Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
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CONCEPT NOTE

PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) Launch

INAUGURAL MEETING

17th - 19th April 2018

VIENNA | AUSTRIA

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BACKGROUND

Following the successful global eradication of rinderpest in 2011, **global consensus has been reached on the need to eradicate Peste des petits ruminants (PPR).** The PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy was endorsed in April 2015, during the international conference on PPR held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire with the vision for global freedom by 2030. To further advance towards the accomplishment of this goal, in March 2016, FAO and OIE established the Joint Secretariat to guide the PPR eradication effort. This global action was driven by strong evidence that PPR undermines the important role played by sheep and goats in improving rural livelihoods.

Small ruminants (2.1 billion heads worldwide – FAOSTAT) are the primary livestock resource of 300 million poor rural families throughout the globe. For livestock keeping households, sheep and goats are: a source of regular income; a means to capitalize savings; and a safety net during hardships. Selling animals or their products provides the necessary resources to access food, as well as educational and social services for their families. Small ruminants are movable assets that can be easily relocated in times of climatic stress or volatile security situations.

Since its initial identification in Côte d'Ivoire in the 1942, PPR has spread at an alarming rate with now more than 70 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Middle East being infected. Consequently, today, over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat populations are at risk. PPR causes annual economic losses of up to USD 2.1 billion, but the costs extend beyond monetary considerations. PPR adversely affects livelihoods, food security, and employment, including for women and youth and exacerbates poverty and malnutrition. In vulnerable countries and regions with high small ruminant smallholder populations, the loss of livestock can induce social and economic instability, contribute to the breakdown of civil society, provoke conflict and in the worst case, even fuel terrorism. Mongolia reported its first-ever PPR outbreaks in sheep and goats in September 2016. In December 2016 the disease spilled over to wild antelope species killing more than 50% of the Saiga antelope population, a critically endangered species according to IUCN[1].

To implement the global strategy, an initial PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) for 2017-2021 was developed through an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process and launched by FAO and OIE, under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in October 2016.

The PPR GEP approach encompasses a multi-country, multi-stage sequential process comprising of epidemiological and socio-economic assessments, control, eradication and maintenance of PPRV freedom. Regardless of the stage in which a country initially places itself, the country will be supported to achieve the capacity needed for the implementation of five key technical elements of PPR prevention and control. These are: diagnostic system; surveillance system; prevention and control system; legal framework; and stakeholders' involvement. The PPR GEP will benefit from strengthened national Veterinary Services and will therefore support their strengthening as well as activities geared towards reducing the prevalence of other prioritized small ruminant diseases. Furthermore, the PPR GEP will provide required technical assistance and coordination at regional and global levels.

The PPR GCES foresees the establishment of a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR GREN) which will build strong partnerships between researchers and technical bodies, regional organizations and well-recognized experts and development partners. It will also play an important advocacy role with policy-makers at national, regional and international levels. In 2014, an electronic conference organized by FAO and OIE and involving 307 subscribers expressed enthusiastic support for the establishment of the PPR GREN which will serve as a forum for scientific and technical consultations to foster a science based and innovative debate on PPR. During the electronic conference, keys areas for research were identified. Two Global PPR Research Alliance meetings took place in 2012 and 2013.

The inaugural meeting of the PPR Advisory Committee took place in Paris at OIE HQ, on 29 June 2017.

The launch the PPR-GREN is scheduled to be held in Vienna from 17 to 19 April 2018 with the support of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. A draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of PPR GREN have been circulated to the meeting's participants for review and inputs.

1 International Union for Conservation of Nature

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OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The meeting's objectives are to:

1. Lay the foundations for building strong partnerships between researchers, research institutes, regional organizations and development partners
2. Agree on the terms of reference (ToR) and elect the Bureau of the PPR-GREN
3. Update on the PPR GEP implementation progress
4. Update on the ongoing PPR research activities
5. Discuss and build consensus regarding mid-term priority research opportunities and needs within the strategic needs of the PPR-GEP.

The following results are expected:

- A global partnership to support the PPR eradication by 2030 is established between researchers, research institutes, regional organizations and development partners
- Priority research opportunities and needs identified
- ToR approved and Bureau established.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Expected meeting participants include in particular representatives from the following:

- PPR WRL: CIRAD Montpellier (France), The Pirbright Institute (United Kingdom) and Centre for Animal Health and Epidemiology, Qingdao (China)
- Research institutions: ILRI; IFAH; ICAR-Indian; Royal Veterinary College, UK; International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Germany
- National Veterinary Research Institutes in developing countries
- AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC
- Universities
- GALVMed
- Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS)
- Regional epidemiology and laboratory networks
- PPR experts
- PPR vaccine producers
- Joint FAO/IAEA Division
- FAO and OIE Headquarters
- PPR Secretariat.

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DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: 17 APRIL 2018		
Time	***Topic***	***Speaker***
08.00 – 09.00	Registration	
09.00 – 09.30	- IAEA remarks - OIE remarks - FAO remarks	Meera Venkatesh, Acting DDG for Nuclear Sciences and Applications IAEA Matthew Stone, OIE DDG Berhe Tekola, Director AGA
	Participants self-introduction	Participants
Session 1: Overview on the PPR GEP		
09.30 – 10.30	Update on the PPR GEP implementation Questions & Answers	PPR Secretariat
10.30 – 11.00	*Coffee break*	
Session 2: PPR GREN organization and management		
11.00 – 11.30	PPR GREN TOR & Rules of Procedure	PPR Secretariat
11.30 – 13.00	Discussion and adoption	Participants
13.00 – 14.00	*Lunch break*	
14.00 – 15.00	Election of the PPR GREN Bureau	Participants
Session 3: Update from other global and regional networks		
15.00 – 15.30	IAEA laboratory network Questions & Answers	Giovanni Cattoli, IAEA
15.30 – 16.00	*Coffee break*	
16.00 – 16.15	Regional epidemiology & laboratory network in East Africa	Ameha Sebsibe, IGAD
16.15 – 16.30	Regional epidemiology & laboratory network in West Africa	Vivian Iwar, ECOWAS
16.30 – 16.45	Regional laboratory network in Asia	Filip Claes, ECTAD RAP
16.45 – 17.00	Questions & Answers	
End of Day 1		

Day 2: 18 APRIL 2018		
Session 4: Update on PPR research activities		
09.00 – 09.25	AU-PANVAC activities on diagnostic assays development for PPR control in Africa Questions & Answers	Charles Bodjo, AU-PANVAC
09.25 – 09.50	PPR research and development and PPR PT testing Questions & Answers	William Dundon, IAEA
09.50 – 10.10	Widening the scope of PPR diagnostic: adaptation and development to target non-typical hosts and field situations	Arnaud Bataille, CIRAD
10.10 – 10.30	Tools (epidemiology and DIVA vaccines) for PPR eradication Questions & Answers	Satya Parida, The Pirbright Institute
10.30 – 11.00	*Coffee break*	

11.00 – 10.20	Research at ILRI in support of PPR-GEP Questions & Answers	Barbara Wieland, ILRI
11.20 – 11.40	Monitoring wildlife PPR: progress and challenges Questions & Answers	Richard Kock, Royal Veterinary College
11.40 – 12.00	LVIF and PPR vaccine research Questions & Answers	Renee Larocque, IDRC
12.00 – 12.20	GALVmed's contribution to PPR vaccine improvements Questions & Answers	Jeremy Salt, GALVmed
12.20 – 12.40	Development of a stable liquid formulation of the PPR vaccine Questions & Answers	Nicholas Darton, ARECOR Limited
12.40 – 13.00	Discussions	
13.00 – 14.00	*Lunch break*	
Session 5: Priority research for PPR GEP		
14.00 – 14.30	Outcomes of the GREN e-conference (2014)	Paul Rossiter
14.30 – 15.30	Group work	Participants; facilitator e-GREN
15.30 – 16.00	*Coffee break*	
16.00 – 17.00	Group work	Participants; facilitator e-GREN
End of Day 2		

Day 3: 19 APRIL 2018		
Session 5: Priority research for PPR GEP		
09.00 – 10.30	Group work presentation Discussion	Participants
10.30 – 11.00	*Coffee break*	
Session 6: Conclusion and way forward		
11.00 – 12.00	Adoption of recommendations	Participants
12.00 – 12.30	Closing ceremony	Qu Liang, Director of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division Matthew Stone, OIE DDG Berhe Tekola, AGA Director
End of Inaugural Meeting		

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GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

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