

## Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC) Virtual Meeting Report

*“Strengthening coordination and engagement of Veterinary Services, and private sector to enhance Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) prevention and control”*

**Thursday, 16 March 2023 (2.00 PM Bangkok time)**

- **Background**

WOAH promotes application of the [WOAH PPP Handbook on Guidelines for Public Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain](#) to facilitate a collaborative approach in which the public, and private sectors share resources, responsibilities and risks to achieve common objectives and mutual benefits in a sustainable manner. There is increasing recognition that partnerships of public and private sector have the opportunity not only to improve the quality of Veterinary Services but has a potential to contribute to the overall animal health systems strengthening and sustainability.

Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC) which was established in 2007 under South East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEACFMD). Under this initiative [Private Sector Consultative Committee \(PSCC\) workshop](#) was organised on 28 Nov 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting acknowledged the importance of PPP, and one of the key recommendations for the Members to consider when and how a PPP could be supportive of FMD control and prevention.

With the view that the public sector alone cannot conduct all of the activities needed to control FMD or to maintain freedom from FMD. Therefore, the current [SEACFMD roadmap \(2021-2025\)](#) roadmap also highlights that partnerships with the private sector have the potential to improve the quality of Veterinary Services and encourages multidisciplinary and multisectoral efforts partnership to improve ownership of the SEACFMD campaign and enabling environment at national and regional level.

Considering this context, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA) is organizing Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC) virtual meeting on 16 March 2023 at 2 PM (Bangkok time). The concept note and agenda can be referred to as **Annex I** and **Annex II**.

- **Objectives**

The objectives of the PSCC were

- to strengthen coordination and engagement of Veterinary Services (VS) and Private Sector.
- to better understand the challenges, Private Sector, industry, VS facing in FMD prevention and control, and opportunities going forward.
- to explore the creation of a sub-regional network of representative traders acknowledging their important role in FMD transmission in the sub-region and, thus, their potential role in FMD control.

- **Summary**

The PSCC was attended by 87 participants from 11 countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, People's republic of China, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, and Thailand. Out of total attendees, 28 participants were from the private sector representing livestock traders, livestock farms, livestock federations, Veterinary associations, agriculture cooperatives, meat trade import and export industry. There were 49 attendees from the Veterinary Services representing SEACFMD National Coordinators, veterinary division, livestock and division, laboratory staff from central and sub-national level.

WOAH staff from headquarters (HQ), Regional Representation from Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and Sub Regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR SEA) participated in the meeting.

Dr Ronello Abila, WOAHS Sub Regional Representative for South East Asia ( SRR SEA) delivered opening remark with brief context of PSCC. Dr Abila described the objectives of the meeting and highlighted the importance of coordination as well as collaboration opportunities of PPP in Veterinary domain.

The mentimeter session was conducted to introduce the participants. Please refer to **Annex III** for the list of participants.

- **Presentations**

Dr Ashish Sutar, Capacity Building Coordinator at WOAHS SRR SEA delivered a [presentation](#) on introduction to the SEACFMD campaign and the role of the private sector in FMD prevention and control. The epidemiological changes in the SEACFMD Region with analysis of the FMDV topotype and lineage distribution in SEA was explained including evidence of O/ME-SA/ Ind 2001e strain becoming dominant in SEACFMD region since 2019 and a recent incursion in Indonesia in 2022.

The participants were informed about the past SEACFMD coordination mechanism and current challenges faced by the Members to predict FMD incursion in a free country and introduction and spread of new FMDV strain in endemic countries, constraint on access to quality vaccines, optimize surveillance systems, including strategic sampling, need of improving quality sample submission to reference laboratories for virus sub-typing to better understand FMDV circulation

and FMD control strategies. Given the importance monitoring the progress of the SEACFMD activities both at the regional and country level, participants were also updated about the endorsement and implementation of the [SEACFMD roadmap \(2021-25\)](#) particularly Monitoring and Evaluation component which has been included with the ongoing 6<sup>th</sup> phase of roadmap.

Acknowledging the situation that FMD is a complex disease given transboundary characteristic, rapid spread, nature of FMDV with different serotypes its prevention, and control not only require active engagement across actors along the cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goat value chain. It was discussed that the public sector may not be able to control the disease alone. Therefore, the increasing role of private sector in FMD prevention and control and overall disease prevention and control was highlighted. Cooperation and partnership at the local level exists in some countries and this has been demonstrated by the case studies Members have shared during [24<sup>th</sup> SEACFMD National coordinators\(NC\) meeting](#).

The rationale of establishment of PSCC, role of PSCC and recommendation of 2019 workshop were revisited during the presentation. The inherent nature of PPP including nature of share responsibilities, share resources, multi stakeholder environment, different level of interest, discourse, and goals was touched upon. The PPP confronts various risks which can come through external environment could be in the form of political, social environmental challenges or unexpected economic conditions were discussed. It was concluded that preplanning and risk management becomes critical and so is adoption of sustainable strategies to reduce those risk.

Dr Rahul Srivastava, PPP Project Manager at WOA HQ delivered a [presentation](#) on PPP to strengthen FMD prevention and control. The presentation covered how WOA is building Public-Private partnership capacities, and How PPPs are strengthening veterinary services in preventing and controlling FMD. The first part of the presentation shared WOA's various PPP tools including [Performance of Veterinary Services pathway \(PVS\)](#) stages and PPP targeted support, [WOAH PPP Handbook](#), [e-learning courses](#), [PPP handbook](#), and [PPP database](#) on the veterinary domain. The participants were taken through the step wise approach to access the PPP database, and encouraged Members to explore the database for PPP stories from different region and register to share their respective PPP stories if they have their own now or in future.

The success stories from different regions focusing on FMD prevention and control were shared during the presentation.

- The systematic and massive vaccination campaign implemented in Argentina by 300 local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) [called Entes Sanitarios] composed of representatives of producers, private veterinarians, and other actors of the local productive environment.
- Eradication and control of FMD and brucellosis in cattle in Paraguay was shared where the collaboration between the Veterinary Services of Paraguay (SENACSA) and cattle producers through the Foundation of Animal Health Services (FUNDASSA) since 2003.
- With an example from Namibia, how collaborative PPP helped in emergency management and allowed the development of an emergency animal health fund which could be mobilized during an FMD outbreak in 2015 was also discussed.
- A transformative PPP in Saudi Arabia, where the big farms of big companies presented by Saudi milk producers association agreed with the participation of Ministry of

Environment, Water and Agriculture to provide FMD Vaccine to vaccinate animals in those small farms.

- The Animal Health Australia (AHA) model and FMD Ready Project were discussed. AHA is a trusted and independent national animal health body in Australia, bringing together government and industry to deliver animal health and biosecurity. The Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Ready Project aims to strengthen preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak and facilitate an earlier return to trade for Australia following control of such a disease, using FMD as a model.

- **Group exercises**

The presentation was followed by group exercises, participants were divided into groups based on the countries having both representatives of VS and the private sector.

The Group 1 consist of Members (China, Myanmar, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Mongolia and partners). The outcome discussions based on the key questions are as follows:

- *Importance and benefits of the safer trade public and private perspective*

The public sector acknowledged the importance of safer trade in the perspective of disease control, and food security. Cost savings and resource optimisation are the benefits listed by the group. The private sector perspective suggested that safer trade can decrease economic losses, enhance income opportunities and promote animal welfare. Understanding the real demand for animals and animal products in the region and establishing a link between trade and the market demand is highlighted as an important factor during the discussion. Furthermore, assessing the vaccines that government use and subsidized was discussed by the traders.

- *Challenges of livestock and livestock product trading at national and cross border level*

The quarantine and movement control measures, disease status of the country and bilateral protocol between countries listed as some of the influencing factors for cross border trade while business continuity of trade described as a challenge with the context of transboundary animal disease outbreaks, and emerging diseases.

Furthermore, long border control, poor infrastructure at the remote and border areas, limited human resources, and preference to illegal trade over legal trade were stated as some of the key challenges.

As for the private sector difference in policies and regulation especially policies implemented by local government units, documentations particularly veterinary health certificate, law of enforcement and governance mechanism, commodity quality assurance, and emerging diseases explained as key challenges.

Additionally, budget constraints, taxation related to trade and increasing costs of testing samples are also highlighted as key constraints for the private sector in relation to cross-border trade.

- *Solutions to address challenges faced during the trading of livestock*

The solutions proposed by the public sector include setting up agreements between governments, advocacy to policy makers to align directives, enforcement of laws and update regulations to facilitate incentives safer cross border trade.

Furthermore, the public sector group also proposed to establish platforms to facilitate more frequent communications among countries to continue animal health information and disease status sharing and promote transparency.

Various ideas were discussed by the public sector such as having regional budget for disease control to overcome the challenges of under resources in some countries, private sector involvement in trade activities for TADs control as well as achieving the common goal of disease-free status with the private sector were proposed during the meeting.

Furthermore, collaboration with livestock stakeholders, regional and international organisations (including WOA) to support the resources particularly funding.

The private sector group suggested developing more solid strategies in taxation to alleviate informal/illegal trade, more investments in livestock market facilities, attention to laboratory accreditation, and smooth certification process to promote trade.

At the policy level the private sector group indicated to support the development of guidelines, standards, and protocols between countries particularly bilateral arrangements and capacity building programmes.

Multisectoral meetings, advocacy to promote PPP, educating public particularly consumers about the quality livestock products, and food safety were pointed out as important measures to overcome the current challenges in trading livestock and livestock products in the sub-region.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and partners) The outcome discussions based on the key questions are as follows:

- *Role of the private sector in FMD prevention and control*

The group 2 representative of both public and the private sector acknowledged an importance of actors for example traders, feed supplier in identifying and reporting cases from the field to support the public sector in disease monitoring, early detection and control of the disease. The group also highlighted the pivotal role of industry, commercial farms, producers could play to implement and promote farm biosecurity, and Good Animal Husbandry Practices.

Promoting and practicing vaccination, access to good quality vaccine, exploring cost sharing mechanisms for vaccination, and animal traceability listed as areas of opportunities and cooperation between the industry and the public sector.

It was agreed that to be able to effectively implement National and regional strategy of FMD control close collaboration of public and private sector is crucial. Encourage members in associations to be vigilant in monitoring possible cases.

- *Challenges to initiate and sustain public and private partnership*

The participants raised key challenges based on their experiences, and country context. These discussions highlighted the current gaps in the areas of policy and regulation, coordination, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, market access and limited resources.



Figure 1 :Key challenges to initiate and sustain PPP in SEA

- *Solutions to initiate and sustain public and private partnership*

The group provided valuable solutions to deal with the current challenges to initiate and sustain public and private partnerships.

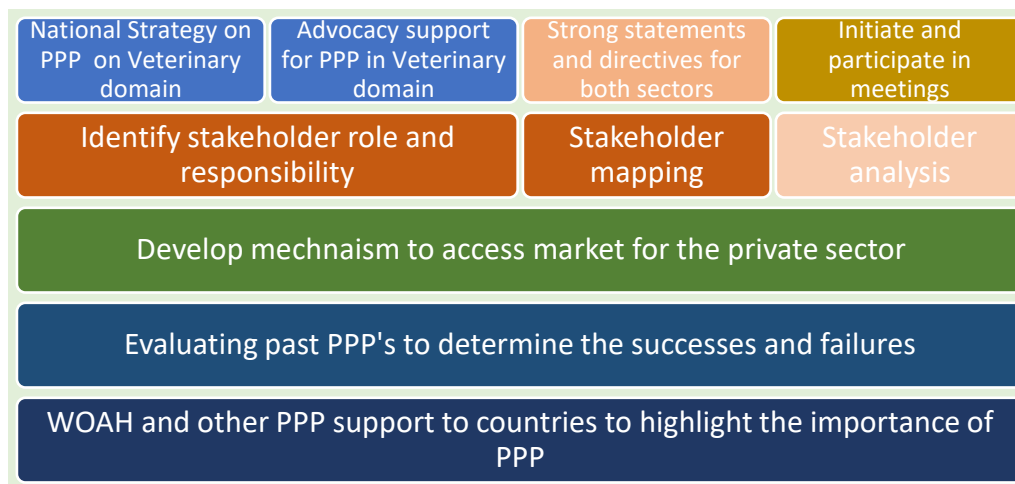


Figure 2 :Key challenges to initiate and sustain PPP in SEA

- **Mentimeter session**

The mentimeter session was used for the introduction of the PSCC participants and to collect feedback on mechanism of engagement with the private sector and traders. The outcome of the Mentimeter can be found at **Annex IV (Introduction of participants) and Annex V (Evaluation)**.

### **Recommendation /key actions**

- SEACFMD countries nominate one representative each to represent VS and private sector stakeholder to rejuvenate PSCC.
- PSCC meets annually to strengthen coordination amongst public and private stakeholders. SEACFMD secretariate to organise these meetings.
- Members, private sector, and partners support establishing regional network of representative of traders to effectively engage them in prevention and control of FMD in the region.
- Members and private sector support to conduct regional mapping of private sector stakeholders relevant to TADs control including FMD.
- Members and the private sector support implementing awareness, advocacy initiatives, surveys, and studies to better understand and support role of private sectors in veterinary domain , livestock trades in animal movement, safer trade, TADs prevention and control etc.
- Noted that Performance Veterinary Services (PVS) PPP targeted support available for Members.
- Members can access the WOAAH online PPP database and can submit stories to highlight the success and lesson learned.
- WOAAH continues to support capacity building in PPP through E-learning courses, and other training programmes to improve awareness and advocacy on PPP.
- Strengthen partnerships between the veterinary services and private sectors in line with WOAAH Guidelines on [Public Private Partnership \(PPP\)](#) to enhance FMD prevention and control including safer trade and to reduce impact of FMD.
- WOAAH thank all SEACFMD members, invited countries private sector representatives, partners and donors for their support to conduct PSCC.