

First *Peste des petits ruminants* Regional Roadmap Meeting for ASEAN countries, China, Mongolia and Timor-Leste

Qingdao, People's Republic of China, 26-28 April 2017

BACKGROUND

Small ruminants, sheep and goats, represent a significant part of the world livestock sector. In many countries, they have an essential role in livelihood and food security. Thus, in these countries small ruminants have a direct impact on the country economy and wellbeing of the entire population. ASEAN countries¹, China and Mongolia represent 23 % of the global 2,1 billion small ruminant population.

One of the main factors limiting sustainable and flourishing small ruminant production is the presence of infectious diseases such as *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), a disease that causes high morbidity and mortality among susceptible animals. Thus, in infected countries where the disease is endemic, PPR is a serious threat to small ruminant production and the development of the whole livestock value chain, and therefore affect livelihoods and food security far beyond the people who own and raise sheep and goats. In 2016, it was reported for the first time in Georgia and Mongolia (over 53 million small ruminants). If left uncontrolled, it will spread even further, causing further losses and hardship for millions of farmers and herders, most of whom are women, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, organised in Abidjan (31 March to 2 April, 2015) an International Conference which adopted the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). The global strategy aims to eradicate PPR by 2030 while reinforcing the veterinary services and improving animal health globally by reducing the impact of other major infectious diseases of small ruminants.

The PPR GCES engages Regional Economic Communities and their respective countries in the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings to harmonise and synchronise the implementation of the strategy in all affected countries.

In collaboration with the Veterinary Bureau of China, FAO and OIE, through their joint PPR Secretariat, organised the first PPR Roadmap meeting for the region in Qingdao from 26 to 28 April 2017.

¹ Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

The meeting brought together Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), laboratory and epidemiologists from Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as representatives from FAO and OIE. List of participants is attached in Annex.

The meeting was officially opened by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Chief Veterinary Officer of China, following remarks from Dr Monique Eloit, Director General of the OIE, Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and Dr Ma Hongchao Director General of China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC).

The objectives for the PPR Roadmap meeting aimed to:

- 1- Present the PPR GCES and its tools in a detailed manner and the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) launched in October 2016 by FAO and OIE;
- 2- Carry out a first assessment of countries' situation regarding PPR and the capacity of Veterinary Services to control it in this region;
- 3- Provide an update on the PPR situation in Mongolia;
- 4- Identify countries and region vision toward PPR eradication;
- 5- Identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR;
- 6- Set up the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) to oversee the implementation of PPR control activities in the region;
- 7- Develop the regional Roadmap for the region and obtain countries engagement for its implementation.

Following fruitful discussions, the participants in the Roadmap Meeting agreed on the following:

1. PPR status in the region

From the country presentations, it appears that:

- 2 countries² have officially been recognized PPR free by the OIE (Philippines and Thailand);
- 3 countries historically free from the disease have not yet applied for the OIE free status (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam);
- 2 countries are reporting PPR outbreaks (China since 2007 and Mongolia since September 2016).

The efforts engaged in China since the first occurrence of the disease contributed to reduce the number of PPR outbreaks in 2016 (8) and 2017 (1). The vaccination campaigns should be maintained and associated with Post Vaccination Evaluation (PVE) as recommended in the PPR GCES.

In Mongolia, despite the fact that more than 10 million of small ruminant were vaccinated in October 2016, as emergency response to the first incursion of PPR, the disease further spread and spilled over to wildlife, mainly Mongolian saiga. Considering the challenges faced: limited understanding of the prevalence of PPR, its distribution among the different farming systems; limited human and financial resources; inadequate awareness of farmer organizations, the meeting recommended Mongolia to strengthen efforts in order to (i) strengthen their veterinary capacities at all levels for disease recognition; (ii) carry out a country-wide surveillance (livestock and wildlife) to map the extension of the disease; (iii) improve the PPR vaccination coverage on sheep and goats using qualified vaccines + Post vaccination evaluation (PVE) to assess the level of immunity; (iv) support communication and advocacy for campaign implementation and fundraising. The meeting also called for more assistance from partners to support Mongolia's efforts.

² In addition to the two countries, Myanmar is also officially recognized PPR free.

Regarding historically PPR free countries, the meeting recommended an assessment of their epidemiological situation and the preparation of dossier to be submitted to the OIE.

In all countries, the meeting recommended to continue building capacity on surveillance and laboratory systems and to develop preparedness plans. Countries are also encouraged to identify PPR risk areas and practices along the small ruminant value chains that may contribute to PPR introduction and/or spread and take appropriate preventive measures.

The meeting also recommended ASEAN countries to take necessary actions to include PPR in the priority animal diseases.

The meeting further recommended ASEAN Member countries to participate and implemented the PPR GEP using the existing regional platforms.

2. PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP)

Considering that PPR eradication requires harmonised approach and logical and structured framework for action in each country;

Considering that several countries within the region never experienced PPR outbreaks;

The meeting recommended to countries to develop or update their PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP) taking into consideration their epidemiological situation. Free countries are encouraged to develop their contingency and preparedness plans.

3. Strengthening of surveillance systems and laboratory capacities

Considering the need to develop the epidemiological skills required to conduct PPR surveillance;

Considering the need to enable the full diagnosis of PPR within the region from ELISA to virus isolation;

Noting that the OIE Reference laboratory for PPR, CAHEC, is organizing annual training courses on PPR diagnostic;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to organise refresher training of veterinary staff to review clinical recognition of PPR and its differential diagnosis and to extend the training also to sample collection, shipping and laboratory diagnosis;
- Countries to make use of the training opportunities provided by CAHEC;
- FAO and OIE to support strengthening the laboratory and surveillance capacities within the region.

4. PPR Vaccination

Considering that vaccination (using qualified vaccines in compliance with OIE standards) remains the main tool to control PPR outbreaks;

Considering that, depending on the assessment and surveillance data, the vaccination should be time-limited with high coverage aiming for 100 percent vaccination coverage to achieve the necessary flock immunity in high-risk areas;

Considering that the vaccination protocol adopted in the PPR GEP recommends two successive years vaccination in Stage 2, followed by vaccination of young animals (4 months to one year in age) within one year;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to adopt a risk-based vaccination approach aiming to reach 100% immunity of the flocks in hotspot areas;
- Countries to carry out PVE at the completion of each round of vaccination to evaluate the population immunity;
- FAO and OIE to support PVE training as needed;
- FAO and OIE, in collaboration with relevant institutions, to explore the possibility to establish a regional PPR vaccines bank.

5. Regional Networking

Considering that regional epidemiology and laboratory networks are instrumental for the control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases such as PPR, the meeting recommended to strengthen the linkage and collaboration among the regional networks including Southeast, East and South Asia.

6. Control of other small ruminant diseases in support of PPR eradication

Considering that the PPR GCES advocates combining PPR with strategies to control other important diseases of small ruminants for better cost-effectiveness when adequate epidemiological data are available; the meeting agreed on the following list of priority diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR eradication (table 1).

Table 1: List of small ruminant diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR eradication

Countries	Animal diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR		
	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3
Cambodia	FMD	SG Pox	
China	FMD		
Lao	FMD	Orf ³	Brucellosis
Mongolia	FMD	SG Pox	Brucellosis
Philippines	CAE ⁴	Fasciolosis	Brucellosis
Thailand	FMD	Brucellosis	Orf
Vietnam	FMD	SG Pox	Leptospirosis

³ Ecthyma contagiosum

⁴ Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis

Vietnam	4	4	4	Status Free					
----------------	---	---	---	------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

The meeting recommended to FAO and OIE to take necessary action to inform countries from the region that did not participate in the roadmap meeting to carry out their self-assessment using the PMAT in order to complete the above table.

10. Regional Advisory Group

The meeting proposed the following members to serve as Regional Advisory Group (RAG):

- RAG elected voting members include the following:
 - Chair: CVO China
 - Vice-chair: CVO Cambodia
 - Vice-chair: CVO Mongolia
 - Coordinator of the Regional Epidemiology Network - Thailand
 - Coordinator of the Regional Laboratory Network: CAHEC
- RAG non-voting members include the following:
 - Regional Organization: ASEAN
 - FAO and OIE regional representatives.

Acknowledgement

The meeting participants are grateful to the Government and People of China, the CVO of China, CAHEC and their staff, FAO and OIE, for the support extended to them during the preparation and the conduct of the meeting.

Qingdao, 28 April 2017

ANNEX

List of participants

Cambodia

Tan Phannara

tan.phannara@gmail.com

Lao P.R

Sithong Phiphakhavong

Deputy Director General,
Department of Livestock and Fisheries

sithongp@yahoo.com

Khamphouth Vongxay

Deputy Director Veterinary Division

khamphouth2016@gmail.com

China

Zhang Zhongqiu

CVO China

President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Ministry of Agriculture

11 Nong Zhan Guan Nan Li

Chaoyang District

100125 Beijing

chinadelegate@agri.gov.cn

Hongchao Ma

Director General

China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC)

369 Nanjing Road Qingdao P.R. China

Zhiliang Wang

Chief Veterinary Officer

China Animal Health and Epidemiology centre

369 Nanjing Road Qingdao P.R. China

wangzhiliang@cahec.cn

Xu Tiangang

China Animal Health and Epidemiology centre

369 Nanjing Road Qingdao P.R. China

xutiangang@cahec.cn; nauxtg@163.com

Wu Xiaodong

Xin Shengpeng

Wang Gongming

Chen Guosheng

Mongolia

Khukhuu Altangerel

Senior officer, Policy Planning Department
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry
huhuu@yahoo.com

Sandag Batkhuyag

TADs officer,
Department of Veterinary and Animal Breeding
batkhuyag@dvab.gov.mn

Shatar Munkhduuren

Virologist,
State Central Veterinary Laboratory
munkhduuren@scvl.gov.mn

Bolortuya Purevsuren

Veterinary Epidemiologist
National FAO Consultant
olor_73@yahoo.com

Amarsanaa Lkhagvasuren

National consultant for formulation of PPR National strategic plan

Philippines

Maria Glovezita Oplencia-Lagayan

Animal Health and Welfare Division
Bureau of Animal Industry opulenciajoy@gmail.com

Thailand

Prapas Pinyocheep

Director of Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services
prapasp@dld.go.th

Karoon Chanachai

Senior Veterinarian,
Bureau of Disease
kchanachai@hotmail.com; inter_livestock@dld.go.th

Vietnam

Pham Thanh Long

Epidemiology Division, Department of Animal Health
ptlong.vndah@gmail.com

Le Tri Vu

Regional Animal Health Office No. VI (Ho Chi Minh city)

trivu78@gmail.com

OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Hirofumi Kugita

OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
Food Science Building 5F The University of Tokyo
1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo, 113-8657 JAPAN
h.kugita@oie.int; rr.asiapacific@oie.int

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)

Wantanee Kalpravidh

Regional Manager FAO ECTAD RAP
Bangkok 10200 THAILAND
Wantanee.Kalpravidh@fao.org

Guo Fusheng

Sub-Regional Animal Health Partnerships Coordinator for East Asia ECTAD RAP
Bangkok 10200 THAILAND
Fusheng.Guo@fao.org

FAO China

Yu Qi
National Epidemiologist
ECTAD China
Yu.Qi@fao.org

PPR Secretariat

Bouna Diop

Secretary,
FAO/OIE Joint PPR Secretariat
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Roma
Bouna.diop@fao.org

Jean-Jacques Soula

OIE Coordinator
FAO/OIE Joint PPR Secretariat
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Roma
jj.soula@oie.int