



6th FAO/OIE GF TADs regional steering committee meeting

Amman – Jordan 22 September 2013

Summary Report

6th regional meeting of the steering committee (RSC) of the OIE/FAO GF TADs for the Middle East was held in Amman – Jordan on the afternoon of the 22nd of September 2013, on the margin of the 12^{ve} conference of the OIE regional commission.

The main objective was to follow up activities implemented under this framework and to develop consensus on future actions, notably regarding terms of reference of the action plan and the recommendations of the 5th RSC meeting held in Dubai in April 2012, both items were adopted by Member Countries during relevant meetings.

Participants (annex I): 3 elected bureau members, representatives from both organizations, FAO and OIE, and observers from France, USDA/APHIS, AU-IBAR, AOAD and Italy were present to discuss the agenda of the meeting (annex II).

Proceedings: The meeting started with a welcome address from Dr **K. Alqahtani**, the president of the RSC and from Dr Fulvio Biancifiori, as the secretariat of the Global GF-TADs Steering Committee, and the OIE representative.

Dr. Fulvio Biancifiori, as the coordinator of the GF-TADs global secretariat, Reported on the global activities implemented in 2012-2013 and the upcoming events. He highlighted the meetings under GF-TADs flag contributing on the regional 5-years Action Plans.

Moving from Objectives to Activities and Results, the Global Secretariat drew out a scheme for RSCs reporting on activities related to TADs control, and adopting key performance indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timed (SMART).

Dr. Biancifiori listed the diseases which are given global top-priority, such as RP, FMD, PPR, HPAI, RVF, Rabies, Brucellosis. He described the work done and the expected results related.

Then **Dr Yehia**, as the secretariat of the RSC, updated the participants on what has been achieved since Dubai meeting in 2012 and according to the endorsed action plan, describing results of the meetings on FMD pathway, RVF interregional conference, LSD sub-regional meeting in Cyprus and the PPR consultative meeting in Riyadh.

He concluded by stressing that the FAO and OIE Regional Representations for Middle East continue the mandate of promoting and implementing of the GF-TADs objectives and developing an additional financial support; follow up programs on surveillance of priority animal diseases: (FMD pools, planning for PPR and other important diseases such as VBD, rabies, brucellosis, equine and camel diseases).

Dr. J. Domenech enumerated the recommendations proposed by the two sub-regional meetings on FMD and identified what has been done, partially done and what is needed to be completed. He mentioned, among others, that all countries that are part of the Middle East region, have started to

develop or developed their control strategies in line with the FAO/OIE Global Strategy on FMD control;

He also noted that the interactions between the West Asia and the West Eurasia part of the Middle East region has been taken partially into account and articulated within the Middle East roadmap/programs.

Dr. Domenech concluded that the OIE and FAO support countries of the region in order to implement the Middle East roadmap, using mechanisms such as the GF-TADs and the capacity of its Steering Committee for the Middle East, the laboratory and epidemiology networks and specific technical projects at country and regional level has already been done.

Dr. Domenech also stressed that the regional GF-TADs Steering Committee for Middle East, should continue to monitor GF-TADs' FMD roadmap meetings to evaluate the country statuses vis-a-vis the regional roadmap, exchange of information, share experiences and address constraints, including funding.

Dr. Biancifiori presented the paper of M. Tibbo on the work of FAO on major animal diseases prevailing in the ME with particular emphasis on PPR.

He summarized the outcomes of the consultative meeting on PPR held in Riyadh this year. Among others, Dr. Biancifiori highlighted the request of the countries to FAO and OIE to assist in developing a coordinated regional PPR strategic plan.

Countries also agreed to be engaged in developing national PPR strategic plans including a PPR contingency plan; and to establish a reference laboratory for PPR within the region. In this regard, Kuwait was considered a potential location for the Regional Reference Laboratory for PPR.

The Riyadh workshop on PPR also recommended that research be undertaken on the possible roles of dromedaries and wildlife in PPR transmission.

Dr. F. Biancifiori also addressed the other presentation of Dr M. Tibbo (FAO-ME) on the work of FAO regarding Brucellosis which describes the need of a stepwise approach for progressive control of brucellosis in animals, consisting of a roadmap of four stages each with a situation analysis, expected outcome and key activities.

USDA APHIS representative suggested the establishment of an electronic forum for the Global GF-TADs through which, interested experts from the international veterinary community can share innovative thoughts and contributions. He also highlighted the training courses provided by USDA APHIS on veterinary epidemiology, risk analysis and TADs. Some slots in these three main courses can be available for the trainees from the region but need to be funded. The OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East that expressed its interest to work with any potential donors in this regard.

Discussions were opened on the way forward with the collaboration of other donor agencies and finally, participants of the 6th RSC agreed on a set of recommendations for the way forward (attached).

