



PROJECT FACT SHEET

Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Pakistan - Progressive Control of Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Pakistan

Project Code: GCP/PAK/127/USA

The objective of the project is to contain current spread of PPR in Pakistan and mitigate its impacts to safeguard small ruminant-based livelihoods.

Background

PPR is a highly contagious viral disease of sheep and goats. The disease is caused by a virus which belongs to same Morbillivirus family causing rinderpest. It was reported in Pakistan for the first time in 1991. Since then the disease is considered to be endemic in the country with periodical epidemics waves. It is estimated that PPR causes annual losses of more than USD 342 million through high levels of morbidity and mortality and the resulting depletion of genetic stock. A recent countrywide serologic study of 206 villages undertaken by the Government of Italy-funded and FAO-implemented project revealed that 60 % of villages had PPR outbreaks during 2011 and 45% of 6-18 months old sheep and goats in those villages had been exposed to the PPR virus.

Many of Pakistan's veterinarians and para-vets are not familiar with PPR or are unable to diagnose the disease clinically. Thus, laboratory support in confirming diagnosis of the disease is of paramount importance. At present, only one laboratory in the country can properly diagnose PPR. Disease surveillance in livestock in the country can at best be described as weak. Surveillance and reporting of PPR in sheep and goats is further complicated due to lack of awareness among the livestock farmers and a lack of distinct and disease-specific clinical signs in affected animals. PPR is under-reported in the country.

Outputs and Key Activities:

The project would develop and demonstrate an approach for progressive control of PPR in Pakistan.

1. Strengthen one lab in each province/region for diagnosis of the PPR;
2. Evaluate reliable on-spot diagnostic aid or animal pen-side tests under field conditions;
3. Strengthen the country's veterinary laboratory network;
4. Upgrade facilities for molecular diagnosis (RT-PCR) and virus isolation at federal level;
5. Strengthen PPR vaccine manufacturing at VRI, Lahore;
6. Strengthen NVL for evaluation of PPR vaccine;
7. Capacity building for field veterinarians (public and private) and para-vet staff;
8. Diagnosing and reporting PPR outbreaks and sample collection and submission;
9. Undertake epidemiological investigation of selected outbreaks; and
10. Vaccination of sheep and goats in different production systems in selected areas.
11. Increased follow-up surveillance for PPR in the vaccinated areas.



FAST FACTS

Donor: United States Department of Agriculture

Budget: USD 1,655,000

Implementing period: March 2013 - February 2016

Geographical area: AJK, Balochistan, KPK, Punjab, Sindh

Implementing agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Government and Other Counterparts: Ministry of National Food Security and Research and the Provincial and Regional Livestock and Dairy

For more information

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