



## **First PPR Roadmap meeting for the Middle East countries**

Doha, Qatar – 2-3 December 2015

A regional coordinated approach for the control and eradication of PPR

### **FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

#### **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. Control and eventually eradication of the disease would bring a major positive impact on improved small ruminant productivity and human livelihoods. In the region, sheep and goat represent respectively 10% and 5% of the world (2.1 billion) small ruminant population.

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 Strategy engages countries in the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings to harmonise and synchronise the implementation of the GCES in all affected Regions. Considering the above, the FAO, OIE and the Government of Qatar combined efforts and organised the first PPR Roadmap Meeting for the Middle East region, in Doha, Qatar from 2–3 December 2015. The meeting was attended by Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. Countries that could not participate were Oman, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

The objectives for this 1<sup>st</sup> PPR Roadmap Meeting for the Middle East were the following:

- Present the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy and its tools in a detailed manner as well as the Abidjan conference recommendations;
- Conduct a first assessment of countries' situation regarding PPR and the capacity of veterinary services to control it;
- Identify other small ruminant diseases that could be controlled together with PPR;
- Set up the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) on PPR, and

- Use this information to formulate the PPR regional roadmap for the Middle East region and to obtain countries' agreement to engage in its implementation.

In order to achieve these objectives and to formulate recommendations, the participants in the Roadmap Meeting agreed on the following:

**Considering:**

- The adoption of the FAO-OIE Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR (GCES) (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, April 2015) with its 3 inter-related Components: the control of PPR; the reinforcement of Veterinary Services and the combined control of PPR with other small ruminant diseases;
- The recommendations of the International Abidjan PPR Conference, in particular the organisation of Regional Roadmap meetings under the auspices of the Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) as a means to assess country situations and to continuously follow up on the implementation of the GCES at global level;
- The 5-year Strategic Plan (2012 – 2016) of the GF-TADs for the Middle East which recommends the preparation of strategic plans to control priority animal diseases in the region including PPR;
- That PPR control and eradication requires regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordination;
- That progression along the stepwise PPR control and eradication pathway requires a comprehensive understanding of PPR, including epidemiology, virological and socio-economic aspects, and the practical application of this knowledge to develop control and eradication plans;
- That effective Veterinary Services (VS) are indispensable for the efficient and sustainable control of PPR and that each country's PPR stage assessment includes reference to the relevant Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) criteria (critical competencies) related to the prevention and control of diseases;
- That the implementation of the GCES requires the involvement of all possible actors;
- That the regional laboratory and epidemiology networks are major tools for the implementation of the GCES and that they are crucial in terms of information exchange, harmonisation of strategies, resource mobilisation, skills and knowledge pooling at national and regional level;
- Other major sheep and goat diseases prevailing in the Region, for which combined control with PPR could be an asset, namely: brucellosis; sheep and goat pox; foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Enterotoxaemia, and gastrointestinal parasites among others;
- The need to mobilise adequate financial resources for the implementation of the GCES;
- The challenges that the Region is facing: e.g. security situation; droughts in certain parts of the region;

**The participants in the PPR Roadmap meeting recommend:**

**To countries:**

1. To commit to the PPR stepwise approach at national level and subsequent regional PPR Roadmap process.
2. To take necessary action to conduct or update their small ruminant population census;
3. To make sure that vaccines to be used are of high quality and certified by an FAO/OIE recognized laboratory;

4. To ensure consistency and alignment of their national strategies with the GCES, which serves as the reference document;
5. When engaged into the vaccination process, countries should ensure that vaccination in the targeted region should have a vaccination coverage of at least 70% of the small ruminant populations”.
6. To assess effectiveness of vaccination by post vaccination evaluation (PVE);
7. To consider requesting an OIE PVS follow up mission to have an updated understanding of their VS capacity and address the gaps relevant to the PPR Stage they are in;
8. To implement the recommendations of the Sub-Regional workshop for the formulation of a strategy/roadmap for the control of PPR in the Arabian Peninsula (April 2013, KSA).

### **Regional**

1. Countries confirmed the importance of the regional approach and collaboration for the control and eradication of PPR
2. To explore the possibility to establish a Regional Leading EpiCenter and Lab Centre and the regional laboratory and epidemiology networks within the region for the implementation of the GCES;
3. To support the development of a regional communication strategy to facilitate the proper involvement of all actors in PPR control and eradication;
4. Regional organisation: GCC Secretariat
  - a. To ensure consistency and alignment of the future regional strategy/roadmap for countries of the Arabian Peninsula with the GCES which serves as the reference document;
  - b. To ensure the resource mobilisation strategy for the implementation of the GCES in the region;

### **To FAO and OIE**

1. Together, with regional partners and countries, to ensure the proper financial resource mobilisation necessary for the implementation of the GCES at national, regional and international levels;
2. To provide further guidance on the possible combination of vaccination protocols between PPR and other small ruminant diseases in the near future;
3. To provide the necessary training support to countries on PVE;
4. To further refine the PMAT questionnaire to ease its completion by member countries, notably based on the comments made by Member Countries during the meeting;
5. To recommend to GF-TADs to consider the possibility of Egypt as member of the Middle East roadmap;

### **The Participants of the PPR Roadmap meeting agreed:**

1. The attached provisional PPR Stage Progression 2015 – 2030 as the regional Roadmap of the Middle-East to achieve eradication of PPR by 2030 (see Annex); The PPR Stages agreed for 2015 serve as the provisional baseline situation.
2. To establish a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) as follows:.

The following CVOs/Delegates have been tentatively proposed:

- Saudi Arabia (chair of the RAG)
- Yemen (vice chair)
- Kuwait (vice chair)

- Jordan, Lab
- Egypt, Epi

Regional Organisations: GCC Secretariat

Other names to be added (to have the whole composition of the RAG, including non-voting Members):

### **Acknowledgement**

The participants of the Middle East PPR Roadmap meeting are grateful to the Government of Qatar, FAO and OIE for the support extended to them during the preparation and the conduct of the meeting.

## Annex 1

### Provisional Roadmap

**Provisional baseline Stages**  
established during the First PPR  
Roadmap meeting for the Middle-  
East (Doha, Qatar, December 2015  
(to be confirmed)

**Provisional Roadmap**  
established during the First  
PPR Roadmap meeting for  
the Middle-East (Doha,  
Qatar, December 2015

|           | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bahrain   | 2    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| RSA       | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |
| Kuwait    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Oman      | N.A  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Qatar     | 1    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| UAE       | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |
| Iraq      | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |
| Jordan    | 2    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Lebanon   | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |
| Palestine | N.A  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Syria     | N.A  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yemen     | N.A  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Egypt     | 1    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    |      |      |      |      |

N.A= not assessed (countries were absent)

## Annex 2

Other small ruminant diseases of importance and considered suitable for combination with PPR control

| Country      | Priority disease 1 | Priority disease 2 | Priority disease 3 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bahrain      | CCPP               | SGP                | Enterotoxaemia     |
| Egypt        | FMD                | SGP                | Brucellosis        |
| Iraq         | Brucellosis        | Enterotoxaemia     | SGP                |
| Jordan       | FMD                | SGP                | Brucellosis        |
| Kuwait       | Brucellosis        | SGP                | FMD                |
| Lebanon      | FMD                | SGP                | Brucellosis        |
| Saudi Arabia | Brucellosis        | SGP                | Enterotoxaemia     |
| Qatar        | SGP                | Brucellosis        | Enterotoxaemia     |
| UAE          | Brucellosis        | FMD                | SGP                |
| Palestine    |                    |                    |                    |
| Yemen        |                    |                    |                    |
| Syria        |                    |                    |                    |
| Oman         |                    |                    |                    |

SGP = Sheep and Goat pox

FMD = Foot and mouth disease

CCPP = Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia

### Regional priority diseases:

1. Brucellosis
2. SGP
3. Enterotoxaemia