

PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN)

Terms of Reference

I. BACKGROUND

Following the successful global eradication of rinderpest in 2011, global consensus has been reached on the need to eradicate Peste des petits ruminants (PPR). The FAO and OIE held an electronic conference from 3 February to 7 March 2014 on the “establishment of a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN)” to support the development of a PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES).

The PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) was endorsed in April 2015, during the international conference on PPR held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire with the vision for global freedom by 2030. To further advance towards the accomplishment of this goal, in March 2016, FAO and OIE established the Joint Secretariat to guide the PPR eradication effort. This global action was driven by strong evidence that PPR undermines the important role played by sheep and goats in improving rural livelihoods.

To implement the global strategy, an initial PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) for 2017-2021 was developed through an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process and launched by FAO and OIE in October 2016.

To support the PPR GEP implementation, a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR GREN) has been established. The roles, functions, composition and modus operandi of the PPR GREN are detailed as below.

II. PPR-GREN VISION AND GOAL

PPR-GREN is driven by the vision to enable research and expertise by networking in support of the global elimination of PPR.

PPR-GREN goal is to promote and initiate an integrated, comprehensive research and expertise network that capitalizes upon synergies to eliminate the threat posed by small ruminant diseases (with a special focus on PPR) to improve the livelihoods, food security and health of people nationally, regionally and globally.

III. ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The PPR GREN is a forum for scientific and technical consultations to foster a science based and innovative debate on PPR. The PPR GREN shall:

1. Serve as a communication and technology sharing gateway for the PPR-GEP to coordinate inclusive field collaboration across the PPR GEP community;
2. Identify and prioritize research opportunities within the strategic needs of the PPR-GEP, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
3. Build strong partnerships between research institutions, academia, national, regional and international organisations and laboratories, and well-recognised experts, the private sector and development partners;
4. Play important advocacy and science translation roles for policy-makers and donors at national, regional and international levels;
5. Promote strategic, gender responsive and multi-disciplinary research to better understand PPR epidemiology including at the livestock/wildlife interface;

6. Disseminate new knowledge about the virus and the disease, together with improved methods of control to significantly accelerate the progressive control and eradication of PPR, including thermo-tolerant vaccines, DIVA vaccines and diagnostic assays, or combined vaccines against several diseases;
7. Encourage more research in socio-economics, community participation, and delivery systems;
8. Contribute to capacity building on improved understanding of PPR issues, including a focus on national capability (including participatory epidemiology), through existing evidence and/or generation of new knowledge;
9. Act as technical adviser for PPR GEP Secretariat.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Participation in the PPR GREN is on a voluntary basis. Members of the PPR-GREN could be individuals or institutions sharing PPR-GREN's vision and participating in its actions.

PPR GREN members agree to participate and engage actively in the PPR GEP as a dynamic and inclusive platform for evidence-based policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action at global, regional and national levels, supporting the achievement of PPR eradication.

The PPR-GREN will maintain a global perspective to operate through a number of regional or sub-regional groups.

The PPR-GREN structure includes:

- **A Bureau**, composed of five individuals including a Chairperson elected during the inaugural meeting of the PPR GREN for a period of two years, renewable once. The Chairperson of the Bureau must be a recognized international researcher with relevant publications in peer reviewed journals with experience in animal health, awareness of the roles and responsibilities of OIE and FAO, and familiarity with the global PPR situation. The membership of the bureau should provide sufficient regional representation.
- **Specialist/Technical Groups:** the role of these groups is to improve vaccines, diagnostic tools and epidemiologic methods, and to bring up other PPR relevant topics. Learning from rinderpest, in addition to the above, any effective control/eradication programme for PPR needs much greater understanding of the way the hosts of the virus (sheep/goats) are breed, raised, moved, traded and the epidemiology of the virus in these hosts, production systems and wildlife. The creation of specialist/technical groups can be done by recommendations of the Bureau with approval by FAO and OIE Management following consultation with the PPR Secretariat.
- **Global network of PPR experts:**

The PPR GREN will meet at least once a year (face to face meeting). Alternatively the Chairperson in consultation with the rest of the Bureau can call through the PPR Secretariat for tele/video conference or Skype if needed. Quorum for meetings will be attendance by a simple majority of PPR

GREN members. The PPR GREN reaches recommendations by consensus. That consensus is summarized by the Chairperson at the end of each meeting and recorded in summary proceedings for the meeting. Between meetings, the Chairperson acts as a key contact point for the PPR Secretariat.

The Chairperson will be invited to participate in the PPR Advisory Committee meetings.

The PPR Secretariat will provide administrative and logistic support to the PPR GREN. The PPR GREN is not expected to fund research.

PPR GREN BUREAU

Chair: Dr Adama Diallo

Members: Dr Amanda Fine,

Dr Jeremy Salt,

Dr Hamid R. Varshovi,

Dr Barbara Wieland.