

Moving forward with the 2nd cohort of the China FETPV: a planning meeting was held with CAHEC

A planning meeting of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) was held with China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) on 18th October 2013 in Qingdao. Dr Wang Youming, Ms Kang Jingli and Ms Liu Ailing from CAHEC, Mr Tang Hao and Ms Liu An from FAO Emerging Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) China office participated in the meeting to design the key activities and to brainstorm new initiatives for 2014. FAO ECTAD China introduced the new initiatives, including cooperation with universities to facilitate veterinary epidemiology education, the roll-out of epidemiology training for provinces and the design of activities in response to the technical needs of Chinese counterparts. CAHEC was positive to the new initiatives and showed their willingness to engage in these activities. Both sides also discussed the arrangements and work plan for the rest of 2013. It was agreed that the Action Plan for 2014 and work plan for the 4th quarter of 2013 will be drafted and submitted for final review at the next Steering Committee meeting.

FAO Country Programming Framework for China (2012 – 2015) Launch Event

The Event to Launch the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) for China was successfully held in Beijing on 29th October. Over sixty participants from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Commerce, State Forestry Administration, State Administration of Grain, embassies, research institutes, universities, media, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and FAO China attended the event.

Mr Luo Ming, Division Director of Department of International Cooperation (DIC), MoA chaired the event. Mr Tang Shengyao, Deputy Director-General of DIC, MoA made opening remarks. Professor Li Xiande from the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) delivered a presentation to introduce the five priority areas of the CPF, which including:

- Improving food security and nutrition
- Improving the livelihood of rural impoverished population
- Strengthening capacities for agricultural products quality and safety management
- Promoting sustainable agro-ecological development and agricultural heritage conservation and utilization
- Strengthening capacities for diseases and natural disaster prevention and response to climate change

Mr Percy W. Misika, FAO Representative also delivered a presentation on CPF – FAO' s Strategic Objectives (SOs) and CPF' s contribution to the SOs, CPF priorities, funding requirement and gaps.

The launch of the CPF marked the beginning of a new era in terms of collaboration and cooperation between FAO and the MoA. Among the CPF priorities, an important area is to enhance capacities for reducing the animal disease threats to agriculture and human health. As the knowledge hub on transboundary animal diseases (TADs), FAO ECTAD China will continue to actively provide technical advice and support to the Central Government in dealing with various TADs and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs).



▲ Launch Event of FAO CPF for China (2012-2015)

Sharing information of the LinkTADs Project at the EU-China Seminar and presenting at the 6th Meeting of Group of High-containment Laboratory Directors

Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor recently attended two workshops representing FAO ECTAD China. The EU-China Joint experts' seminar on developing a joint initiative for cooperation in research and innovation on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies (FAB) was held in Beijing from 10th to 11th October, with participation of over ninety participants from the EU Delegation, research institutions, international organizations, embassies and universities. During the workshop, Dr Guo shared with participants about information on the Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in China and EU (LinkTADs) project. Dr Guo introduced the project objectives, the main diseases involved including zoonotic diseases, TADs and exotic diseases. He also described the beneficiaries of the project, different work packages as well as the management structure. The three-year LinkTADs project will be officially launched at FAO Headquarters in Rome in November, and the first technical meeting will be held in early December.



▲ Mr. Guo Fusheng presenting at the meeting

The 6th Meeting of the Group of High-containment Laboratory Directors (GOHLD) was held in Wuhan from 23rd to 25th October. The Directors and biosecurity officers from eight high-containment biosecurity laboratories attended the meeting. Dr Guo Fusheng was invited to attend and present at the meeting.

The main topic of this year's GOHLD was "One World, One Health", much of the discussions were revolved around the construction of biosafety level 4 (BSL4 /P4) laboratories and recent development of prevention and control of zoonotic diseases. Dr Guo shared the FAO experience through the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV)/China Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) platform and H7N9 investigations in China. The next GOHLD meeting will be held in Lyons, France in 2014.

Upcoming Activities:

1. The 3rd Module of the 2nd Cohort of the China FETPV and Annual Seminar of the China FETPV will be held in Qingdao from 19th to 29th November.
2. The Steering Committee meeting of the China FETPV will be held on 3rd December.
3. Prof John Edwards has been invited to attend and present at the Animal Health Workshop on "Inspection and Quarantine – animal biosecurity on the frontlines" in Hong Kong from 12th to 13th November.
4. The first technical meeting of the LinkTADs project will be held in Rome from 9th to 11th December.