Meetings

Workshop on the OIE procedure for official recognition of country status for FMD and PPR

Gaborone, Botswana, 22–24 March 2016

The OIE organised a Sub-Regional Workshop on the OIE procedure for official recognition of Member Countries’ disease status and for the endorsement of national official control programmes with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Financial support came from the government of Italy and logistical support from the government of Botswana.

The workshop was held in Gaborone from 22 to 24 March 2016 and was attended by 45 participants, among them 10 OIE Delegates, 26 veterinary epidemiologists and focal points from all Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member Countries – namely, Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Resource personnel came from a global pool of OIE experts and comprised Dr Gideon Bruckner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission on Animal Diseases; Dr Misheck Mulumba, member of the OIE Ad hoc Group on PPR; and Drs Laure Weber-Vintzel and Simona Forcella from OIE Headquarters. International and regional organisations dealing with livestock, such as SADC, AU–IBAR¹ and FAO², attended as observers, as well as representatives from CIRAD³ and the Botswana Vaccine Institute.

The objectives of the workshop were:
- to provide participants with information on the OIE standards and procedure for official recognition of FMD and PPR status, as well as for the endorsement of national control programmes
- to enable Member Countries to prepare dossiers for the official recognition of their disease status with regard to FMD and PPR and for endorsing their official national control programmes
- to strengthen the sub-regional network of veterinarians working on FMD and PPR.

General presentations were also given on the current FMD and PPR situation and on perspectives of and cooperative strategies for these diseases in the SADC region. More specific presentations were given on the requirements of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, in particular those chapters dealing with FMD and PPR, including surveillance, zoning, and questionnaires for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme and recognition of official status.

1. AU–IBAR: African Union–Interafican Bureau for Animal Resources
2. FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
3. CIRAD: French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
The 22nd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD Control in South-East Asia and China was held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 8 to 11 March 2016, and attended by around 90 participants, including representatives from SEACFMD Member Countries, key partners, OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE staff.

The meeting was opened by Mr Prachon Pratsakul, Vice-Governor of Chiang Rai Province; Dr Monique Éloit, Director General of the OIE; Dr Gardner Murray, President of the Sub-Commission; and Dr Ayuth Harintharanon, Director General of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), representing the Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.

An update was given on the most recent achievements of the SEACFMD Campaign and the launch of Phase 5 of the campaign, as well as on the current global and regional FMD situation. The presentations highlighted recent cross-region transmissions of FMD viruses (FMDVs) and Member Countries were asked to continue to collect and submit field samples to aid early detection of exotic viruses and prompt implementation of risk-based control measures.

In the next session, SEACFMD Member Countries and Mongolia gave presentations about their national FMD surveillance activities; their coordination and governance of, and advocacy for, the FMD control strategy; challenges encountered; and future plans for FMD prevention and control. The discussion focused on the incursion of new FMDV strains into Myanmar and Laos and the relationship between FMD dispersal and the movement of animals and animal products. An explanation was given of the nature and scope of OIE-managed FMD projects funded by STANDZ2 and New Zealand, and the objectives, roles and responsibilities of the third edition of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap were presented. These discussions confirmed the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP–FMD) as a key tool for regional FMD control and noted that it should be implemented in specific countries and/or zones, to ensure the optimal distribution and use of resources.

1. SEACFMD: South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign
2. STANDZ: Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses Initiative