

First PPR Roadmap meeting for Eastern African countries¹ A regional coordinated approach for the control and eradication of PPR

Kampala, Uganda, 7-11 September 2015



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

¹ Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda

Background

Small ruminants represent a significant part of the world livestock sector, particularly in developing countries, where they play an essential role in livelihood and food security. One of the main factors limiting the growth of sustainable small ruminant production in many parts of the world is the presence of infectious diseases such as **peste des petits ruminants (PPR)**, a disease that causes high morbidity and mortality. In infected countries where the disease is endemic, PPR affects livelihoods, food security and economic activity, including trade, well beyond the people who own and farm sheep and goats. To control and eventually eradicate the disease would bring about a major positive impact on improved small ruminant health and human livelihoods.

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 Cote d'Ivoire, organised in Abidjan (March 31 to April 2, 2015) an International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR. This Conference, which brought together experts, scientists, Ministers, Directors of Veterinary Services and Directors of Veterinary diagnostic laboratories from affected and at-risk countries, as well as technical and financial development partners, led to the adoption of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR (GCES).

The Strategy engages countries in the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings to harmonise and synchronise the implementation of the GCES in all affected Regions.

Considering the above, IGAD, AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE combined efforts and organised the 6thannual Eastern Africa Regional Animal Health Network meeting, back-to-back with the first PPR Roadmap Meeting for the region, in Kampala, Uganda from 7 – 11 September 2015.

The objectives for this 1st PPR Roadmap Meeting for Eastern Africa were the following:

- 1. present the GCES and its tools in a detailed manner as well as the Abidjan conference recommendations;
- 2. conduct a first assessment of each country's situation regarding PPR and the capacity of Veterinary Services to control it in this region;
- 3. identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR; and
- 4. use this information to formulate the regional roadmap for the IGAD/East Africa region and to obtain countries' engagement for its implementation.

In order to achieve these objectives and to formulate recommendations, the participants in the Roadmap Meeting agreed on the following:

Considering :

- The adoption of the FAO-OIE Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR (GCES) (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, April 2015) with its 3 inter-related Components: the control of PPR; the reinforcement of Veterinary Services and the combined control of PPR with other small ruminant diseases;
- The recommendations of the International Abidjan PPR Conference, in particular the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings under the auspices of the Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) as a means to assess country situations and to continuously follow up on the implementation of the GCES at global level;

- The 5-year Strategic Plan (2012 2016) of the GF-TADs for Africa which recommends the preparation of strategic plans to control the priority animal diseases in the region including PPR;
- That PPR control and eradication requires regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordination;
- That progression along the stepwise PPR control and eradication pathway requires a comprehensive understanding of PPR, including epidemiology, virological and socioeconomic aspects, and the practical application of this knowledge to develop control and eradication plans;
- That effective Veterinary Services (VS) are indispensable for the efficient and sustainable control of PPR and that each country's PPR stage assessment includes reference to the relevant Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) criteria (critical competencies) related to the prevention and control of diseases;
- That the implementation of the GCES requires the involvement of all possible actors;
- That the regional laboratory and epidemiology networks are major tools for the implementation of the GCES and that the EARLN and EAREN are crucial in terms of information exchange, harmonisation of strategies, resource mobilisation, skills and knowledge pooling at national and regional level;
- Other major sheep and goat diseases prevailing in the Region, for which combined control with PPR could be an asset, namely²: sheep and goat pox; brucellosis; CCPP, gastro-intestinal parasites; ectoparasites; ecthyma contagiosum, enterotoxemia, RVF;
- The need to mobilise adequate financial resources for the implementation of the GCES;
- The challenges that the Region is facing: e.g. security situation; drought in certain parts;
- The ongoing initiatives within the Eastern Africa region aiming to control PPR with the support of AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, IGAD, EAC, FAO and OIE.

The participants in the PPR Roadmap meeting recommend:

To countries:

- 1. To take necessary action to conduct or update their small ruminant population census;
- 2. To ensure consistency and alignment of their national strategies with the GCES which serves as the reference document;
- 3. To explore the need for a regional vaccine bank and its possible modalities with the support of regional organisations and technical partners;
- 4. To make sure to use AU-PANVAC certified quality vaccines only;
- 5. To assess effectiveness of vaccination by post vaccination evaluation (PVE);
- 6. For current vaccine needs, to consider using the opportunity of the existing OIE PPR Vaccine bank as a procurement mechanism to ensure the provision of quality, cheaper vaccines with limited administrative burden;
- 7. To map existing national and international NGOs and partners at national level that have the potential to engage in some parts of GCES, such as vaccination, training, M&E, socio economic studies, advocacy, policy etc;
- 8. To consider requesting an OIE PVS initial evaluation or OIE PVS follow up mission (if the initial PVS evaluation was carried out before 2012) to have an updated understanding of their VS capacity and address the gaps relevant to the PPR Stage they are in;

² These diseases have been identified as priority by the participants during the Workshop

9. To commit to the PPR stepwise approach at national level and subsequent PPR regional PPR Roadmap process.

To continental and regional organisations (AU-IBAR; AU-PANVAC, IGAD; EAC):

- 1. To ensure consistency and alignment of the continental (AU-IBAR), and regional (IGAD) strategies with the GCES which serves as the reference document;
- 2. To define the respective roles of AU-IBAR, IGAD and EAC in the implementation of the GCES;
- 3. To establish a roster of regional experts to address ad hoc country needs in epidemiology; and to explore the possibility to establish a Regional Leading EpiCenter within the region;
- 4. To support the development of a regional communication strategy to facilitate the proper involvement of all actors in PPR control and eradication;
- 5. To map all existing (or in the pipeline) PPR control and eradication related projects at national and regional level and identify existing gaps (with regards to the implementation of the GCES);
- 6. IGAD and EAC to form a joint Eastern Africa Coordination and Technical Committees taking advantage of the work already initiated by IGAD.

To FAO and OIE:

- 1. Together, with regional partners and countries, to ensure the proper financial resource mobilisation necessary for the implementation of the GCES at national, regional and international levels;
- 2. To provide further guidance on the possible combination of vaccination protocols between PPR and other small ruminant diseases in the near future;
- 3. To provide the necessary training support to countries on PVE;
- 4. To further refine the PMAT questionnaire to ease its completion by member countries, notably based on the comments made by Member Countries during the meeting;
- 5. To explore the possibility of developing a tool to help countries estimate the costs of PPR vaccination as well as economic impact using as a model the tool developed by FAO for HPAI;
- 6. To develop a summarised version of the GCES.

The Participants of the PPR Roadmap meeting agreed:

- 1. The attached PPR Stage Progression 2015 2030 as point of departure into the step-wise GCES approach (annex).
- 2. To establish a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) composed of three CVOs elected from the East African region and representatives of IGAD, EAC, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, the Coordinator of the CVO Network and the two coordinators of EAREN and EARLN. The mission of the RAG will be to conduct assessments of the progress made by the countries along the PPR stepwise pathway. The RAG is supported by FAO and OIE. As need arises, additional experts can be called on an ad hoc basis.
 - The following CVOs have been elected:
 - CVO of Ethiopia (chair of the RAG)
 - CVO of Burundi (1st vice chair)
 - CVO of Uganda (2nd vice chair)

Acknowledgement

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First PPR Roadmap meeting for Eastern African countries 10-11 September 2015, Kampala - Uganda PPR Stages progression 2015 – 2030 - Eastern Africa

Countries	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Burundi	1				2				3				4		free	
Djibouti	1	2			3					4	free					
Eritrea	1 (2)					2			3			4		free		
Ethiopia	2				3			4			free					
Kenya	2		3			4					free					
Rwanda																
South Sudan	1					2					3			4		free
Sudan	2					3								4		free
Somalia	2					3					4		free			
Tanzania	2					3			4		free					
Uganda	2			3				4			free					

Comment:

The PPR Stage indicated for 2015 are the one agreed during the Kampala meeting (point of departure into the step-wise GCES approach)

- Note that the global strategy shows average number of years for each PPR stage (see table below); each country can decide to use the fast track (country need to showcase why they fast track)

Average time for each PPR stage:

Stage 1	minimum 12 months and up to 3 years						
Stage 2	3 years (from 2 to 5 years)						
Stage 3	3 years (from 2 to 5 years)						
Stage 4	24 months and up to 3 years						