



GF-TADS

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



First PPR Roadmap meeting for the formulation of a Regional Approach to the control and Eradication of PPR in the SAARC region



DRAFT FINAL COMMUNQUE

BACKGROUND

Small ruminants represent a significant part of the world livestock sector, particularly in developing countries, where they play an essential role in livelihood and food security. One of the main factors limiting the growth of sustainable small ruminant production in many parts of the world is the presence of infectious diseases such as **Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)**, a disease that causes high morbidity and mortality. In infected countries where the disease is endemic, PPR affects livelihoods, food security and economic activity, including trade, well beyond the people who own and farm sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease would bring about a major positive impact on improved small ruminant health and human livelihoods.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, organised in Abidjan (31 March to 2 April, 2015) an International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR. This Conference, which brought together experts, scientists, Ministers, Directors of Veterinary Services and Directors of Veterinary diagnostic laboratories from affected and at risk countries, as well as technical and financial development partners, led to the adoption of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR (GCES).

The GCES engages Regional Economic Communities and their respective countries in the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings to harmonise and synchronise the implementation of the Strategy in all affected countries.

In collaboration with the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** Secretariat, the governmental of Nepal, FAO and OIE organised the first PPR Roadmap Meeting for the region, in Nagarkot, Nepal from 11 – 12 April 2016.

The SAARC region holds the highest concentration of domestic animals in the world. Livestock sector contribution to South Asia's Agriculture GDP stand at 30 percent. The small ruminant population was estimated to be 471 million in 2010. The SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Forum was established in 2008 to promote regional cooperation on prevention of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs). The 2nd meeting of the SAARC CVOs Forum (March, 2009) identified three priority TADs such as PPR, HPAI and FMD. In 2013, the CVOs forum adopted the SARRC Progressive Control Pathway for PPR (PC-PPR) 2014-2023 Roadmap. During their 2015 meeting held in Bangkok, the CVOs recommended to align their PC-PPR Roadmap with the GCES. Within the region, three regional lead laboratories have been established including a PPR lead laboratory in Bangladesh.

PPR is endemic in most of the SAARC countries. Out of the 8 SAARC countries, only Sri Lanka has never reported PPR outbreaks.

The SAARC PPR Roadmap meeting brought together CVOs, laboratory and epidemiologists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka as well as representatives from the SAARC Secretariat, FAO and OIE. List of participants is attached in Annex 2.

The objectives for the PPR Roadmap Meeting aim to:

1. present the GCES and its tools in a detailed manner;
2. conduct a first assessment of countries' situation regarding PPR and the capacity of Veterinary Services to control it in this region;
3. identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR;
4. set up the Governance structure to oversee the implementation of PPR control activities in the region;
5. align the existing regional roadmap for the SAARC region and to obtain countries' engagement for its implementation.

Following fruitful discussions, the participants in the Roadmap Meeting agreed on the following:

1. Alignment of existing regional and national PPR control strategy with the GCES

Considering the recommendation adopted during the 2015 CVOs forum meeting to align the SAARC PC-PPR Roadmap with the GCES and noting that few countries have developed a national PPR control strategy, the meeting recommends to:

- SAARC Secretariat with the support of SARRC Member States, FAO and OIE to take necessary action to align the PC-PPR Roadmap with the GCES
- Countries to commit to the PPR control and eradication stepwise approach and develop their national PPR control and eradication strategy and programme using the appropriate template by end of 2016.

2. Assessment of the PPR situation

Considering that the implementation of the PPR control and eradication stepwise approach requires a clear understanding of the PPR situation and noting that SARRC countries present in the meeting are all at provisional stage 1 except Pakistan, the meeting recommends to:

- Countries to carry out an assessment using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), which will contribute to a deep understanding of current country capacities with regard to laboratory, surveillance, prevention and control, legal framework and stakeholders involvement. This in turn will facilitate the field assessments necessary to identify PPR risk areas and practices along the value chains that may contribute to PPR introduction and/or spread.
- Countries at Stage 2 to conduct also a self-assessment using the PMAT to ensure the effectiveness of their control measures.

3. PPR Vaccination

Considering that vaccination (using quality certified vaccines in compliance with OIE standards) remains the main tool to control PPR outbreaks and noting the absence of an independent regional certification body (such as the African Union-Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Center AU-PANVAC for Africa) within the SARRC region, the meeting recommends to:

- Countries to adopt a risk-based vaccination aiming at reaching at least 70% immunity of the herds in hotspot areas.
- SAARC Secretariat to explore the possibility to establish a regional certification body with the support of FAO and OIE. Until this facility is established, countries are advised to quality certified their vaccines in OIE/FAO certified laboratory.

4. Strengthening PPR laboratory diagnostic capacity

Considering that effective diagnostic laboratory capacity is an important tool to early detect and control PPR and noting that out of the 8 SAARC countries 6 are conducting PPR laboratory diagnostic, the meeting recommends to:

- Bangladesh in collaboration with SAARC and other Member States to strengthen the regional lead laboratory (in Bangladesh) for PPR diagnosis for possible becoming FAO/OIE Reference Laboratory.
- FAO and OIE in collaboration with SAARC to develop a regional PPR Proficiency Test (PT) as means to assess the participating laboratories capabilities in PPR diagnosis; to provide reliable indicators for assessing national laboratory capability for PPR diagnosis and obtain necessary feedback to better design future training courses and technical support from partners including the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories.
- SAARC Member States to enhance laboratory networking to facilitate harmonization of techniques and information sharing at regional level.

5. Lessons learned

The meeting recommends to SARRC in close collaboration with Member countries, FAO and OIE to compile lessons learned on surveillance, risk assessment and vaccination experience to increase the efficiency of their control and eradication efforts.

6. Stakeholders engagement

Considering that stakeholders' engagement is essential for the success of the GCES implementation, the meeting encourages countries to establish regular communication mechanism with stakeholders and develop awareness materials and training programme.

The Participants of the PPR Roadmap meeting agreed:

1. The attached provisional PPR Stage Progression 2016 – 2030 as the regional Roadmap of South Asia to achieve eradication of PPR by 2030 (see Annex 1); The PPR Stages agreed for 2016 shall serve as the provisional baseline situation.
2. To establish a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) as follows:

- RAG elected voting members include the following:
 - Chair: CVO Pakistan
 - Vice-chair: CVO Nepal
 - Vice-chair: CVO Bangladesh.

The two additional voting members: Coordinator of the Regional Epidemiology Network and Coordinator of the Regional Laboratory Network will be appointed as soon as possible.

- RAG non-voting members include the following:
 - Regional Organization: SAARC
 - FAO and OIE regional representative to be designated by end of May 2016.

Annex 1

PPR Stages progression 2016 – 2030 in SAARC Countries

Countries	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Afghanistan	1	2		3						4		Free status			Status free
Bangladesh	1			2				3				4	Free status		Status free
Bhutan	1	2		3	4	Free status									Status free
India															Status free
Maldives	1		2		3			4	Free status						Status free
Nepal	1		2				3				4	4	Free status		
Pakistan	2				3					4			Free status		Status free
Sri Lanka	1			4		Free status									Status free

Comment:

The PPR Stage indicated for 2016 are the one agreed during the Nagarkot meeting (point of departure into the step –wise GCES approach)

Average time for each PPR stage:

Stage 1	minimum 12 months and up to 3 years
Stage 2	3 years (from 2 to 5 years)
Stage 3	3 years (from 2 to 5 years)
Stage 4	24 months and up to 3 years