

23rd meeting of the SEACFMD National Coordinators Series of virtual meetings

Following the postponement of the 23rd meeting of the SEACFMD National Coordinators due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation decided to replace this annual meeting by a series of virtual meetings.

The first meeting, held on Friday, 5 June 2020, aimed at:

- to share updated information on FMD epidemiological situation in each FMD endemic countries (detected outbreaks, circulating strains, vaccination status...) and key changes in the FMD control policy.
- to encourage NC to analyse current and historic (last 5 years preferably) FMD data to study FMD epidemiology, trend, patterns.
- to gather consensus to establish regular coordination mechanisms in the COVID and post-COVID situation with SECAFMD NC's.
- to identify specific needs for support, triggered by the COVID situation.

I. MEETING SUMMARY

- 1) The first session of the 23rd SEACFMD NC virtual meeting was attended by 89 participants Besides NC's from nine SEACFMD member countries (both FMD endemic and FMD free countries), regional and international partners including OIE Reference Laboratories, universities and international organisations also participated in this meeting. Nine SEACFMD member countries, 4 Reference Laboratories i.e. Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, China; RRL Pakchong; Australian Animal Health Laboratory, CSIRO, WRLFMD, Pirbright, partners namely Australia, New Zealand, FAO, Massey University, NZ participated in the meeting.
- 2) Vietnam having the Presidency of the SEACFMD Sub-Commission, Dr. Nguyen Van Long, DDG, Department of Animal Health delivered opening remarks of the meeting. He emphasized the importance of FMD control to the region, complemented OIE initiative to have virtual meeting amid COVID -19 so that countries and technical staff are aware and updated on FMD epidemiological developments in the region.
- 3) National Coordinators from FMD-endemic countries China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam reported on the spatial and temporal distribution of their FMD outbreaks and serotypes/genotypes identified for the year 2019- 2020. It was observed that many untyped outbreaks were reported. The presentations were followed up by two separate Q& A sessions which gave participants the opportunity to discuss and interact on the current FMD situation.
- 4) Countries also shared lessons learnt over COVID -19 and its impact on FMD control activities. They highlighted delays in policy implementation, advocacy, field activities including vaccination, restocking of pigs, and training due to pandemic. The specific comments and experiences of individual countries and meeting documents including presentation can be referred here.

- 5) The consolidated update of FMD situation was presented by Dr Abila to highlight regional overview and some of the possible trends and patterns observed in the region. These include significant reduction of reported FMD outbreaks in China, absence of clinical outbreak in Mongolia; predominance of O/India2001(d/e) strain in Thailand, absence of O/Mya/98 detection in the region during this period, re-emergence of serotype A in Myanmar and cluster of FMD outbreaks in Northern Lao PDR.
- 6) The OIE Reference Laboratory of Pirbright commended the regional compilation of the FMD data and encourage to go further SEACFMD RCU to analyse historical data.
- 7) It was emphasized that the SEACFMD RCU, via the SEACFMD Laboratory Network, follow-up the progress made at national level on the recommendations made by the Regional Expert Group for FMD, with regard to molecular and serological diagnosis.
- 8) The participants were informed about the progress related to the development of the SEACFMD roadmap (2021-2025) and the next steps to be expected. The SEACFMD RCU would send the first draft to all NCs by mid July 2020 for comments to respond within 2 weeks. It was proposed that a virtual meeting dedicated to the SEACFMD Roadmap shall be organised by the last week of July or early August 2020.
- 9) The GF-TADs Regional Coordinator from the Global Secretariat, Dr Fediaevsky from OIE HQ, explained that FMD is one of the global priority diseases which is being followed by the FMD global working group. Though currently, South East Asia is not directly included in the global working group's scope, there is a lot of interest in terms of experience and information exchange between GF TAD's FMD working group and SEACFMD. The two priority areas highlighted were the evaluation of the work carried out so far and for which the SEACFMD RCU is drafting ToRs and synergies with different activities with FMD activities.
- 10) SEACFMD member countries and partners have appreciated the OIE for conducting and coordinating this National Coordinators meeting and for providing a platform to review current FMD situation in the region. The participants agreed to hold an additional meeting in which partners and FMD free countries will have the opportunity to update on the technical topics such as modeling, animal movement control, vaccinations
- 11) The second virtual NC meeting would tentative be held on 7 and 8 July 2020 focusing respectively on an update from partners and on cross-border animal movements.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Reiterated the importance of monitoring and timely reporting of FMD outbreaks to OIE.
- 2) Noted the importance of sample collection during active outbreak investigations to have more insight on epidemiology of the disease including type(s) of FMDV in circulation. (given high number of untyped samples during 2019-2020).
- 3) Member countries (endemic) agreed to analyze historical FMD outbreak data of last 5 years to identify temporal and spatial patterns in order to further understand the epidemiology of the disease. Explore the use of disease modelling tools in doing this analysis.
- 4) Continue to monitor the implementation of the FMD Regional Expert Group (REG) recommendations.
- 5) Agreed to have series of the SEACFMD NC virtual meeting sessions on various technical topics of interest followed by dedicated session on SEACFMD Roadmap (2021-2025).

III. PARTICIPANTS

