



4th Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) vaccine producers workshop

Virtual Zoom meeting

24–26 November 2021

Concept note and provisional agenda



Concept note

I. BACKGROUND

Sheep and goats are one of the most important economic and social assets of poor people who live in rural areas worldwide. According to the World Bank, two thirds of the world's poor people live in rural areas and most of them keep livestock, particularly small ruminants. Therefore, this activity is at the centre of policies aiming at poverty alleviation, particularly in Asia and Africa where nearly 73% of the world's poor people live. Improving livelihoods of poor farmers in those regions implies important improvement of sheep and goat health. To that effect, it is necessary to improve production management, in particular animal feeding and care, as well as the control of major infectious diseases. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is arguably the small ruminant disease with the highest socio-economic impact.

In April 2015, the FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES), under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), with the vision for PPR global eradication by 2030. One year later, in October 2016, the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) was launched, which laid the foundation for implementing the Strategy for the first 5-year (2017-2021) phase. In the same year (2016) FAO and OIE established their joint PPR Global Secretariat, to lead and supervise the activities under the GEP.

The specific objectives outlined in the GCES are (i) the eradication of PPR by 2030, (ii) to reinforce veterinary services and (iii) to reduce the impact of other major infectious diseases of small ruminants. Together these will meet the overall GCES objective of a small ruminant sector that contributes to global food security and nutrition, human health and economic growth. The Abidjan conference recommended, among other things, that "*a GCES mid-term review shall be conducted after the 5 first years of implementation of the GCES (2020) as well as indications whether the vision can be achieved by the proposed timelines, with 'corrective actions' if needed.*" In light of this recommendation, FAO and OIE launched in 2021 the revision of the first five-year implementation of the GCES in order to formulate the second phase of the PPR GEP. In this regard, a Core Expert Team (CET) of six independent experts was established to undertake this task, as recommended by the PPR GEP Advisory Committee at its July 2020 meeting.

The success of the PPR-GEP depends in large part on the availability of controlled PPR vaccines in compliance with OIE standards. This was also a key component for the successful Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) that was implemented cooperatively by many organisations. Depending on the assessment and surveillance data, the target population of small ruminants to be vaccinated during this initial five-year programme was estimated at 1.5 billion. Currently there are more than 25 PPR vaccine manufacturers in Africa, Middle East, and Asia. The quality and compliance of the vaccines to be used with the OIE standards , should first be assessed and certified by OIE and FAO Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

The GCES describes the progressive pathway towards eradication as a stage-wise approach in which countries move from a Stage 1 (Assessment Stage) up to Stage 4 (Post Eradication Stage) and eventually to the official recognition of their PPR free status by the OIE. To establish in which of the initial stages a country qualifies and to monitor the progression from stage to stage over time, the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), was developed as a companion Tool to the GCES, which is currently under revision by FAO and the OIE. Based on an analysis of available PMAT questionnaires collected from 32 countries during regional roadmap meetings, among the various challenges under the technical element “Prevention and Control”, shortage of vaccines is still reported as one of the three most prominent factors, the others being illegal or legal livestock movement and lack of resources for logistics of the vaccination campaign. Consultations with a broad range of stakeholders through regional workshops and vaccine producers’ meetings have also identified the need for greater quality and quantity of currently produced vaccines. Shortages in vaccine production, inadequate quality assurance, or inability to deliver the vaccines to meet field needs as well as ineffective vaccination (vaccination campaigns without assessment of epidemiological and environmental situations) represent risks to the planned campaigns and constitute a major challenge to progress in the time-bound PPR-GEP.

The first, the second and the third PPR vaccines producers’ workshops were held respectively in Nepal (in December 2014), in Morocco (in April 2017), and in Jordan (in April 2019). They were attended by representatives from vaccine manufacturers and research institutions. At the last workshop in Amman,Jordan, it was recommended that: “Considering the need to continue to support the implementation of the PPR GEP and to closely monitor the progress made on PPR vaccine production and research, the meeting’s participants agreed to organize this meeting every two years. Therefore, the fourth PPR vaccine producers meeting (virtual) is scheduled to be held in 2021 and will be logically supported by **Hester Biosciences** Limited.”.

II. WORKSHOP'S OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS.

The workshop's objectives are to:

- Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the third PPR vaccine producers' workshop (Amman, 2019);
- Provide an update on the progress of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP);
- Provide an update on the development of thermostable PPR vaccines;
- Provide an overview on the quality control activities implemented by AU-PANVAC;
- Provide an update on the progress of the development of the SOP for PPR thermotolerant vaccines by AU-PANVAC
- Update about the new generation of PPR vaccines and combined vaccines and how to rationalize implementation in the field;
- Discuss lessons learnt from the production of PPR vaccines

The following results are expected:

- PPR-GEP is understood and main challenges for PPR vaccination identified;
- Challenges for production and delivery of controlled PPR vaccines are identified and possible solutions explored;
- Modalities to strengthen PPR vaccine quality control are agreed;
- Lessons learn from the production of PPR vaccines are identified.

III. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS.

The following participants are expected:

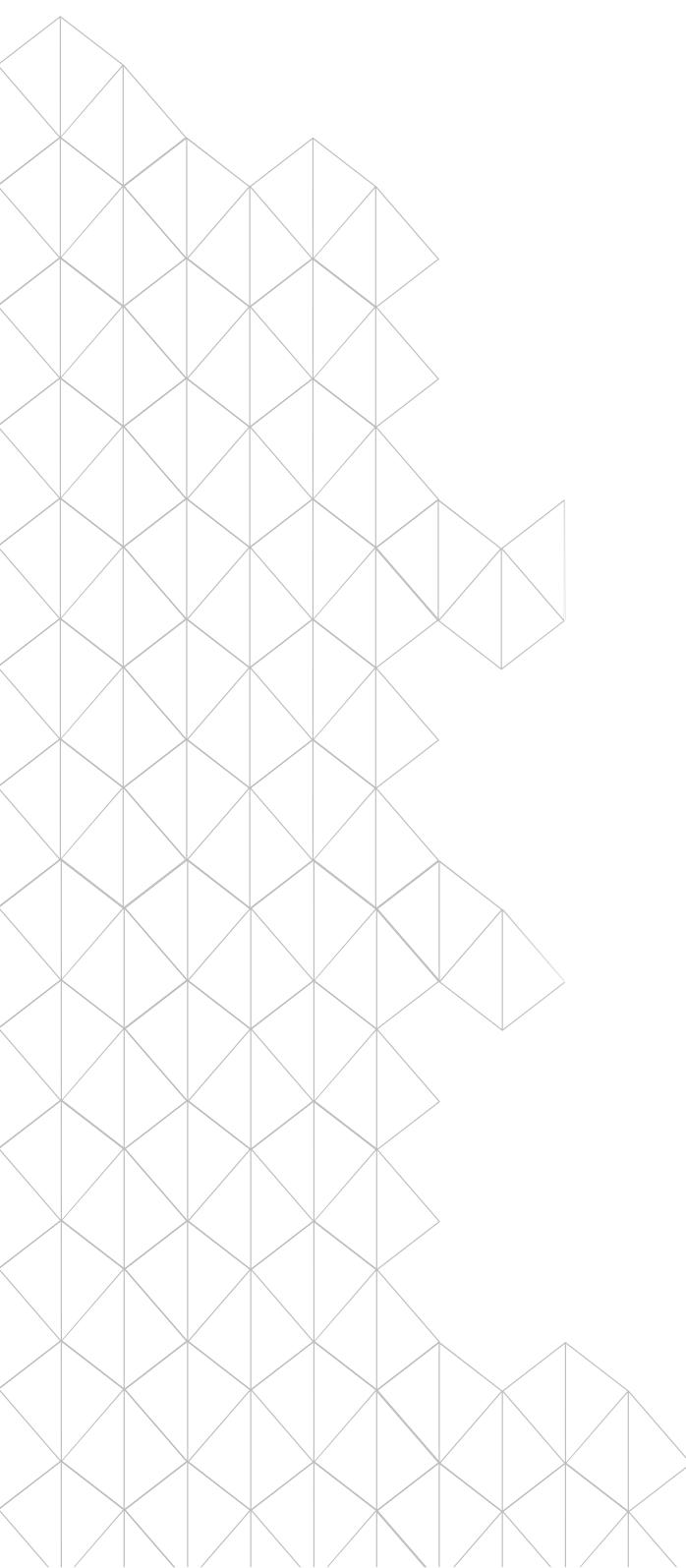
- 40-50 representatives from PPR vaccine manufacturers
- Representatives from FAO and OIE PPR Reference Laboratories
- Representatives from AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and RECs
- Representatives from FAO, OIE, IAEA, GALVmed
- Selected countries where vaccination is ongoing
- PPR Secretariat
- GF-TADs Secretariat

IV. VENUES, DATES AND LOGISTICS

The workshop is scheduled to be held virtually, from 24 to 26 November 2021.

The meeting will be held in English and French.

DAY 1 Day 24 November 2021		
Time CET	Topics	Speakers
10:00 - 00:00	Welcome	
10:00 - 10:20	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OIE remarks - FAO remarks - Objectives of the meeting 	OIE Representative FAO Representative PPR Secretariat
Session 1: Setting the scene		<i>Facilitator: Rajiv GANDHI</i>
10.20 - 10.50	Up-date on PPR Global Eradication Program	PPR Secretariat
10.50 - 11.10	Follow up/implementation of the recommendations of the third workshop	PPR Secretariat
11.10 - 11.30	Vaccine quality control	AU-PANVAC
11:30 - 11:50	Discussion with all participants	
11.50 - 12.20	Update on PPR vaccines research and new generation of PPR vaccines	Research organisations/Ref laboratories
12.20 - 12.40	Status of the SOP for PPR thermostable vaccine development and of new generation of PPR vaccines	AU-PANVAC
12.40 - 13.00	Discussion and closer of the day	All
DAY 2 Day 25 November 2021		
Time CET	Topics	Speakers
Session 2: Update on vaccine usage		<i>Facilitator: Anna-Maria BAKA</i>
10.00 - 10.45	Experience of vaccination in selected countries	Countries
10.45 - 11.00	Discussion	Countries
11.00 - 12.30	Plenary discussion: road map to improve PPR vaccines production, quality and used	Participants
12.30 - 13.00	Discussion and wrap up of the day	Participants
DAY 3 Day 26 November 2021		
Time CET	Topics	Speakers
Session 3: Update on vaccine production situation		<i>Facilitator: Felix NJEUMI Satya PARIDA</i>
10.00 - 11.30	Break-out group: vaccine production situation: challenges and proposed solutions	All participants
11.30 - 12.30	Group work restitution	Break-out groups
12.30 - 13.00	Closing ceremony-Wrap up	All participants



This event is organized under the umbrella of

