2019.



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