Fourth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting
Baku, Azerbaijan, 2–4 April 2013

The West Eurasia Roadmap for progressive control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) was first established in Shiraz, Iran, in 2008, following devastating FMD epidemics in this region. The Roadmap meetings provide an opportunity for countries to review their control activities, assess their journey along the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP), raise the issue of regional coordination, discuss vaccination programmes, and gauge their progress in animal movement and traceability control.

The Fourth Annual West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting was organised by FAO and the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EUFMD), which provided the meeting secretariat, in collaboration with the OIE, and took place under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). Around 50 people attended, including representatives from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia (as an observer), Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, FAO, OIE, EUFMD, the Merial Institute and the World Bank. However, there were no representatives from Afghanistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan.

Countries were asked to define their current PCP stage, using a checklist (which prefigures the PCP-FMD Assessment tool currently under development) that was sent to them before the meeting, and providing the necessary evidence. These country self-assessments were reviewed by an Advisory Group and then presented to all participants, who had the final say. In 2013, out of the 14 countries of the West Eurasian region, 14 countries are in PCP stage 1 (with some specific conditions, and will be advanced to stage 2 if supporting documents are provided, e.g. an FMD control plan). In 2014, 13 countries plan to be in stage 2 and one in stage 3. In 2020, four countries plan to be in stage 3, nine in stage 4 and one in stage 5. In 2025,

The objectives of the West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting were:

a) to review progress along the Regional Roadmap towards the vision identified at the Shiraz meeting in 2008 of a ‘West Eurasia region free of clinical FMD by 2020’

b) to share information on FMD virus (FMDV) circulation within the West Eurasia FMDV ecosystem to assist in planning vaccination campaigns and other preventive measures in the short term

c) to support countries in preparing their national project proposals for investment in FMD control, in line with the FAO-OIE Global Strategy for FMD control.

Group of participants
The agenda of the West Eurasia Roadmap Meeting covered:

a) the FMD situation and PCP stages, PCP training and PCP assessments
b) laboratory and epidemiology networks
c) national project proposals for FMD
d) progress made along the West Eurasia Roadmap, as well as the situation and progress in the regions bordering West Eurasia.

At the end of the GF-TADs seminar on national project proposals, the participants agreed upon two major points:

a) the need for stronger advocacy of the Roadmap to governments and development partners in their countries and to call on international and regional organisations to assist national veterinary authorities as much as possible in their efforts to advocate FMD control as one of the most important issues in the livestock sector

b) the advantage of adopting a harmonised approach when preparing national project proposals. The ‘logical framework method’ was explained and considered to be a good model.

also address those activities within national and regional FMD programmes that require international support, in line with the Progressive Control Pathway/Roadmap and other recognised pathways, such as the PVS Pathway.

three countries plan to be in stage 3, seven in stage 4 and four in stage 5 or above.

The meeting provided an effective platform for regional discussion, an exchange of experiences and promoting transparency of information, with lively participation from all who attended.

The report from this meeting should help national authorities to better plan FMD preventive measures during 2013 and 2014, through improved time-tableing of supportive actions, in identifying gaps in investment and with preparing project proposals, including strengthening Veterinary Services. The report should

Appointment

1 April 2013
Malawi
Dr Bernard Chimera
Director of Veterinary Services, Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

18 April 2013
Tanzania
Dr Gopray Nsengwa
Acting Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries

21 April 2013
Kuwait
Dr Hanadi Ghuloom Abdul Rahman Mohammad
Deputy Director General for Animal Wealth, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources

2 May 2013
Benin
Dr Orou Gounou N’gobi
Directeur de l’élevage, Ministère de l’agriculture, de l’élevage et de la pêche

7 May 2013
Ghana
Dr Philip Kwame Bavy Salia
Deputy Director, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

10 May 2013
Chile
Dr Héctor Escobar Candia
Jefe de la División de Protección Pecuaria, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG), Ministerio de Agricultura