

Recommendations of the Third Regional FMD Roadmap Meeting: Eastern Africa

Considering

- The adoption of the FAO-OIE Global Strategy for the control of FMD (Bangkok, June 2012) with its three inter-related components: control of FMD, reinforcement of veterinary services and combined control of FMD with the control of other animal diseases;
- The importance of a regional coordination for the effective control of FMD;
- The importance of having a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) for Eastern Africa to review the assessments of countries along the progressive control pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) and to support the implementation of the national strategies by performing activities as described in its Terms of Reference, such as guiding FMD training and capacity development activities and advocating at regional level with countries, private sector and donors on the importance of investing in FMD control and prevention;
- The existence of the Eastern African Laboratory Network, the Eastern African Epidemiology Network and their respective FMD sub-networks to support the regional and national FMD control effort;
- The challenges faced in the region in the use of vaccines that will effectively provide protection to the vaccinated animals; and
- The recommendations for safe international trade provided by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

The twelve participating countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda (video-conference), Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda agree:

- To elect the CVOs of Uganda, Republic of Sudan and Kenya as voting members of the RAG for the Eastern African region for a 3-year term, starting in July 2018;
- To appoint the CVO of Uganda as the Chair of the RAG;
- To appoint the leaders of the Eastern African Epidemiology and Eastern African Laboratory Network, as voting Members of the RAG;

- To include, whenever appropriate, existing PCP and PVS experts, RECs, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, GF-TADs FMD Working Group and representatives from the OIE and FAO Sub-regional representations for Eastern Africa, as non-voting members of the RAG;
- To use the assessments of this Regional FMD Roadmap Meeting (Entebbe, 2018) as a basis to establish the provisional 2018-2025 Roadmap for the Eastern African countries; and
- To request AU-IBAR in coordination with IGAD and EAC to develop a Regional FMD Control strategy with a common vision for the region.

The participant countries made the following recommendations for a better implementation of the Global FMD Control Strategy in the Eastern Africa:

1. All countries to be encouraged, supported and committed to reach at least Stage 2 of the PCP-FMD by 2020 with the support of IGAD & EAC and following the guidelines and principles of the PCP-FMD and the performance of competent Veterinary Services. In doing so, to regularly share the necessary information on FMD virus circulation that could assist the entire region on risk mitigation's decisions and consequent progress along the FMD Roadmap;
2. Countries to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of their national FMD control strategies, in alignment with the Global FMD control strategy and PCP-FMD principles;
3. To support and strengthen the Eastern African Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks to share good practises, lessons learnt and to build capacity in the countries to apply the PCP-FMD principles. 'Priority support should be given to countries in PCP-FMD Stage 1 and Stage 2 where a range of technical areas should be strengthen;
4. To increase the rates of FMD virus characterisation across the region with the support of FAO/OIE Reference Laboratories, and to regularly share the results.

5. These information should be used to ensure that the vaccine selection, and vaccine registration processes, are shared along with the current risks and that FMD virus circulating in the region;
6. To consider implementing their own national small-scale immunogenicity studies to assess vaccine quality as recommended by the FAO-OIE Post-vaccination Monitoring Guidelines;
7. To conduct post-outbreak investigations in the event of a vaccine failure to understand the severity of the failure and the reasons for poor vaccine performance;
8. To encourage member countries, to use AU-PANVAC for quality assurance prior to importing vaccines in line with the AU-IBAR decision;
9. To promote new or extended registration of FMD vaccines, through the mutual recognition process recently adopted by the EAC, in order to provide a greater availability of quality FMD vaccines that fulfil the OIE standards;
10. Countries to prioritise internal and cross-border livestock movement control. RECs to advocate at the highest political level for the need to enhance and enforce regional cross-border livestock movement protocols;
11. RECs to provide support to the countries in the implementation of MoUs for the joint and coordinated cross-border movement and TADs control;
12. Countries to consider the OIE international standards as the base to facilitate safe international trade of FMD susceptible animals and their products, in particular for commodities from FMD infected countries;

13. Countries to explore the feasibility of implementing the regionalization principles (i.e. zoning and compartmentalisation) as a trade facilitating tool, as well as effective FMD control management strategies;
14. Countries to appoint and empower the PCP-FMD, epidemiology and laboratory point of contacts from their countries;
15. The GF-TADs FMD Working Group and EuFMD to provide templates and training on the PCP-FMD and on the development of risk assessment plans, risk-based strategic plans as well as support for the development and implementation of social economic studies in order to build a sustainable technical critical mass that shall support the PCP-FMD process;
16. When assigned, countries to make use of PCP Support Officers (PSO) to assist their progress on the PCP-FMD and to identify and train regional experts to become PSO;
17. The OIE, in collaboration with relevant regional and global partners and the OIE/FAO reference laboratories, to continue to commit appropriate resources and organise training programmes to improve member's laboratory diagnostic and epidemiological capacities and undertake follow-up PVS evaluation;

The participant countries THANK the Government of Uganda and the Government of Italy for collaborating with FAO, OIE and EuFMD under the GF-TADs programme to successfully convene the 3rd GF-TADs Regional FMD – PCP Roadmap Meeting for Eastern Africa.