

***First Peste des petits ruminants Regional Roadmap Meeting  
for ASEAN countries, China, Mongolia and Timor Leste***

**Qingdao, People's Republic of China, 26 - 28 April 2017**

## **BACKGROUND**

Small ruminants, sheep and goats, represent a significant part of the world livestock sector. In many countries, they have an essential role in livelihood and food security. Thus, in these countries small ruminants have a direct impact on the country economy and wellbeing of the entire population. ASEAN countries<sup>1</sup>, China and Mongolia represent 23 % of the global 2, 1 billion small ruminant population.

One of the main factors limiting sustainable and flourishing small ruminant production is the presence of infectious diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), a disease that causes high morbidity and mortality among susceptible animals. Thus, in infected countries where the disease is endemic, PPR is a serious threat to small ruminant production and the development of the whole livestock value chain, and therefore affect livelihoods and food security far beyond the people who own and raise sheep and goats. In 2016, it was reported for the first time in Georgia and Mongolia (over 53 million small ruminants). If left uncontrolled, it will spread even further, causing further losses and hardship for millions of farmers and herders, most of whom are women, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, organised in Abidjan (31 March to 2 April, 2015) an International Conference which adopted the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). The global strategy aims to eradicate PPR by 2030 while reinforcing the veterinary services and improving animal health globally by reducing the impact of other major infectious diseases of small ruminants.

The PPR GCES engages Regional Economic Communities and their respective countries in the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings to harmonise and synchronise the implementation of the strategy in all affected countries.

In collaboration with the Veterinary Bureau of China, FAO and OIE, through their joint PPR Secretariat, organised the first PPR Roadmap meeting for the region in Qingdao from 26 to 28 April 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

The meeting brought together Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), laboratory specialists and epidemiologists from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as representatives from FAO and OIE. List of participants is attached in Annex.

The meeting was officially opened by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Chief Veterinary Officer of China, following remarks from Dr Monique Eloit, Director General of the OIE, Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and Dr Ma Hongchao Director General of China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC).

The objectives for the PPR Roadmap meeting were to:

- 1- Present the PPR GCES and its tools in a detailed manner and the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) launched in October 2016 by FAO and OIE
- 2- Carry out a first assessment of each country's situation regarding PPR and the capacity of Veterinary Services to control it in this region
- 3- Provide an update on the evolving PPR situation in Mongolia
- 4- Identify countries and regional visions toward PPR eradication
- 5- Identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR;
- 6- Set up the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) to oversee the implementation of PPR control activities in the region;
- 7- Develop the regional Roadmap for the region and obtain countries' engagement for its implementation.

Following fruitful discussions, the participants in the Roadmap Meeting agreed on the following:

### **1. PPR status in the region**

From the country presentations, it appears that:

- 2 countries<sup>2</sup> have officially been recognized PPR free by the OIE (Philippines and Thailand)
- 3 countries historically free from the disease have not yet applied for the OIE free status (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam)
- 2 countries are reporting PPR outbreaks (China since 2007 and Mongolia since September 2016):

The efforts undertaken by China since the first occurrence of the disease contributed to reduce the number of PPR outbreaks in 2016 (8) and 2017 (1). The vaccination campaigns should be maintained and associated with PVE (Post Vaccination Evaluation) as recommended in the PPR GCES.

In Mongolia, despite the fact that more than 10 million of small ruminant were vaccinated in October 2016, as an emergency response to the first incursion of PPR, the disease further spread and spilled over to wildlife, mainly Mongolian saiga. Considering the challenges faced: limited understanding of the prevalence of PPR, its distribution among the different farming systems; limited human and financial resources; and inadequate awareness of farmer organizations, the meeting recommended Mongolia to strengthen efforts in order to (i) strengthen their veterinary capacities at all levels for disease control and eradication; (ii) carry out a country-wide surveillance (livestock and wildlife) to map the extension of the disease; (iii) improve the PPR vaccination coverage on sheep and goats

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<sup>2</sup> In addition to the two countries, Myanmar is also officially recognized PPR free.

using independently certified vaccines + Post vaccination evaluation (PVE) to assess the level of immunity; (iv) support communication and advocacy for campaign implementation and fundraising. The meeting also called for more assistance from partners to support Mongolia's efforts.

Regarding countries historically PPR free, the meeting recommended an assessment of their epidemiological situation and the preparation of country dossiers to be submitted to the OIE.

In all countries, the meeting recommended to continue building capacity on surveillance and laboratory systems and to develop preparedness plans. Countries are also encouraged to identify PPR risk areas and practices along the small ruminant value chains that may contribute to PPR introduction and/or spread and take appropriate preventive measures.

The meeting also recommended ASEAN countries to take necessary actions to include PPR in their priority animal diseases.

The meeting further recommended ASEAN Member countries to participate and implement the PPR GEP using the existing regional platforms.

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

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

Considering that several countries within the region never experienced PPR outbreaks;

The meeting recommended to countries to develop or update their PPR National Strategic Plans (NSP) taking into consideration their epidemiological situation. Free countries are encouraged to develop their contingency and preparedness plans, and to consider applying for either the endorsement of the official control programme for PPR or for the official recognition of their PPR free status by the OIE.

## **3. Strengthening of surveillance systems and laboratory capacities**

Considering the need to develop the epidemiological skills required to conduct PPR surveillance;

Considering the need to enable the full diagnosis of PPR within the region from ELISA to virus isolation;

Noting that the OIE Reference laboratory for PPR, CAHEC, is organizing annual training courses on PPR diagnostics;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to organise refresher training of veterinary staff to review clinical recognition of PPR and its differential diagnosis and to extend the training also to sample collection, shipping and laboratory diagnosis;
- Countries to make use of the training opportunities provided by CAHEC;
- FAO and OIE to support strengthening the laboratory and surveillance capacities within the region.

## **4. PPR Vaccination**

Considering that vaccination (using certified vaccines in compliance with OIE standards) remains the main tool to control PPR outbreaks in endemic settings;

Considering that, depending on the assessment and surveillance data, the vaccination should be time-limited with high coverage aiming for 100 percent vaccination coverage to achieve the necessary flock immunity in high-risk areas;

Considering that the vaccination protocol adopted in the PPR GEP recommends two successive years vaccination in Stage 2, followed by vaccination of young animals (4 months to one year in age) within one year;

The meeting recommended that:

- Countries adopt a risk-based vaccination approach aiming to reach 100% immunity of the flocks in hotspot areas;
- Countries carry out PVE at the completion of each round of vaccination to evaluate the population immunity;
- FAO and OIE support PVE training as needed.
- FAO and OIE, in collaboration with relevant institutions, explore the possibility to establish a regional PPR vaccine bank.

## 5. Regional Networking

Considering that regional epidemiology and laboratory networks are instrumental for the control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases such as PPR, the meeting recommended to strengthen the linkage and collaboration among the regional networks including Southeast, East and South Asia.

## 6. 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 agreed on the following list of priority diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR eradication (table 1).

Table 1: List of small ruminants diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR eradication

Countries	Animal diseases susceptible to be combined with PPR		
	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3
Cambodia	FMD	S&G Pox	
China	FMD		
Lao PDR	FMD	Orf <sup>3</sup>	Brucellosis
Mongolia	FMD	S&G Pox	Brucellosis

<sup>3</sup> Ecthyma contagiosum

Philippines	CAE <sup>4</sup>	Fasciolosis	Brucellosis
Thailand	FMD	Brucellosis	Orf
Vietnam	FMD	S&G Pox	Leptospirosis

## 7. PPR Resource Mobilization

Considering the launching in 2016, by FAO and OIE, of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021, presented during the meeting;

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 countries;

Considering the project funded through the South-South Cooperation on Transboundary Animal Disease Control in Greater Mekong Sub-Region;

The meeting recommended that:

- Countries support the FAO/OIE resource mobilisation strategy necessary for the implementation of the PPR GEP;
- Countries advocate and raise awareness of decision makers and stakeholders as well as sensitize their national partners on the PPR GEP;
- FAO and OIE provide the various communication materials as much as possible.

## 8. OIE PVS Pathway

Considering the key role of the Veterinary Services in PPR eradication, in line with the PPR GCES and the PPR-GEP, the meeting recommended that countries make use of their OIE PVS mission reports and update them by requesting an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow up mission where necessary (e.g., when original PVS Evaluation mission was carried out before 2013).

## 9. PPR Stage Progression 2016 – 2030

The Participants of the PPR Roadmap meeting agreed the below provisional PPR Stage Progression 2016 – 2030 as the regional Roadmap to achieve eradication of PPR by 2030 (table 2)

Table 2: PPR Stage Progression 2017 – 2030 for the Region  
(Based on country self-assessment)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Cambodia</b>	1	1	4	4	Status Free				
<b>China</b>	2	2	3	3	4	4	Status Free		
<b>Lao PDR</b>	1	1	4	4	Status Free				

<sup>4</sup> Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis

<b>Mongolia</b>	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	<b>Status Free</b>
<b>Phillipines</b>	<b>Status Free</b>								
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Status Free</b>								
<b>Vietnam</b>	4	4	4	<b>Status Free</b>					

The meeting recommended to FAO and OIE to take necessary action to inform countries from the region that did not participate in the roadmap meeting to carry out their self-assessment using the PMAT in order to complete the above table.

### 10. Regional Advisory Group

The meeting proposed the following members to serve as Regional Advisory Group (RAG):

- RAG elected voting members include the following:
  - Chair: CVO China
  - Vice-chair: CVO Cambodia
  - Vice-chair: CVO Mongolia
  - Coordinator of the Regional Epidemiology Network - Thailand
  - Coordinator of the Regional Laboratory Network: CAHEC
- RAG non-voting members include the following:
  - Regional Organization: ASEAN
  - FAO and OIE regional representatives.

### Acknowledgement

The meeting participants are grateful to the Government and People of China, the CVO of China, CAHEC and their staff, FAO and OIE, for the support extended to them during the preparation and the conduct of the meeting.

Qingdao, 28 April 2017