PPR Regional Roadmap meetings: 
towards PPR global eradication by 2030

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A global challenge

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is a devastating viral animal disease whose geographic spread has increased steadily to over 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia since it was first identified in Côte d’Ivoire in 1942. It impacts heavily on the lives of some 300 million of the world’s poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will contribute greatly to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG1: ‘End poverty in all its forms everywhere’ and SDG2: ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’.

In April 2015, participants in the FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES). In 2015 and 2016, FAO and OIE Member countries, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations, formalised this international consensus and endorsed the PPR strategy. This resulted in the establishment of an FAO/OIE joint PPR Secretariat.

Following an inclusive, peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and OIE launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017–2021: a first step towards eradication. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. Its estimated cost is USD 996 million, essentially at country level. FAO and OIE will hold a pledging conference in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and fill the financial gaps with ongoing projects and programmes.

PPR-GEP is a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication is linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women’s empowerment and migration control.

1. www.oie.int/PPRStrategy
Regional approach

One of the main pillars of PPR-GEP implementation is the involvement of Regional Economic Communities, covering the 76 PPR-infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions:

1) Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
2) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
3) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
4) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
5) Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), for Central Asia
6) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
7) Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), for East Africa
8) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
9) Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The African Union–Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU–IBAR) is also committed at continental level.

Indeed, PPR virus spread knows no borders between countries. The eradication process therefore relies on mass vaccination campaigns coordinated first at regional level and based on regional surveillance of the disease and best knowledge of the epidemiological situation. The PPR-GCES considers the process towards achieving eradication to include four stages: assessment; control; eradication; post-eradication and free status.

PPR Regional Roadmap meetings

In order to organise this involvement more effectively, the FAO/OIE joint PPR Secretariat held a first cycle of nine PPR Regional Roadmap meetings between August 2015 and April 2017. The objectives were: to present the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP; to carry out a first assessment of each country’s situation regarding the disease and the capacity of its Veterinary Services to control it; to identify country and regional visions for PPR eradication; to identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR; to develop the PPR Regional Roadmap and obtain countries’ commitment to implementing it. These meetings have been organised successively in Yaoundé (Cameroon), Kampala (Uganda), Doha (Qatar), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Nagarkot (Nepal), Dakar (Senegal), Tunis (Tunisia), Harare (Zimbabwe), and Qingdao (People’s Republic of China). The participants were, for each country, the Chief Veterinary Officer and the diagnostic laboratory and epidemiology National Focal Points. On each occasion, the Regional Economic Community participated in the meeting.

Apart from shared recommendations, some of the main results were the PPR Regional Roadmap itself, indicating each country’s precise situation in relation

2. Using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT)
Peste des petits ruminants global situation 2015 - 2017
OIE official PPR free status and PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES)

The joint FAO/OIE secretariat oversees the implementation of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/ppr-portal/implementing/

http://dx.doi.org/10.20506/bull.2017.3.2702