



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

# 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee

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OIE HQ, Paris, France, 11-12 December 2018



## **1. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda**

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was opened by the Chair of the JAC, Dr Junaidu Maina, who greeted the participants and welcomed Dr Monique Eloit, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

In her opening remarks, Dr Eloit pointed out that less than 10 countries were holding rinderpest virus containing materials (RVCM) and that different approaches to advocacy may be needed to further reduce this number. Dr Eloit offered to hold bilateral meetings with the remaining countries holding RVCM during the 2019 OIE General Session.

On behalf of the JAC, Dr Maina also expressed appreciation for the work of Dr Alejandro Costa, who had sent his apologies for not being present.

Dr Samia Metwally (FAO) introduced Dr Danilo Pietretti, who had joined the FAO Co-Secretariat and would be working on matters related to rinderpest (RP) vaccine.

The agenda was adopted with minor modifications, as per Appendix I.

The list of participants is included as Appendix II.

The action items from the present meeting are included in this report as Appendix III.

## **2. Action Items from the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JAC**

Updates were provided on actions arising from the previous meeting. A number of outstanding actions would be carried forward so that their progress could be reviewed at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was decided that a short communication on rinderpest should be drafted and published in a scientific journal. This would cover subjects including the Global Rinderpest Action Plan (GRAP), Rinderpest Holding Facilities (RHF) Network, and prohibition on rinderpest virus synthesis and manipulation. The main message would be to demonstrate that FAO and OIE had an action plan in place, should rinderpest re-emerge.

**ACTION ITEM 1** – JAC to lead the draft of a short communication on RP preparedness to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

## **3. Rinderpest Holding Facilities and its Network**

The Committee discussed the status of the process for extending the designation of the five existing RHF. The evaluation of the submitted documentation was still ongoing. To assist with the evaluation, FAO had compiled data from the previous 3 years' RHF annual reports. Using these data, the FAO described the performance of each RHF against the RHF Mandate. Emphasis was placed on whether each RHF had contributed to sequestration and destruction of RVCM, participated in events organized by the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat, and taken an active role in the RHF Network.

It was agreed that additional information was needed for some of the RHF with the request to be made by FAO and OIE.. OIE pointed out that the extension evaluation process should be concluded by March 2019, so that the mandate of the RHF could be extended through adoption of a Resolution at the 87<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session.

FAO proposed a revision to the RHF annual report for Category B RHF to include a commitment for the institute to participate in rinderpest related meetings and events. This related to the changes to the mandate covered in a section below.

During the discussion on the RHF Network, the JAC encouraged FAO and OIE to play a more active role in coordinating the RHF Network and its activities in order to engage all players more equally. The JAC also recommended that an annual meeting of the network took place, either on the side of another pre-existing meeting or as a stand-alone meeting. It was suggested to invite the RHF's Biosafety Officers to such meetings.

FAO and OIE provided an update on the status of applications for new RHF. There had been no further development of the applications from Iran and Kazakhstan, nor had there been follow-up on the expression of interest from India. The Rinderpest Secretariat was waiting to receive additional information on the application from the Institute for Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC), China following an official communication from FAO and OIE which had highlighted the conditions for designation as RHF categories A and B.

There was a discussion about updating the RHF mandate to include a commitment to reduce stocks of RVCV which they held. The OIE did not agree to amend the mandate at this stage. FAO proposed to instead include this as one of the clauses in the terms and conditions of extension of designation. JAC agreed with this compromise proposal.

Following discussions between FAO and CIRAD concerning the establishment of vaccine seed banks, CIRAD would be communicating with OIE and FAO to express their intention to request approval as a category B RHF in addition to their existing status as category A.

**ACTION ITEM 2** – FAO and OIE to complete the evaluation of the documentation submitted by the RHF and request additional information as necessary. OIE to draft a Resolution for extension of the five RHF, and designation of CIRAD and IVDC, to be presented at the 87<sup>th</sup> General Session, in May 2019.

**ACTION ITEM 3** - Rinderpest Secretariat to identify the next event which the RHF representatives would attend so that a RHF Network side meeting can be organized.

#### **4. Rinderpest Vaccine**

FAO presented initiatives related to vaccine preparedness. In addition to the vaccine reserves already held by the two FAO-OIE designated RHF category B (in Japan (NIAH) and Ethiopia (AU-PANVAC) FAO had been working with the Italian Government to establish an FAO global vaccine reserve holding storage area, to be held at a military facility in Rome. The facility would submit an application for RHF category B once the commitment from Italian Government has been granted. FAO had also been undergoing discussions with CIRAD to establish a fully characterized vaccine master seed and to prepare production seed for vaccine production. CIRAD would hire a skilled molecular biologist to

produce master and production seed. The production seed would be sent to the RHF category B and, if necessary, to vaccine manufacturers after undergoing the established selection procedure. Similar work was ongoing with the category B RHF in Japan which had an agreement with FAO to produce master seed stocks as well as to extend the shelf life of the vaccine that was currently held.

Dr David Ulaeto led the discussion on the criteria for selection of manufacturers which wished to produce rinderpest vaccine. The criteria for replenishment/expansion of vaccine reserves (i.e. production in “peace time”) were drafted by a group of experts which met at the OIE Headquarters in December 2017. The criteria included requirements (mandatory) and recommendations (preferable) that cover good manufacturing practices and other aspects that were specific to an eradicated disease. The group worked on the wording of the text and agreed that a table should be added as an annex, in order to show the differences between vaccine production in peace time vs. emergency production. Once the document was finalized, it would be published on the FAO and OIE respective websites.

**ACTION ITEM 4** – OIE to share the criteria with Dr Costa and agree on a final version with FAO. FAO and OIE to publish the criteria on the rinderpest websites.

## **5. GRAP and Communications**

FAO updated the group on a press release announcing the launch of the GRAP, which included information on rinderpest post-eradication milestones, and announced that the GRAP had been selected by FAO Publications Department to be produced as an eBook. FAO also described ongoing communications activities which had already been implemented in India, Kenya, Pakistan Viet Nam and South Africa. These included e-learning and other communication tools, such as radio messages, videos, flyers, leaflets, pocket guide and book chapter, which had been tailored to target audiences in those countries. FAO also provided an update on the rinderpest history book, which was due to be published in 2019. It was decided to use the written chapter of JAC for this book as a baseline for future submission to scientific journal as per above ACTION ITEM 1.

Representatives of the OIE Communications Department joined the meeting to present on the OIE Rinderpest Campaign, which included ‘the serious game’ (an online game). The game had been a success, having attracted more than 2000 players from 80 countries. Overall, the “Never turn back” campaign had reached more than 5 million people. Part of this success was due to the OIE Ambassador Programme which was run in cooperation with the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA).

There was openness from both FAO and OIE to have co-branded communications initiatives in the future.

## **6. RVCM Destruction and Sequestration**

Dr Geneviève Libeau gave an update on the status of the ‘Sequence and Destroy’ projects at CIRAD and the Pirbright Institute. Both laboratories had sequenced whole genomes for a considerable number of viruses. They had also faced similar challenges to complete the sequence of additional samples, due to the challenging aspects of retrieving genetic material from tissue samples. Dr Libeau described the techniques that had been used throughout the project and the findings related to the vaccine strains. The project was scheduled to be completed in March 2019. Before then, both institutes

would try to complete the missing sequences, improve the phylogenetic analysis, complete databases, and start publishing results.

Dr Maina debriefed the JAC on his mission to the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria which had destroyed RVCM. An official report of the destruction with rectified dates would be sent to the Rinderpest Secretariat.

## **7. RHF's Mandate**

The group discussed the possibility of adding a new condition to the Terms and Conditions of RHF's to highlight that RHF's had a role to play in reducing global stocks of RVCM. It was decided that this should be added over a 3-year timeframe since OIE Resolution 23/2014, which lays out the Mandate for RHF's mentions 3-year designation period, with extension possible subject to the outcome of a review. Therefore, the new condition would be introduced when RHF's status is again up for renewal. RVCM that have missing information (e.g. origin, titration, viability) and RVCM which are considered to pose a greater risk than approved vaccine strains should be destroyed. This new condition would reduce the risk of rinderpest reoccurrence. The mandate for RHF category B would also be updated to include the condition to network with other RHF's, which was already a condition for category A RHF's.

## **8. OIE Terrestrial Code Chapter on Infection with RPV**

Representatives of the OIE Status and Standards departments joined the meeting for the discussion on the update of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on infection with rinderpest virus. The purpose of this update was to remove references to the 2010 version of the *Code*, to reintroduce the text concerning "vaccination to live", to include references to the GRAP, and to introduce a statement on the prohibition on manipulating existing RVCM and synthesis and/or production any RVCM without FAO and OIE permission. The chapter would be presented to the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) at their February 2019 meeting and the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) in the September 2019 meeting. The chapter would undergo two rounds of comments from OIE Member Countries as is the case with all the OIE official texts. If there were no major impediments the revised chapter would be proposed for adoption by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in May 2021.

After discussing the chapter, the committee debated the annual reporting obligations of OIE Member Countries. The JAC recommended that, starting in 2020, only countries that had reported to hold RVCM should be asked to report again in the subsequent year. This would ease the reporting burden for the majority of OIE Member Countries, while allowing the OIE staff to commit their time more effectively.

## **9. Roadmap and Conclusions**

It was agreed that the roadmap would be discussed at the beginning of every JAC meeting, along with the Action Items.

FAO and OIE thanked the JAC for their advice and guidance over the previous seven years, appreciating their continuous contribution towards maintaining global freedom from rinderpest. It was acknowledged that, even though the roadmap was almost complete, the remaining items were the most challenging ones. It was agreed that in 2019 only one face-to-face meeting would take place and if more frequent interaction was needed the JAC could meet electronically.

The members of the JAC, FAO and the OIE thanked the OIE for hosting the meeting. The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JAC was tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2019, at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France

## Appendix I

### 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING, RINDERPEST JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OIE HQ, Paris, 11-12 December 2018

#### Agenda

Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2018		Item	Speaker
9:00 – 9:20	Opening remarks		M Eloit (OIE DG) J Maina (Chair of the JAC)
9:20 – 9:30	Adoption of the agenda		All
9:30 – 9:45	Action items from the 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting		J Maina
<b>Rinderpest Holding Facilities and Network</b>			
9:45 – 11:45	Status of the RHF's extension process Status of RHF applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– China (category A and B)</li><li>– CIRAD (category A and discussion on the possibility of category B)</li><li>– Kazakhstan</li><li>– PANVAC</li><li>– Iran</li></ul>		S Metwally (FAO) M Marrana (OIE)
11:45 – 12:30	New annual report form		M Marrana (OIE)
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
<b>Rinderpest vaccine</b>			
14:00-15:45	Rinderpest vaccine seed bank Mechanism for selection of vaccine manufacturers in emergency situations		D Pietretti (FAO) D Ulaeto
<b>GRAP and Communications</b>			
15:45 – 16:45	GRAP press release Rinderpest book "Safeguarding Global Freedom from Rinderpest" chapter FAO activities for laypeople, vet, lab personnel and academia OIE Communication activities		S Metwally (FAO) Y Farhi (OIE)
<b>RVCM destruction and sequestration</b>			
16:45 – 17:15	Update on the S&D projects		G Libeau
17:15 – 17:30	RVCM destruction in Nigeria		J Maina
19h00	<i>Dinner</i>		

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018		Item	Speaker/Chair
9:00 – 9:30	RHF Mandate		FAO/OIE
9:30 – 9:45	Summary of day 1		J Maina
<b>OIE Code</b>			
9:45 – 11:45	OIE Code Chapter on <i>Infection with RPV</i>		M Marrana
<b>Roadmap and conclusion</b>			
11:45 – 12:30	Roadmap update GF-TADs Global SC Future of the JAC		All S Metwally J Maina



## **Appendix II**

### **14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING, RINDERPEST JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Paris, 11-12 December 2018**

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#### **List of participants**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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**Dr Junaidu Maina** (Chair)  
Contingency Plan Specialist  
J M Global Associates Ltd  
13 Khartoum Street Wuse Zone 5  
Post Office Box 8867 Abuja  
NIGERIA  
[junaidumaina@yahoo.com](mailto:junaidumaina@yahoo.com)

**Dr Mo Salman**  
Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology  
Animal Population Health Institute  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1644  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
[mo.salman@colostate.edu](mailto:mo.salman@colostate.edu)

**Dr Geneviève Libeau**  
In charge of FAO Reference Centre for Morbilliviruses in Ruminants  
CIRAD-Département Systèmes Biologiques UPR "Contrôle des  
Maladies Animales Exotiques et Emergentes" Groupe Virologie  
TA A-15/G (bureau G204)  
Campus International de Baillarguet  
34398 Montpellier cedex 5  
France  
[genevieve.libeau@cirad.fr](mailto:genevieve.libeau@cirad.fr)

**Dr Gerrit Viljoen** (Vice-Chair)  
Head Animal Production and Health Section  
Joint FAO/IAEA Programme of Nuclear Techniques in  
Food and Agriculture  
PO Box 100 A-1400 Vienna  
AUSTRIA  
[G.J.Viljoen@iaea.org](mailto:G.J.Viljoen@iaea.org)

**Dr David Ulaeto**  
Principal Scientist  
Department Biomedical Sciences  
DSTL Porton Down  
Salisbury SP4 0JQ  
UNITED KINGDOM  
[DULAETO@mail.dstl.gov.uk](mailto:DULAETO@mail.dstl.gov.uk)

**Ms Catherine Robertson**  
Director, Biorisk and Occupational Safety Services  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
National Microbiology Laboratory  
1015 Arlington Street  
Winnipeg  
CANADA  
[catherine.robertson@canada.ca](mailto:catherine.robertson@canada.ca)

#### **OIE HEADQUARTERS**

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**Dr Mariana Marrana**  
Rinderpest Officer  
World Organisation for Animal Health  
12 rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
FRANCE  
[m.marrana@oie.int](mailto:m.marrana@oie.int)

#### **FAO HEADQUARTERS**

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**Dr Samia Metwally**  
Senior Animal Health Officer (AGAH)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome  
ITALY  
[Samia.Metwally@fao.org](mailto:Samia.Metwally@fao.org)

**Dr Danilo Pietretti**  
Technical Consultant  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome  
ITALY  
[Danilo.Pietretti@fao.org](mailto:Danilo.Pietretti@fao.org)

## Appendix III

### MEETING OF THE RINDERPEST JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paris, 11-12 December 2018

#### Action Items from the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting

No	Item	Responsible party	Deadline
1	JAC to lead the draft of a short communication on RP preparedness to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.	JAC (D. Ulaeto)	15 <sup>th</sup> JAC meeting
2	FAO and OIE to finish the evaluation of the documentation submitted by the RHF's and ask for additional information when necessary. OIE to draft a Resolution for extension of the five RHF's, and designation of CIRAD and IVDC, to be presented at the 87 <sup>th</sup> General Session, in May 2019.	FAO and OIE	March 2019
3	Rinderpest Secretariat to identify the next event which the RHF's representatives will attend and a side meeting can be organized.	FAO and OIE	15 <sup>th</sup> JAC meeting
4	OIE to share the criteria with Dr Costa and agree on a final version with FAO. FAO and OIE to publish the criteria on the rinderpest websites.	JAC (A. Costa) FAO and OIE	15 <sup>th</sup> JAC meeting