



## Second PPR Regional Roadmap Meeting for SAARC

20-22 March 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE

#### I. BACKGROUND

*Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) is one of the major transboundary animal diseases for which global strategy was developed and endorsed by the international community in 2015. The goal of the PPR global strategy is to eradicate PPR by 2030. The implementation of the strategy requires a globally concerted effort to support both national and regional actions to control and subsequently eradicate the disease. The PPR global strategy has highlighted the need to work on strengthening the capacities of national Veterinary Services to control and eradicate the disease, and, when possible, generate wide-ranging benefits by combining measures to prevent and control other small ruminant diseases.

SAARC countries represent around 20% of the global small ruminant population. PPR is endemic in most of the SAARC countries. PPR is present in the region where it affects the livelihoods of populations in particular in rural areas. Globally, PPR deeply affects the lives of some 300 million of the world's poorest rural families, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

The first PPR Regional Roadmap Meeting for SAARC countries was held in Nagarkot, Nepal on 11–12 April 2016 preceding the Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum.

Following up the First PPR Regional Roadmap Meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> PPR Regional Roadmap meeting for Member States of SAARC was organized in Dhaka from 20 to 22 March 2018, in collaboration with the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Bangladesh, FAO and OIE, through their joint PPR Secretariat.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Md. Raisul Alam Mondal, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Md. Ainul Haque, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Mrs. Lalita Bhattacharjee, Senior Nutritionist, on behalf of the FAO Representation in Bangladesh and Dr. Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Representative also delivered remarks. Ms. Ishrat Jahan, Director, SAARC Secretariat joined the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and delivered welcome remarks conveying the best wishes and greetings from H.E. Secretary General of SAARC for successful holding of the Meeting.

The meeting brought together Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) or their representatives, laboratory, epidemiologists and vaccine manufacturer representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and representatives from SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Agriculture Centre, FAO and OIE. President of Nepal Veterinary Association also attended the Meeting as the representative of the Civil Society Organizations. List of participants is attached in Annex 2.

The meeting's objectives were to:

- 1- Follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the first PPR roadmap meeting;
- 2- Update the PPR epidemiological situation in the region and self-assess country progress in PPR control;
- 3- Present the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP);
- 4- Encourage Sri Lanka to consider applying for the official recognition of its PPR free status;
- 5- Present the interconnection between the OIE PVS Pathway and the PPR-GEP;
- 6- Discuss the PPR Resources mobilization strategy and partnerships in the region;
- 7- Discuss the preparation of the upcoming PPR pledging conference.

The review of the recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> PPR Roadmap meeting and the country presentations demonstrated that progress had been made over the last two years. However, PPR remains endemic in all SAARC countries except Sri Lanka, where the disease has never been reported and vaccination against PPR has never been implemented. The following challenges have been highlighted:

- Limited funding of the PPR activities except in India where a comprehensive two-year programme of PPR vaccinations has been recently approved
- Informal trade and uncontrolled transboundary animal movements due to porous border
- Insufficient laboratory and epidemiology capacity in Bhutan and Maldives
- Insufficient public-private partnership
- Inadequate capacity for risk assessment
- Inadequate information sharing and coordination between countries
- Lack of harmonized planning and implementation of PPR vaccinations
- Inadequate veterinary/para veterinary staffs in most of the SAARC countries.

After extensive discussions, the participants in the meeting agreed on the following recommendations.

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **2.1. Assessment of the PPR situation and update of the PPR Stages Progression**

Considering that the implementation of the PPR control and eradication stepwise approach requires a clear understanding of the PPR situation;

Considering that an assessment of the PPR situation will also contribute to a deep understanding of current country capacities with regard to laboratory, surveillance, prevention and control, legal framework and stakeholders' involvement;

Considering the follow-up of the recommendations from the previous meeting (Nagarkot, 2016);

The meeting recommended that the SAARC countries may carry out an assessment using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), which will contribute to identify PPR risk areas and practices along with the small ruminant value chains that may contribute to PPR introduction and/or spread in order to formulate targeted eradication plans that efficiently eliminate the disease.

The meeting agreed on the attached provisional updated PPR Stages Progression 2018-2030 (Annex 1) and requested countries to confirm their final status to the PPR Secretariat by 20 June 2018.

### **2.2. PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP)**

Considering that PPR eradication requires harmonised approach and logical and structured framework for action in each country;

Considering the current status in the formulation of the PPR NSP (see table 1 below);

The meeting recommended countries develop or update their PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP) using the template provided by the PPR Secretariat, which is available for support as needed.

Furthermore, the country representatives agreed on the following timeframe for the development of their draft NSP or Contingency Plans.

Table 1: Deadline for submission of draft NSP

Countries	PPR NSP Formulation Status
Bangladesh	NSP will be drafted by June 2018 and shared for inputs by July 2018
Bhutan	NSP will be reviewed using PMAT by July 2018
India	NSP already developed will be updated taking into consideration the outcomes of PVS mission and validated by December 2018
Maldives	NSP to be drafted and submitted by July 2018
Nepal	Draft NSP will be finalised and endorsed by September 2018
Pakistan	NSP already submitted for validation by national authorities
Sri Lanka	PPR Contingency plan to be developed by September 2018 (PPR never reported in the country)

### 2.3. PPR Vaccination

Considering that vaccination (using quality certified vaccines in compliance with OIE standards) remains the main tool to control PPR outbreaks; Depending on the assessment and surveillance data, PPR vaccination should be time-limited (two successive years vaccination in Stage 2, followed by vaccination of young animals (4 months to one year in age) within one year or two) with high coverage aiming for 100 percent vaccination coverage to achieve the necessary flock immunity in high-risk areas;

The meeting recommended:

- Countries adopt a risk-based vaccination approach aiming to reach 100% immunity of the flocks in hotspot areas;
- Countries carry out Post Vaccination Evaluation (PVE) at the completion of each round of vaccination to evaluate the immune response and the population immunity;
- Neighbouring countries take necessary efforts to harmonise and synchronise their vaccination campaigns
- Countries consider full involvement of stakeholders including private sectors and NGOs during planning and implementation of vaccination campaigns.
- FAO and OIE support PVE training as needed.
- SAARC Secretariat, may further follow-up during the upcoming Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) meeting to explore the possibility to establish a regional PPR vaccine bank with the support of OIE and FAO.

## **2.4. Control of other small ruminant diseases in support of PPR eradication**

Considering that the PPR GCES advocates combining PPR with strategies to control other important diseases of small ruminants for better cost-effectiveness when adequate epidemiological data are available, the meeting took note of the below updated list of priority diseases (table 1 below);

Table 1: List of prioritized other small ruminant diseases (SRD)

Countries	Priority SRD		
	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3
Bangladesh	Parasitic diseases	Contagious caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP)	Enterotoxaemia
Bhutan	Contagious Ecthyma (Orf)	CCPP	
India	Bluetongue	Sheep & Goat Pox	Enterotoxaemia
Maldives	Foot and mouth disease		
Nepal	Parasitic diseases	SGP	CCPP
Pakistan	Mycoplasmosis	Enterotoxaemia	SGP
Sri Lanka	No priority disease selected		

## **2.5. PPR Resource Mobilization**

Considering that PPR eradication can be achieved only with sufficient political and financial investment, that the PPR resource mobilisation is a shared responsibility between FAO/OIE, the regional economic organizations and the countries;

The meeting recommended:

- Countries advocate and raise awareness among stakeholders as well as to sensitize them on the PPR GEP;
- Countries map national budgets allocated for animal health interventions and in particular for PPR control and share consolidated information with the PPR Secretariat.
- Countries and SAARC Secretariat, SAC may plan to attend the PPR Global Conference scheduled to be held in Brussels in September 2018. It would be a forum for countries to commit national investments and to confirm political commitment to the initiative and for donors and resource partners to contribute to the global programme and to establish a global coalition for PPR Eradication.
- Countries encourage farmer organizations and private sector representatives to participate in the PPR Stakeholder forum to be organized the day before the PPR Pledging Conference.

## **2.6. PPR Regional Advisory Group (RAG)**

The meeting participants discussed the composition of the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) and agreed that, taking into consideration that the chair and a vice-chair have been changed; new members/composition will be formed during the next CVO meeting to be organized by the SAARC Secretariat later in 2018. SAARC Secretariat will liaise with the PPR Secretariat on this topic. Once renewed, the Regional Advisory Group will be supported by the PPR Secretariat and SAARC Secretariat to establish a link with the different SAARC countries on a regular basis, for a better follow-up of the implementation of recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PPR Roadmap meeting and, more broadly, to support the PPR – GEP implementation.

## **2.7. Regional epidemiology and laboratory networks**

Considering that PPR is transboundary animal disease that need coordination and harmonisation of strategies and activities as well as information sharing, the meeting recommended SAARC Secretariat, with FAO and OIE support, to explore the possibility to strengthen the existing regional epidemiology and laboratory networks to share information, exchange expertise and harmonize control measures in the region.

## **2.8. OIE PVS Pathway**

Considering the key role of the Veterinary Services in PPR eradication, in line with PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy, the meeting recommended:

- Countries make use of their OIE PVS mission reports to i) estimate the capability of the Veterinary Services ii) identify the area where the Veterinary Service should build capacity to further progress toward PPR eradication.
- Countries having carried out a PVS evaluation before 2014, consider requesting a PVS Follow-up mission and that countries having identified specific needs under the PVS pathway (PVS legislation or PVS Laboratory) to send an official request to the OIE,
- Countries may send a request to OIE for PVS follow up mission including a PPR dedicated content;

## **2.9. Establishment of PPR reference lab in SAARC region**

The meeting recommended that Bangladesh would pursue to strengthen their PPR laboratory (SAARC regional lead diagnostic laboratory for PPR) in order to comply with OIE requirements for OIE Reference Laboratory.

## **2.10. Regional quality control for animal vaccines**

SAARC Secretariat may follow-up during the upcoming Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) meeting the possibility to establish a regional quality control center for animal vaccines that was recommended during the 1<sup>st</sup> PPR roadmap meeting.

The meeting agreed that material presented at roadmap meeting, including country reports and meeting reports, be published on the GF-TADs website.

## **Acknowledgement**

The participants in the PPR Regional Roadmap Meeting for SAARC are grateful to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the SAARC Secretariat, FAO and OIE for the support extended to them during the preparation and the conduct of the meeting.

Dhaka, 22 March 2018

## ANNEXES

## **Annex 1- Updated PPR Stage Progression 2018 – 2030**

*(based on country self-assessment)*