

27th Meeting of the WOAHS Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia (SEACFMD)

3 - 6 September 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia (SEACFMD) held its 27th Meeting from 3 to 6 September 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was attended by the SEACFMD Sub-Commission Members and National Coordinators, participants from WOAHS and partners including donors, WOAHS Reference laboratories and Collaborating Centres, Research Institutions, Universities and the private sector including Vaccine manufacturers and Livestock industries.

Considering

- the progress made in the implementation of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2021-2025 including assessment of progress based on agreed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators;
- the availability of global tools (Global FMD Control Strategy and The Progressive Control Pathway for FMD [PCP-FMD]) and relevant provisions of WOAHS standards for FMD prevention and control;
- the existing FMD status of the SEACFMD member countries including their FMD-PCP stage and assessment of the respective stage of national FMD control using the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) Self-Assessment Tool;
- the findings of the evaluation of the SEACFMD campaign from 1997 to 2020 and the evaluation of the Global FMD Control Strategy;
- the dynamic spread of different FMD virus serotypes within the region and the potential for the introduction of new viral lineages;
- the incursions of emerging transboundary animal diseases (African swine fever (ASF), Lumpy skin disease (LSD) and Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)) in the region;
- the endorsement of the Regional Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) Strategy 2021 -2027 for Asia and the Pacific;
- the importance of regional coordination for the effective control of FMD and other transboundary animal diseases (TADs);
- the outcomes and recommendations of the past SEACFMD Governance meetings;
- the series of deliberations held during the 27th SEACFMD Sub-Commission meeting.

The Sub-Commission:

Coordination and Programme Management:

1. CONGRATULATES following members for being elected to various SEACFMD Sub-Commission Positions at its 27th Meeting:

- Thailand as the new President of the SEACFMD Sub-Commission
 - Singapore and Malaysia as the Vice Presidents
 - Brunei and Indonesia as additional members of the SEACFMD Steering Committee
2. THANKS Malaysia (outgoing President), Mongolia and Thailand (outgoing Vice Presidents), Myanmar and The Philippines (outgoing additional member of the Steering Committee) for their leadership since the 26th Virtual Sub-Commission meeting in March 2022;
 3. NOTES the progress of the SEACFMD campaign in the prevention and control of FMD since the 26th Sub-Commission Meeting;
 4. ENDORSES the proposed activities and priority actions recommended by the 27th SEACFMD Sub-Commission meeting;
 5. NOTES and ENDORSES the recommendations from the 25th Meeting of the National Coordinators in October 2022; Virtual Private Sector Consultative Meeting in March 2023; 26th National Coordinators Meeting held in August 2023; SEACFMD LabNet meeting in October 2023 and Upper Mekong Working Group Meeting in April 2024;
 6. NOTES the findings and ENDORSES the recommendations of the Evaluation of the SEACFMD campaign from 1997 to 2020;
 7. COMMENDS the active participation of non-SEACFMD Members in the Meeting, and continued collaboration between SEACFMD and non-SEACFMD Members in the Asia Pacific region to enhance FMD control;
 8. COMMENDS the active participation of the partners and private sector in the meeting, and continued collaboration to enhance effective control of FMD in the region through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs);
 9. AGREES to start development of SEACFMD Roadmap 2026 – 2030;
 10. ENDORSES the modalities to develop SEACFMD Roadmap 2026 – 2030 and the composition of the Core Group with technical persons designated by Steering Committee Members and WOA.

Technical

11. NOTES the existing PCP-FMD Stage and FMD status of SEACFMD Members; and ENCOURAGES Members to work towards progressing to the next PCP stages or to maintain FMD free status;
 - Cambodia and Indonesia to develop FMD Risk-based Strategic Plan to progress to PCP stage 2;
 - Lao PDR and Myanmar to develop an Official Control Programme to progress to PCP stage 3;
 - Malaysia, Vietnam, China and Mongolia to submit dossier for WOA endorsed Official Control Programme (to progress to PCP stage 4);
 - Brunei, The Philippines and Singapore to maintain their FMD free status (without vaccination) and Thailand to maintain its Endorsed Official Control Program with timely submission of Annual Reconfirmation in line with WOA standards;
12. AGREED to improve the investigation and reporting of FMD outbreaks, to monitor the situation using relevant tools and to conduct comprehensive epidemiological investigation of reported

FMD outbreaks including submission of samples to Reference Laboratories to identify the circulating FMDV serotypes;

13. NOTES the spread of FMD through animal movement, including the trans-regional spread of emerging FMD virus strains; and RECOMMENDS WOAHS SRRSEA to carry out animal movement study in the Greater Mekong region; which may be expanded to include other parts of the region. This will inform risk assessment, surveillance and regulatory activities;
14. ENCOURAGES Members continue to closely liaise with other border control agencies such as Customs, Police, Trade etc who are involved in regulating the entry of animals and livestock products into the country;
15. NOTES the importance of using quality FMD vaccines with matching vaccine strain and circulating FMD Virus strain; and PROMOTE regional mechanism to streamline regulatory approval and procurement of quality vaccines;
16. AGREED to revise the emergency preparedness plan and protocols based on risks and WOAHS standards; and to CONDUCT cross-border simulation exercise in the island of Borneo;
17. AGREED to involve other specialized disciplines such as Anthropologists and Sociologists to advise on stakeholder engagement and to develop communication materials for the targeted stakeholders;
18. AGREED to strengthen the laboratory capacity of SEACFMD Members including the capability to detect circulating FMD virus strains and exotic strains, harmonise protocols, and procedures for referring samples to WOAHS Reference Laboratories;
19. AGREED to enhance the veterinary workforce enabling environment and competencies in key areas critical to operational success for effective disease control through workshops and trainings (both in-person and virtual) focused on surveillance, safe trade, risk analysis, outbreak investigation and response, etc.
20. AGREED to strengthen existing networks such as Upper Mekong Working Group and initiate other sub-regional collaboration such as Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP) collaboration and REACTIVATE Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar (MTM) collaboration initiative to closely liaise and monitor the cross-border movement of animal and livestock products including control of illegal movement of these commodities; and timely sharing of information related to TADs occurrence among the Members;
21. AGREED to update the SEACFMD Communication Strategy to make it fit for purpose for the Members and to promote participation of relevant stakeholders to support FMD control including through advocacy of policymakers; in addition, WOAHS to SUPPORT Members to develop National Communication Plan/Strategy for FMD and other TADs control;
22. AGREED that SEACFMD Secretariat and Partners will support National Veterinary Services to develop advocacy programmes to obtain funding support from their respective Government by informing the policymakers on the socio-economic benefit of FMD control for the endemic countries as well as the economic benefit of maintenance of freedom and impact of losing freedom;
23. AGREED to strengthen coordination and partnership with the private sector in the veterinary domain in line with WOAHS Guidelines on Public-Private Partnership to ensure sustainable FMD and other TADs control.

24. AGREED to identify and develop synergies between FMD control and other TADs or other livestock production/health activities;

Acknowledgements

25. THANK the Government of Thailand for its successful hosting of the 27th Meeting of the WOAHS Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia;
26. THANK the Governments of Australia, China, and Japan for their continuous financial support to the SEACFMD campaign including the 27th SEACFMD Sub-Commission Meeting;
27. THANK all participants from SEACFMD Members, non-SEACFMD Members and Partners for their active participation in the meeting.
28. THANK Dr Ronello Abila for his valuable contribution to the SEACFMD campaign, his leadership to enhance the prevention and control of TADs, One Health, and for strengthening the animal health programme in South-East Asia.