



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

5-year Action Plan for the period 2012-2016

Final version – 15 January 2013

❖ Introduction

1. The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), launched in 2004 is a joint FAO/OIE initiative to establish a global and regional framework for the fight against transboundary animal diseases (TADs). GF-TADs is a coordinating mechanism, not an implementing one and is a critical and the only available global framework in promoting synergies in approaches to control and prevention of TADs and other Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) among international agencies and avoiding contradictions and duplications in policy and programmes. The initiative is built on experiences in the past showing that progress in controlling TADs at country level is not likely to be successful and sustainable unless the efforts are part of a coordinated regional and global approach / embedded into supra-national frameworks.

2. The ultimate aims of the GF-TADs are to improve veterinary public health including protein food security, alleviate poverty, safeguard the world livestock industry of developed as well as developing countries from repeated shocks of infectious disease epidemics, and to promote safe and globalised trade in livestock and animal product.

3. Asia and the Pacific is a culturally, geographically, politically, socially, linguistically and economically extremely diverse region. Geographically it has the largest human and animal populations and animal proteins resources. There have been resurgence and outbreaks of many high impact TADs in the Region including Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Rabies. Taking these facts into account, the Region could be potential source of many emerging infectious diseases, as well as zoonotic diseases. Potential impact on Pacific Islands, even with their small animal populations is important since they are relatively free of major high impact TADs in comparison to many Asian countries. Emphasis in this sub-region is on prevention of and response to TADs including zoonoses. Because of the limited veterinary infrastructure and complexity of the Asia-Pacific Region as already described, animal disease prevention and control are not very efficient in many ways. For these reasons, GF-TADs, a very important framework to provide guideline, direction and most of all, coordination among members and partners, must be customized to regional needs.

4. The GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific is the regional branch of the GF-TADs for the Asia and the Pacific region according to the OIE delineation It

encourages the creation of regional alliances and partnerships and the definition of a common vision and subsequent Regional Action Plans for the control of priority TADs in the region. In this regard, the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific will continue to address disease priorities in the context of emerging threats and One Health developments.

5. The First Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific took place in March 2005 in Tokyo. The meeting was the first of the five regional meetings held under the GF-TADs launching programme.

6. The governing structure of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific is composed of a Regional Steering Committee supported by a Secretariat. The Regional Steering Committee acts as a regional stakeholder platform, involving OIE Regional Commission, FAO Regional Representation, the leading regional technical organisations, country representatives, regional and international donors. The Secretariat is provided by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

7. The GF-TADs Fourth Global Steering Committee meeting (GSC4) held on 18 and 19 October 2011 in Rome recommended to develop a five-year Regional Action Plan and requested regional input before June 2012 through the GF-TADs Regional Action Plan (if available) and/or relevant GF-TADs recommendations with a background note regarding plans and activities.

8. The 5th GSC meeting recognized that the disease outbreaks in animals may be related to national security, public health, food security and economic security and that ensuring an effective and well-equipped veterinary network is the most effective measure to prevent and to contain biological threats by ensuring early detection and rapid response at national level.

9. The objective of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Regional Action Plan is to offer a shared plan for all relevant stakeholders including Members, regional and international organisations and donors, to identify needs/gaps and thus improve GF-TADs activities through better cooperation and collaboration at regional and global levels.

10. This document presents the elaboration process, the objectives and the content, and the implementation mechanisms of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Regional Action Plan covering the period 2012-2016¹.

¹ Given that the main priority diseases of this Action Plan is currently FMD, HPAI and CSF, it was relevant to align the duration of the Action Plan with the duration of the first phase of the FAO-OIE FMD Global Strategy (= 5 years).

❖ Elaboration process

11. This GF TADs Regional Action Plan results from the collated conclusions and recommendations of all the meetings held in the Asia and the Pacific region under the GF-TADs umbrella or during meetings that recommended the use of the GF-TADs mechanism to influence and/or implement activities². The list of key meetings from 2010 until July 2012 is provided in the Table below and their main recommendations made during the meetings are summarized in *Annex 1*.

Recommendations are considered only when adopted by officers officially mandated by their governments.

Title of the meeting	Date and location
4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific	1-2 July 2010 Bangkok, Thailand
2nd Meeting of the OIE Delegates in Southeast Asia (during 17 th Meeting of the Sub-Commission of SEAFMD)	11 March 2011 Bali, Indonesia
19th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group in Livestock (ASWGL)	4-6 May 2011 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
79th General Session of the OIE	22-27 May 2011 Paris, France
5th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific	21-22 July 2011 Tokyo, Japan
GF TADs 4th Global Steering Committee Meeting	18-19 October 2011 Rome, Italy
27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	19-23 November 2011 Teheran, Iran
Workshop to develop foot and mouth disease progressive control pathway (PCP-FMD) for SAARC countries	22-24 November 2011 Kathmandu, Nepal
Workshop to develop regional roadmap for progressive control of PRR for South Asian countries	7-9 December 2011 Katmandu, Nepal
International Conference on Scientific Developments and Technical Challenges in the progressive control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South Asia	13-15 February, 2012 New Delhi, India)
20th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectorial Working Group in Livestock (ASWGL)	9-11 May 2012 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control	27-29 June 2012 Bangkok, Thailand
6th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific	18-19 July 2012 Bangkok, Thailand
Other relevant global meeting/initiatives	

² The OIE General Sessions and Regional Conferences are not GF-TADs events but (i) are arenas where the GF-TADs for Asia - Pacific

Activities are systematically mentioned and promoted and (ii) whose regional recommendations were used to elaborate the GF-TADs Action Plan; they are therefore included among the events listed in the table above.

12. The general outlines of the draft Regional Action Plan was first drafted by Regional Permanent Secretariat in May, 2012. *The draft Regional Action Plan was presented and discussed during the 6th Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee meeting for Asia and the Pacific in July, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The broad framework of the Regional Action Plan was officially endorsed by the 6th GF-TADs Meeting. Comments received during the meetings were incorporated to improve the draft and the second draft was circulated electronically. Then, the provisional Regional Action Plan was submitted to the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee in October 2012 as regional inputs. The Regional Action Plan is due to start just after official endorsement by the Global Steering Committee].*

13. To translate Regional Action Plan to implementation, project mapping in the region will be conducted by RSC members based on the draft to be prepared by the Secretariat. The information generated from afore said exercise will be utilised to better engage donors and create opportunities for collaboration to optimise potential synergies.

14. The Regional Action Plan is a living document and subject to be reviewed and revised in alignment with the evolving regional context and needs. The Regional Action Plan will form a Standing Agenda Item at GF TADs for Asia and the Pacific Meetings.

❖ Overarching principles for the elaboration of the Regional Action Plan

15. The Regional Action Plan is in line with:

- the GF-TADs founding document, the **2004 GF-TADs Agreement**;
- the **recommendations provided by the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee** over the past 4 years (recommendations of the GF-TADs GSC1, 2, 3 and 4);
- the **recommendations provided by the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific** over the past 5 years (recommendations of the GF-TADs RSC1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6);
- the recommendations made during the **2nd evaluation of the GF-TADs** carried out in 2009, notably those that particularly address regional aspects (see recommendations 15 to 19);

- the FAO One Health Action Plan (2011-2015), the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011 – 2015), which are the ‘**corporate**’ **Strategies of the FAO** and the **OIE**, respectively;
- The **FAO-OIE-WHO Collaboration – Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces** – A Tripartite Concept Note
- the Terms of Reference of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific;
- the Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015 for Asia and the Pacific.

16. Overall, the Regional Action Plan has been developed in line with the following main principles:

- the prevention and control mechanisms of TADs , in particular at source, are a **Global Public Good**. It requires coordinated efforts, solidarity and the full political support from national and regional authorities and justifies public investments;
- **early detection, early warning and rapid response**, based on robust national surveillance systems that rely strongly on the participation of private veterinarians and livestock breeders, is key to the fight against priority TADs;
- the **Veterinary Services (VS)** operating in line with the OIE international standards on **quality and good governance**, are the corner stones of efficient and cost-effective prevention and control of animal diseases;
- investing **in the good governance of VS** and in prevention measures is much less costly than the economic losses incurred by major animal health crises;
- **tackling diseases at the animal source** remains the most efficient and cost-effective way of dealing with **zoonotic threats and high impact diseases**;
- **appropriate national and international collaboration** between the Animal and Human Health authorities, the private sector and, where appropriate, the environment authorities, is key to the prevention and control of zoonoses and high impact infectious diseases;
- **good balance** should be maintained between addressing the control and prevention of specific diseases and cross cutting issues, as well as the emergence response and medium to long term approaches to TADs and rEIDs control;
- engagement with and coordination through regional organisations including ASEAN, SAARC and SPC is one of the most effective and

important components to promote sustainable improvement in TADs control and prevention.

❖ Focus/priorities

17. The Regional Action Plan addresses the animal diseases and topics that have qualified as 'priority' for the region³, namely:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) :ASEAN, SAARC- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) : ASEAN, SAARC- Classical Swine Fever (CSF) : ASEAN- Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) : SAARC- Rabies
and
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reinforcement of Veterinary Services- Improving Advocacy

SPC needs to sustain on-going efforts to maintain its preparedness against incursion of TADs and preventative activities.

18. As of *July, 2012* main activities for priority diseases that have been implemented under GF-TADs are the followings:

- FMD
 - Leading laboratories for FMD diagnosis for ASEAN and SAARC member countries are located in Pak Chong Thailand and Mukteshwar in India, respectively.
 - SEACFMD Roadmap 2020 has been endorsed by members during the 18th OIE Sub-Commission for SEACFMD, March 2012, Yunan, PR. China
 - SAARC FMD Roadmap was agreed during Workshop to develop FMD-PCP for SAARC Countries, November, 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal
 - 5th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting endorsed OIE/JTF Project on FMD Control in Asia with an aim, among others, to develop Roadmap for FMD control in East Asia.
 - International Conference on Scientific Developments and Technical Challenges in the progressive control of Foot-and –Mouth Disease in South Asia (13-15 February, 2012, New Delhi, India)
- HPAI
 - Leading laboratories for HPAI diagnosis for ASEAN and SAARC are located in Ipo, Malaysia and Islamabad, Pakistan, respectively.
 - Most countries in ASEAN and SAARC have National Contingency Plans for HPAI.

³

See recommendations and minutes of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Steering Committee meetings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

- FAO 'Regional Strategy for highly pathogenic avian influenza and other emerging infectious disease of animal in Asia and the Pacific', March 2010 has been prepared;
- FAO 'Approaches to controlling, preventing and eliminating H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in endemic countries' refers to some parts of the region.
- ASEAN Roadmap for HPAI was endorsed by 32nd AMF, October 2010
- National HPAI strategic plan for each country in SAARC exists.
- HPAI activities in SPC were planned to strengthen preparedness, surveillance and diagnosis
- The OIE/JTF Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia has been implemented from 2006 and will be completed in 2012. The final report will be prepared in the end of fiscal year 2012.
- The FAO multi-donor funded programme on HPAI implemented through the regional programme (ECTAD RAP) and 9 country- based ECTAD Units will continue.

- CSF

- Leading laboratory for CSF diagnosis for ASEAN is RAHO6, Vietnam.
- ASEAN CSF Strategic Plan was endorsed by 33rd AMF, October 2011
- PPR
- Leading laboratory for diagnosis of PPR is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Regional workshop to develop a roadmap for progressive control of PPR for South Asian countries , 7-9 December 2011, Katmandu, Nepal

- Rabies

- ASEAN +3 Rabies core group meeting (7-9 April, 2010 in Bali, Indonesia) refined the draft Regional Rabies Strategic Framework
- Global Conference on Rabies Control (7-9 September 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea), provided key recommendations
- ASEAN/FAO/OIE/WHO Rabies Workshop (19-20 January, 2012, Chiang Mai, Thailand) demonstrated the implementation of "One Health" concept.

- The Regional Action Plan is also flexible enough to address new or rising concerns (such as emergence or re-emergence of an animal disease) and to revisit priority diseases, taking into account regional evolving situations and needs.

Key achievements of Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific (2005-2011) are summarized below.

	Southeast Asia			South Asia			South Pacific		
RSOs	ASEAN			SAARC			SPC		
RSUs	Bangkok			Kathmandu			Suva		
Priority Diseases	HPAI	FMD	CSF	HPAI	FMD	PPR	HPAI		
Leading Laboratory	Malaysia (Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Ipoh)	Thailand (National Institute of Animal Health, Pakchong)	Vietnam (RAHO 6, Ho Ch Minh City)	Pakistan (National Reference Laboratory for Poultry Disease, Islamabad)	India (Project Directorate on Food and Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar)	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Dhaka)			
Roadmap (Strategy)	ASEAN Roadmap for an HPAI-Free ASEAN Community by 2020 2020 FAO Regional HPAI strategy	SEACFMD Roadmap 2020	ASEAN CSF Strategic Plan	FAO Regional HPAI strategy	FMD_PCP Roadmap for SAARC				
Epi-network (Details)	Established (within ASEAN RSU, FAORAP, BKK)			Established (within SAARC RSU, FAO, Kathmandu)					
Lab-network (Details)	Established (within ASEAN RSU, FAORAP, BKK)			Established (within SAARC RSU, FAO, Kathmandu)					

❖ General objectives

19. The overall objectives of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Regional Action Plan are as follows:

- Objective 1: Facilitate collaboration and maximize synergies among the sub-regions, countries and implementing partners in the region;
- Objective 2: Prevent the occurrence and reduce potential impacts of animal disease (including zoonosis) events on animal production, animal health, human health, livelihoods and economies in the region;
- Objective 3: Promote adequate governance of Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards through capacity building programmes at national and regional levels (that provide for appropriate legislation, human and financial resources and alliances between the public and private sectors);
- Objective 4: Encourage adequate national and international resources (financial and human) to support implementation of disease prevention, detection and control activities, both in peace time and in crisis periods

20. In order to achieve the objective 1, GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific will;

- a. Maintain the Regional GF-TADs Secretariat roles:
 - Support the activities of the permanent secretariat of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific;
- b. Maintain the regional coordination of progressive control of priority diseases under umbrella of regional GF-TADs
 - Organise meetings of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs;
 - Organise sub-regional meetings to discuss specific sub-regional issues including socio-economic aspects related to disease control and prevention;
 - Continue close collaboration with ASEAN, SAARC and SPC through engagement in the animal health authorities working groups of respective organisations;
 - Facilitate collaboration not only working in parallel but actively consulting and working alongside each other among international organisations and donors;
- c. Maintain the linkage of the Regional Steering Committee and the Global Steering Committee of GF-TADs
 - Encourage participation in meetings/communications with other regions and the Global Steering Committee of GF-TADs

d. Promote multi-sectorial collaboration under the One Health approach at national and regional levels

- Promote operationalization of One Health approach through development of country and regional strategies in South and Southeast Asia;
- Call upon Members as well as international organisations and donors/partners to make strong political commitment to combat zoonotic diseases, especially rabies, at national and regional levels.

21. In order to achieve the objective 2, GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific will:

a. Facilitate the development of policies strategies and plans for progressive control of priority diseases

- Develop and improve strategies and road maps for specific diseases such as HPAI, FMD, CSF, PPR and rabies, using when appropriate the existing disease control approaches such as the PCP for FMD, and the road map for SEACFMD as models for control of other TADs in the region;
- Request OIE and FAO and GF-TADs Global Steering Committee to exercise technical leadership to adapt progressive control pathways to high impact diseases such as PPR, CSF and PRRS;

b. Support risk assessment study and risk management based on the strategies and plans developed for priority diseases

- Advocate for more funding for surveillance in livestock and wild animals for priority diseases;
- Increase supports to Members to conduct epidemiological studies, for priority diseases;

22. In order to achieve the objective 3, GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific will:

a. Support the improvement of Veterinary Services in the gap areas taking into consideration the findings of OIE PVS Evaluation and Gap Analysis

- Encourage all Members in the region to undertake the OIE PVS Evaluation, PVS Gap Analysis and to update their legislations related to animal health;
- Continue to address capacity building and strengthening of Veterinary Services to meet the OIE standards and give high priority to resource limited Members through sub-regional collaboration ;

b. Continue building capacity focusing epidemiology and laboratory and other enabling environment at national and regional levels

- Enhance capacity of Veterinary Services to carry out surveillance complying with OIE standards
- Strengthen the function of the leading laboratories, if possible, to be recognized as an OIE Reference laboratory; through OIE Twinning Programme;
- Facilitate the regional networks of epidemiology and laboratory as well as the linkage between epidemiology and laboratory to enhance disease control.

23. In order to achieve the objective 4, GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific will:

a. Demonstrate the value of GF-TADs as a unique coordinating mechanism for control of TADs on global and regional bases

- Enhance visibility of GF-TADs by promoting model pilot projects
- Encourage to analyze socio-economic impacts in endemic countries as well as actual and possible outbreaks in FMD free countries in order to provide justification for significant additional investment in regional and global FMD control;
- Monitor implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Regional Steering Committee meetings;
- Document success stories and best practices derived from the activities conducted under the GF-TADs umbrella.

b. Engage development partners to ensure resource mobilization for the progressive control of priority diseases;

- Exercise project mapping in the region prepared by the permanent secretariat after consultation with OIE and FAO as well as sub-regional organisations to promote better understanding and engagement of donors and to create opportunities for collaboration to optimize potential synergies
- Ensure the proper consultation with and strengthen capacities of Sub-regional Organisations on regional coordination of progressive control of priority diseases;

24. GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific operates under the overall guidance and supervision of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee and Management Committee.

❖ GF-TADs labeling attribution process and expected results

25. GF-TADs is a mechanism for policy definition, coordination and harmonization and not an operational tool for programmes/projects implementation. As a consequence, GF-TADs does not have a programme of activities *per se*.

26. However, activities can be labeled GF-TADs if implemented under the umbrella of the GF-TADs and thus receiving the guidance of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

27. In addition, stakeholders in animal health are encouraged to use the GF-TADs platform whenever appropriate according to the decision of the Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific, including for activities that are not labeled GF-TADs but which contribute to the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific objectives.

28. Organizations and stakeholders in the region decide on an *ad hoc* basis if they want to have certain activities labeled as GF-TADs activities. The organizations are requested to bring planned GF-TADs activities to the attention of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Steering Committee via the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Secretariat for their labeling and if accepted (see point 17) to present the results during the annual GF-TADs Steering Committee for meetings. The GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Secretariat will annex the activities to the Regional Action Plan on a yearly basis.

29. To benefit from the GF-TADs label, activities should meet all the 5 following criteria:

1. Address one of the priority diseases or topics of the GF-TADs for the Asia and the Pacific;
2. Contribute to the expected results as listed under Point 30 below;
3. Avoid duplication of or contradiction to any other activity in the region, and be in line with the stakeholders portfolios in the region;
4. Have its effects maximized if implemented at regional rather than at national level, and two (cross-border activities) or more countries (sub-regional / regional activities) are involved, or where countries e.g. Islands have a

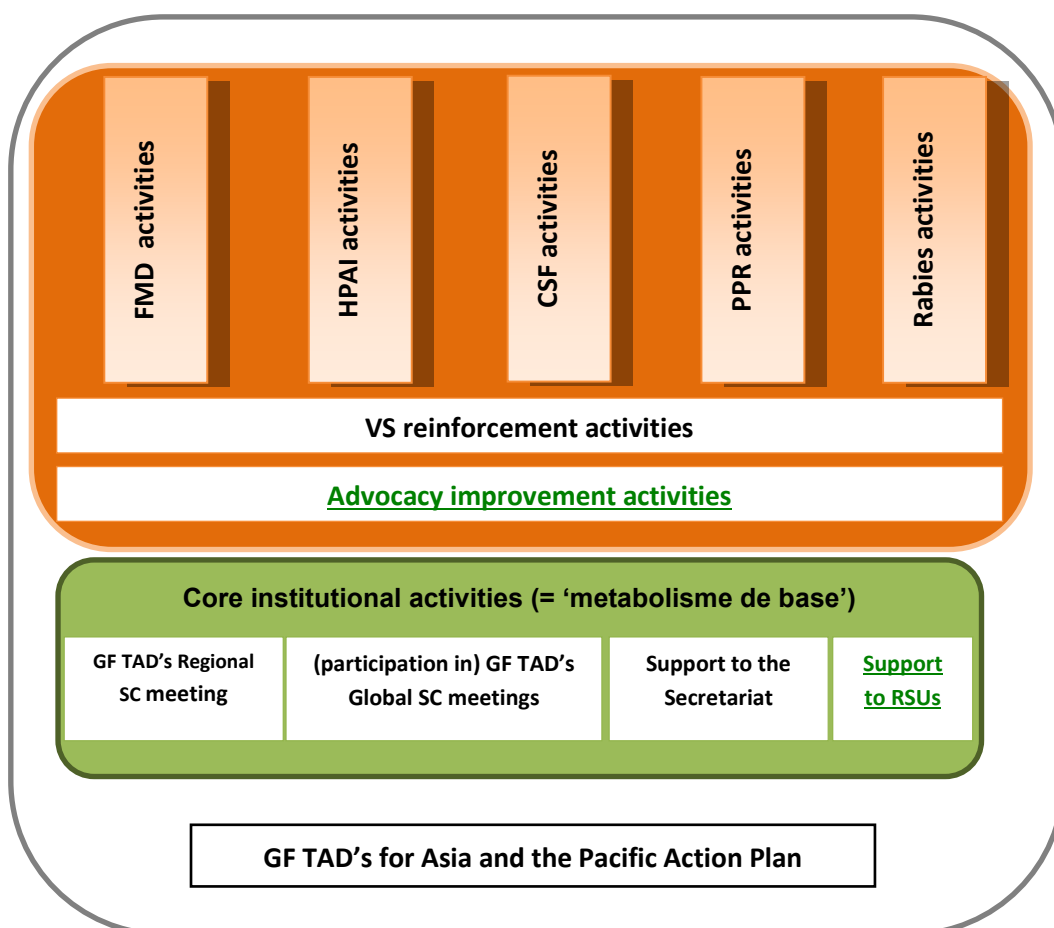
priority disease which could pose a major risk to other regional countries;
and

5. Be endorsed by the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific during its regular meetings or an e-consultation procedure on an *ad-hoc* basis (see point 33).

30. Three categories of activities can receive the GF-TADs labeling:

- Vertical = disease-oriented activities;
- Horizontal = topic-oriented activities; and
- Core institutional activities (= 'metabolisme de base'), to ensure the proper functioning of the regional governance and platform (Regional Steering Committee, regional Secretariat, participation in Global Steering Committee).

The overall architecture of the Regional Action Plan is depicted in the following chart:



31. The expected results of the GF-TADs labeled activities are presented in Annex 2.

❖ Implementation arrangements

32. The implementation arrangements of the Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Regional Action Plan refer to the Terms of Reference of the Regional Governance of the GF-TADs (ToR), namely of the GF-TADS Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific and the Secretariat. More specifically:

33. The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific is in charge of the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, with the support of the Secretariat (see point 6.1, 6.3, 7.1 and 7.3 of the ToR).

34. In between the regular meetings of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Regional Steering Committee, identification of activities that would fall under the remit of the GF-TADs label is done via an e-consultation procedure on an *ad-hoc* basis led by the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Secretariat. The procedure involves the Global GF-TADs Management Committee and the Chairperson of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific as follows: on the initiative of FAO, OIE or any other stakeholders in the region, the proposal will be circulated electronically by the Secretariat to the Members of the Regional SC for a tacit consent or comments within 10 working days. In exceptional cases, emergency procedures may be foreseen. Endorsement is made by mutual consent.

35. Whenever needed for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

- liaises with other regional GF-TADs SCs;
- liaises with other regional or supra-regional initiatives (if applicable);
- requests the support of the GF-TADs-related tools, namely FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWS, OIE/FAO OFFLU and FAO/OIE CMC-AH.

36. Progress report of the Regional Action Plan is made during the meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific by the Chairman. In years when there is no such meeting, progress reports may be provided during the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Chairman – assisted if needed by the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific Secretariat - reports annually on the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to the Global Steering Committee during the Global Steering Committee meetings.