ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION MODULE

Key Highlight 2023
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LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

The FAO Regional office for Asia and Pacific (FAO RAP) Animal Health and Production module supported sustainable climate-smart livestock production, good husbandry and farming practices, and better production through a series of activities over the past year. These include:

1. Co-organizing a workshop on addressing methane and greenhouse gas (GHG) issues in livestock production and the multistakeholder collaboration to strengthen sustainability and resilience of livestock systems in response to drivers of change (See workshop report and video highlights);

2. Serving as the Secretariat for the Animal Production and Health Commission in Asia and the Pacific (APHCA), the Animal Health and Production Module is dedicated to enhancing standards of living of smallholder farmers, communities and all stakeholders in the livestock sector. The focus is on promoting equitable, sustainable and safe livestock sector development. APHCA advocates for livestock sector transformation to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable through information sharing and capacity development for Member Nations. Some of the key areas currently championed by APHCA include promoting sustainable, climate-smart livestock and dairy production, reducing the use of antimicrobials in animal feed and production, improving farm biosecurity, enhancing livestock transport and processing practices, mitigating the impact of transboundary animal diseases, and transforming food systems and value chains through One Health. Recently, the Animal Health and Production Module successfully implemented the 44th Business Session and 82nd Executive Committee of APHCA in Delhi, India. This event was conducted in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Commissioner of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Government of India.
3. Co-organizing of the global conference on the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) in Chiang Mai, Thailand with the Thai Department of Livestock Development. The conference provided a neutral platform for stakeholders to explore innovative approaches for efficient, nutritious and environmentally-friendly animal-source food production. A policy forum was also organized to address policies needed to response to drivers of change and transform livestock systems. Additionally, a panel session on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was held, focusing on this critical issue in livestock.

4. Developing of a set of guidelines

- Monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from healthy food animals intended for consumption (Volume 1)
- Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance surveillance in animal pathogens recovered from clinically or sub-clinically diseased livestock and poultry (Volume 2) (Upcoming)
- Monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in bacterial pathogens from aquaculture (Volume 3)
- Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in animal settings/environment (Volume 4) (Upcoming)
- Guidelines on monitoring antimicrobial use at the farm level (Volume 5)
- Monitoring of antimicrobial residues in foods of animal origin (Volume 6) (Upcoming)
- Livestock transportation and slaughter practices: Practical guidelines for Asia and the Pacific region
- Climate-smart livestock production: A practical guide for Asia and the Pacific region

5. Development and implementation of Global Environment Fund (GEF) climate-smart livestock projects with the governments of Cambodia (Ministry of Environment), India (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) and Indonesia (Ministry of Environment and Forestry).
Transboundary Animal Diseases

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) are increasingly impacting livestock production and are continuously spreading across Asia, with new countries being affected in 2023. This also increases the risks for spillover into wildlife population, posing a conservation concern, or spillover into humans (zoonotic diseases or pandemics like COVID-19).

1. In 2023, the RAP Animal Health and Production Module provided direct support to Member Nations at both country and regional levels, strengthening coordination and information sharing among regional partners under the Global Framework for the Control of TADs (GF-TADs). This included co-convening subregional GF-TADs meetings for the Pacific Community (SPC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), as well as the 12th Regional GFTADs Steering Committee. A new joint Regional GF-TADs strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2023 to 2027 and two-year work plan were adopted by Member Nations in May 2023.

2. At national level, in response to incursions and outbreaks, three disease trainings were developed and delivered through the Virtual Learning Centre (VLC RAP): Lumpy skin disease (LSD), African swine fever (ASF) and foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD). These courses included two on diseases prioritized by GF-TADs.

3. Support was provided to the National FMD Reference Laboratories in Indonesia and Philippines to participate in FMD Proficiency Testing Scheme organized by the World Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
1. The FAO RAP Animal Health and Production Module co-convened, in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development, an Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific. A policy guide was also published focused on opportunities for enhancing health, biodiversity, food system and climate action. This publication provides insights on the opportunities for mainstreaming the environmental component in One Health in the region and key recommendations for policy makers and stakeholders to strengthen One Health implementation.

2. The FAO RAP Animal Health and Production Module co-led the One Health and its Environmental Dimension in the Asia-Pacific Region: a One Health Side event with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the Fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific. This event provided a significant opportunity to advocate for the relevance of One Health to the wildlife and environment sectors. It also aimed to raise awareness of the sectors’ role in One Health implementation, including the One Health Joint Plan of Action, to senior-level government officials in the environment sector (See agenda, concept note, Zoom recording, presentations and videos, and photos).

3. One Health initiatives as Regional Quadripartite (QPT) were delivered and these included, hosting Asia-Pacific One Health workshop to assist countries to develop their own OH Joint Plan of Action, revising the One Health Monitoring Tool (OHMT) and developing a regional one health outlook paper.
5. The RAP Animal Health and Production Module, as part of the Regional Quadripartite Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health Representation (WOAH) supported the implementation of a series of Asia and the Pacific Regional Quadripartite activities. This included:

- Regional Tripartite webinar on neglected parasitic zoonoses in regional countries
- National Bridging Workshop (NBW) in Sri Lanka
- National Bridging Workshop (NBW) on rabies in Indonesia
- One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) in Singapore
- One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) Regional Facilitator Training for South East Asia
- Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) Operational Tool (OT) in Republic of Korea
- Regional meeting on Joint Risk Assessment in WHO Southeast Asia Regional Office countries
- National Bridging Workshop (NBW) in NBW Lao PDR, NBW Vietnam and NBW Cambodia, Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) training in Republic of Korea
- Tripartite World Rabies Day Webinar in regional countries
- Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) on Henipavirus in Philippines, National Bridging Workshop (NBW) in Nepal

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