



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

## **Concept Note**

### **4th FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SPC Members**

**Fiji**

**28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017**

#### **Background:**

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative which specifically aims at the control and prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Emerging Infectious Diseases, providing a regional coordinating framework for a range of infectious disease control activities occurring at global and regional levels.

Regional Specialised Organisations (RSO) such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), were identified as key actors in the implementation of GF-TADs. In their interaction with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), national Veterinary Services and technical specialists, the RSOs strategize and prioritise activities for disease control, notification, surveillance, and risk mitigation.

The 8th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in 2014 recommended to have an RSC meeting every other year to allow for consultations with RSOs to take place between RSC meetings. It was agreed to continue in this way at the 9<sup>th</sup> RSC Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific in 2016.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sub-regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SPC Members was held in December 2015 and identified a need for specific technical training, capacity building, incorporating animal welfare strategy and one health into the animal health program. The main focus of GF-TADs in the Pacific region is on sharing information and prevention and early detection activities.

For this reason, it is proposed to hold a 3 day GF-TADs workshop for SPC Members to update on the current disease situation in the Asian Pacific region and globally and share information amongst SPC members on the current disease situation, including disease reporting and WAHIS reporting and other concerns in the sub-regional. It is also proposed to provide some technical training on biosecurity and emergency preparedness and response – for both disease outbreaks and disaster response. One Health and Animal Welfare will also be included as topics for discussion during the meeting to be incorporated into a holistic strategy for SPC members.

The SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) has also requested to include topics on Transboundary diseases of aquatic animals and will fund participation of specific SPC member

country aquatic biosecurity officers. They will participate in some of the program for GF-TADs and have some breakout sessions to discuss in more detail on aquatic topics.

The Sub-Regional GF-TADs meeting for SPC will provide an opportunity to exchange information with partners on issues specific to the Pacific countries and with the sub-region on updates on GF-TADs developments and implementation.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the Meeting are to:

1. Provide/share updates on GF-TADs work in the SPC region;
2. Review the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2015 meeting as well as the Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific.
3. Provide some technical training and capacity building, taking the opportunity of having members together and as recommended in previous GF-TADs meetings.
4. Discuss issues, challenges and possible solutions pertaining to implementation of GF-TADs activities.
5. Agree on some regional strategies to increase engagement and awareness among SPC members and improve animal health and welfare, emergency preparedness and biosecurity practices, and disease investigation.