



Concept note:

Regional training workshop on risk-based approaches for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) prevention, control and eradication

Background

The PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) was approved in 2015 under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). Its specific objectives 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. The overall GCES objective is to promote a small ruminant sector that contributes to global food security and nutrition, human health and economic growth. The PPR GCES was turned into the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) and launched in 2016 with the first phase running from 2017 to 2021.

In parallel, a research-based project (GCP/GLO/074/USA) of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) aims to identify the areas at higher risk of spread of transboundary ruminant diseases around the Black Sea Basin, including PPR among five ruminant diseases. Target countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. Within this project, the method proposed for the spatial risk analysis of PPR spread requires the opinion of experts (personnel with knowledge of small ruminant production in the country and/or the PPR dynamics) as a tool to map risk. According to their opinions, risk factors affecting the spatial spread of PPR (within countries or regions) are assessed for their significance in the region, compared with each other and ranked. The outcome will be the identification of areas at a higher risk of disease to support decision making for disease mitigation activities, targeting such areas and using resources more efficiently.

In the last PPR Regional Consultation meeting (for the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries) held in October 2021 organised under the GF-TADs umbrella, countries identified capacity constraints and training needs. Among the priorities identified, there is (i) the need for a PPR regional risk analysis and risk mapping, that would support contingency planning for disease incursion; (ii) the implementation and/or improvement of national animal identification and tracing system (AITS) as well as, control of animal trade; and (iii) the enhancement of sero-surveillance programmes (sero-monitoring post-vaccination and in border areas) in both domestic and wild animals.

A regional training workshop, for ECO countries and remaining countries of the REU project will aid to fulfil some of these knowledge gaps and enhance countries progression along the stepwise pathway of PPR control and eradication.

The workshop

Organizer: FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and FAO members of the joint FAO/OIE PPR Secretariat.

Dates: 31 January, 2 and 4 February 2022 from 09:00 to 12:00 CET. The workshop will be organised in three sessions over a week (2.5h-3 hours/day).

Languages/Interpretation: English-Russian with simultaneous interpretation.

Technical equipment: The virtual meeting will be held by Zoom.

Target countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine

Participants from each country: FAO-REU/UAB project consultants, PPR national coordinator, national epidemiologist and/or national livestock (small ruminant) development officer and national laboratory coordinator.

External participants: the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the European Food Safety Authority

Training sessions:

- i) Present basic concepts about PPR, its epidemiology, risk factors and management, the status of disease in the region, and the stepwise approach of the PPR GCES;
- ii) train countries with practical examples of risk analysis and risk mapping, demonstrating its importance as a tool to progress through the stages of the PPR GCES;
- iii) Rank PPR risk factors in the different countries;
- iv) Inform on AITS implementation;
- v) Inform on the OIE procedure for official recognition of PPR free status and endorsement of official PPR control programmes

Countries, which have not completed the revised PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) will be requested to provide their filled in PMAT prior to the meeting. This document should be prepared by the national PPR coordination committee.

Day 1		
31 January 2022		Facilitator: FAO REU
Time allocated (CET)	Topic	Speaker
08:30-08:40	Welcome addresses and workshop objectives	<i>Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo (FAO REU)</i> <i>Felix Njeumi (FAO Coordinator of the PPR Secretariat)</i>
08:40-09:10	Basics of PPR	<i>Camilla Benfield (FAO)</i>
09:10-09:40	Basics of risk analysis and its importance for early detection	<i>Jordi Casal (UAB)</i>
09:40-10:15	Risk factors presentation	<i>Margarida de Castro Arede (UAB)</i>
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	Risk mapping – Risk Factor weighting exercise	<i>Alberto Allepuz (UAB)</i>
11:30-12:00	Q&A	
Day 2		
2 February 2022		Facilitator: UAB
Time allocated (CET)	Topic	Speaker
09:00-9:30	National animal identification and tracing system (AITS) – Georgia's success story	<i>Dragan Angelovski (FAO)</i>
9:30-10:30	Risk factor weighting -presentation of results	<i>Margarida de Castro Arede (UAB)</i>
10:30-11:15	Risk factor weighting – open discussion	<i>Alberto Allepuz (UAB)</i>
Day 3		
4 February 2022		Facilitator: FAO HQ
Time allocated (CET)	Topic	Speaker
9:00-09:30	Epidemiological and laboratory network in support to disease accreditation	<i>Satya Parida (FAO)</i>
09:30-10:00	Risk Management & Communication	<i>Laura Falzon (FAO)</i>
10:00-10:20	Contingency Planning	<i>Ludovic Plee (FAO)</i>
10.20-10.40	OIE Standard Operating Procedures for official recognition of PPR free status and endorsement of official PPR control programmes & General requirements of the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> (chapter 14.7.) on PPR	<i>Anna-Maria Baka (Status Department, OIE)</i>
10.40-11.00	EFSA risk assessment activities on PPR	<i>Alessandro Brogna (EFSA)</i>
11:00-11:30	Plenary Session	
11:30-12:00	Conclusions and further steps	