



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Workshop on PPR prevention and control in the SADC Region

10-12 June 2013, Dar es Salam, United Republic of Tanzania

Conclusions of the meeting

Summary

The objectives of the workshop included the review of the global PPR situation and in the SADC region and to exchange information on PPR control strategies at global, regional and national levels.

The workshop was attended by OIE Delegates, CVOs, laboratory heads, and epidemiologists from SADC member countries as well as representatives of the SADC Secretariat, AU-PANVAC, IAEA, FAO, OIE, CIRAD and RVC.

The presentations during the 3 sessions addressed several issues regarding PPR spread, lineage evolution and research priorities, the present SADC situation as well as the key principles of control strategies, lessons learned from rinderpest eradication and various PPR control programmes and the SADC regional strategy. Specific thematic presentations were on wildlife, laboratory diagnostics and epidemiology, socio-economics and vaccines. Experts from the three organizing international institutions (IAEA, FAO, and OIE) explained how the Global Control Strategy will be prepared, which accompanying instruments will be used and which tools should be developed or strengthened including the new OIE Terrestrial Code articles, monitoring and evaluation tools, laboratory and epidemiology networks, post vaccination monitoring tools and a global research and development network.

In this way, the participants from the SADC region were able to receive information from both non-regional and regional experts enriching the debates through extensive discussions.

Thanks to this exchange of information the following conclusions of the meeting can be drawn which should contribute to further strengthening the prevention and control of PPR in the region:

- Due to the variety of contexts and PPR status within in the SADC member states, there is a need to consider different approaches according to the epidemiological situation which prevail in countries free from the disease, free but at high risk or endemic.
- Socio-economic studies should be carried out to provide appropriate evidence to decision makers supporting the fact that increased investment in preventing and controlling PPR in the SADC region is cost effective.
- Diagnostic laboratories and epidemiology teams are among the major indispensable tools to prevent and control PPR. Collaboration between laboratories and epidemiology teams is crucial as well as the strengthening of regional networks.
- Regarding diagnostic laboratories, several gaps and challenges have been highlighted such as quality assurance which will have to be addressed.
- Regarding capacity building, epidemiology and risk analysis are needed and appropriate training should be provided.
- Vaccination is one of the principal methods for the control of PPR. Compliance with the OIE standards and quality control mechanisms need to be ensured by the veterinary authorities.
- Currently there is no evidence that wildlife plays a significant role in PPR epidemiology and the relevant OIE standards have been prepared taking into account this lack of clear published evidence. However, there is a need to undertake field and research activities on wildlife issues to better understand how wildlife can be affected by PPR and what role (if any) they play in disease spread and transmission particularly in the SADC region where wildlife is important. There is also a need to better sensitize stakeholders to the threat of endangered species and to include wildlife in PPR diagnostic protocols during outbreak investigations.
- Research priorities have been discussed. Like in many other regions of the world the following themes were mentioned: socio economics, diagnostic tools improvement (e.g. penside tests), epidemiology including the role of wildlife, new vaccines (e.g. DIVA, thermostable vaccines) and vaccine delivery systems.
- Regarding the FAO OIE GF-TADs Global Control Strategy, the participants provided interesting feedback on some of the underlying principles as they were presented. There is a strong willingness from the representatives of the SADC countries to contribute to the preparation of this global strategy.
- Regarding national, regional or global control strategies, it was agreed that the control of PPR control is not seen as a 'stand-alone activity'. To progress with PPR control, strengthening the Veterinary Services (VS) in a sustainable manner is necessary. This in turn will create better possibilities to control other priority diseases and pursue sensible and cost-effective

combinations of activities. The activities to strengthen VS are not PPR-specific and therefore are expected to have spill-over effects on the control of all major TADs.

- The recently adopted (May 2013) articles of the OIE Terrestrial Code related to PPR establishing a new official free status and opening the possibility to present national PPR control to OIE for official endorsement are considered to be important steps allowing countries to engage in PPR control and eradication programmes.

- PPR control in endemic countries is to be progressive and risk-based, taking into account the different country contexts, PPR prevalence, socio-economic impact and the economical capabilities of individual countries. Such an approach should be based on successive steps, progressing from an endemic situation with no control activities to eradication of the infection. This implies that a tool should be developed to monitor the implementation of PPR control strategies together with an accompanying assessment tool. The meeting supports the monitoring methodology proposed by the GF-TADs group of experts which includes the definition of four steps with relevant activities, expected outcomes and precise criteria for entering the next step. The combination of PPR specific activities/outcomes and Veterinary Services critical competencies (according to the OIE PVS Evaluation tool) within the monitoring tool was well understood and is to be put into practice.

- Capacity building and training in several fields in addition to communication are key components of the national and regional strategies. The workshop participants were informed about the training course that will take place after the meeting (June 13 to 21) at the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency organized by the IAEA. The participants welcomed this course and have called for more such courses to contribute to building human capacities for PPR diagnosis and control.

The SADC PPR control strategy was presented by the SADC Secretariat. It was prepared by the SADC Working Group on Control and Eradication of PPR and the SADC TADs project in collaboration with the Epidemiology and Informatics and Laboratory and Diagnostic Sub-Committees of the Livestock Technical Committee. This strategy describes a comprehensive list of key components such as policy and legislation, early warning and preparedness, control options, diagnosis and quality control, regional coordination and communication, post vaccination process and research. Such a document is intended to be an evolving document according to the evolution of the PPR situation within the region and in neighbouring or distant regions. Regular updating or revision of the strategy may take place in the future and it will be important to consider its coherence with the GF TADs Global PPR Control Strategy.

One of the major conclusions of the meeting is that the participants consider the need to further develop a road map and plan of action for implementing the strategy at a national and regional level in the SADC region. A vision for the SADC roadmap for PPR control should be prepared together with an action plan, a timeline with milestones and an evaluation of the costs of such national and regional strategies.