

Title: EMPRES-*i* (information, intelligence, intervention) system

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Description: *Background:* To respond to the lack of early warning in dealing with livestock diseases, FAO has developed and launched the EMPRES programme emphasising the prevention of emergencies due to transboundary, epidemic diseases of livestock that are of significant economic, trade and/or food security importance for a considerable number of countries; which can easily spread to other countries and reach epidemic proportions; and where control/management, including exclusion, requires co-operation between several countries. The objective of EMPRES is to assist the development and implementation of effective national and regional control and eradication strategies and capabilities (early warning systems, contingency planning-rapid response) and to contribute to global disease information availability for the prevention and control of major epidemic livestock diseases.

The Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-*i*) should improve EMPRES capacity to deal with early warning issues and respond in a timely manner to emergencies. EMPRES is also to host the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) and as a consequence, should represent the most updated source of information on rinderpest (including disease outbreak database, scientific publications and distribution maps).

Objective: In close collaboration with the FAO GIS unit, the remote sensing unit and other collaborative centres specialised in GIS as applied to veterinary epidemiology, the GIS component of the EMPRES-*i* system will provide disease prediction models and disease risk maps that will be a useful tool for epidemiologists and decision makers for the management of disease surveillance activities and the definition of control programmes. These models and risk prediction maps will be made available on the EMPRES web site, on CD and relevant EMPRES publications, as appropriate. The system will focus on diseases identified by international or regional consensus as high priority.

Beneficiaries: The beneficiaries are the farmers, all stake holders in the livestock industry and the international trade in livestock and more particularly veterinary epidemiologists, laboratory staff and decision makers.

Outputs:

- Enhancing surveillance and early warning for transboundary animal diseases
- Promotion of regional strategies for the progressive control of strategically important transboundary animal diseases
- Fast and efficient recording of disease outbreaks and EMPRES interventions and follow-up
- Record of unusual animal health events/syndromes
- Risk mapping through the combination of different layers influencing the occurrence and spread of Transboundary Animal Diseases
- Methodology for disease analysis