



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



17th meeting with the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee
26 October 2021
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM



Participants:

JAC - Junaidu Maina, Geneviève Libeau, David Ulaeto, Mo Salman, Catherine Robertson

FAO - Samia Metwally, Shija Jacob, Kasumi Sudo

OIE - Mariana Marrana

Apologies: Gerrit Viljoen (JAC)

Agenda

1. Update on the detection of contaminated samples at TPI (FAO)
2. RHF site inspection for extension of designation (OIE/FAO)
3. IZSLT application for RHF Cat B (FAO)
4. Update on the risk assessment project (OIE)
5. Advocacy and outreach meeting in early 2022 (FAO)
6. Any other business

Minutes

1. Samia updated the Committee on the contamination of PPR samples with rinderpest virus at the Pirbright Institute (TPI). This incident has likely occurred due to improper decontamination of biosafety cabinets in-between work in 1992. TPI has determined the extent of the contamination and destroyed the concerned vials on 2 November 2021. A comprehensive incident report including the record of destruction of contaminated stock is expected to the rinderpest secretariat in the coming days. It was discussed to update the mandate for all RHF's by including immediate reporting to the rinderpest secretariat of any incident related to rinderpest virus. The possibility of testing PPR historical samples for rinderpest by PCR if intended to be shared with other laboratories was also discussed. It was mentioned that while sequencing PPR samples at TPI one of the CIRAD's PPR samples that came through was measles virus. Genevieve will follow up on this.
2. Mariana updated the Committee on the extension of RHF's mandate. All currently designated RHF's were either designated or had their designation extended in 2019 for a period of 3 years. Therefore, all 7 RHF's mandate ends in 2022. The rinderpest secretariat proposed that the RHF's that were first designated in 2015 would have site inspections (Ethiopia, Japan, UK, and USA), while all RHF's designated would be subject to a document review including China and France. The team for site inspection will comprise two biosafety and biosecurity experts (Catherine Robertson and another expert to be determined) along with one FAO and one OIE observers. Reducing the inventory of RVCM will be added to the RHF mandate.
3. Shija informed the group that the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e Toscana (IZSLT) in Rome (near Ciampino airport) applied to be designated as a RHF category B. This application was first discussed with Juan Lubroth around 2 years ago, and the Italian CVO was involved. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and a change in the Italian CVO delayed the submission of the application. Shija mentioned that the two key documents in the application, the National Contingency Plan and the Biosafety manual were in Italian and IZSLT would provide the English translated documents soon. The plan would be to store around 5 million doses of rinderpest RBOK vaccine in IZSLT. A vaccine manufacturer and funding to produce the vaccines are to be identified.
4. Mariana provided an update on the rinderpest re-emergence risk assessment project. The review of progress, led by the Texas A&M University, is progressing well. All the interviews were done (except for Iran and Turkey), and the participants will be given the opportunity to comment on the report. With regards to the risk assessment, the Royal Veterinary College is using the information from the review of progress to update the model used in 2011. The risk pathways were defined at the beginning of the project and the findings from TPI do not alter the pathways that had previously been identified, since the possibility of sample contamination had already been considered. The risk assessment will be published in the first half of 2022.

5. FAO informed the group that a rinderpest advocacy and outreach hybrid meeting would take place in early 2022 where the countries storing the virus will possibly be invited in person to FAO HQs if the COVID situation improved. JAC will be invited to the meeting.
6. Other business: Cathy suggested it would be good to have more frequent consultative calls with the JAC.

Actions:

1. **Action item:** TPI to send the rinderpest secretariat a comprehensive incident report.
2. **Action item:** FAO to send JAC the notes of the meeting with TPI. COMPLETED.
3. **Action items:** FAO & OIE to finalize the team, TOR and financing for the RHF site inspection.
4. **Action items:** IZSLT to provide English translated NCP and biosafety manual. COMPLETED.
5. **Action item:** Mariana to share the review of progress and risk assessment reports with FAO and JAC before publishing it.

This document is produced under the umbrella of the GF-TADs

