

**FAO/OIE Sub-Regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SAARC Region**

**in collaboration with SAARC Secretariat**

**(4-5 June 2009) Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Recommendations**

1. Considering that SAARC CVOs have developed a broad and generic roadmap for TADs control it is now recommended that more specific strategies and roadmaps be developed for each of the priority diseases identified for the region taking into account specific regional issues. In this regard the following is recommended:
  - a. As part of the global effort to control FMD, a number of regions in the world have moved toward developing regional road maps for FMD control. In order to support this global effort and to provide strong thrust to the control of FMD in SAARC countries, it is recommended that a road map for FMD towards progressive control and eradication be developed for the sub-region.
  - b. Recognizing that PPR is endemic in the SAARC region and its economic importance to the livestock industry of member countries, the meeting recommends that a regional strategy for PPR control and eradication be developed based on the global rinderpest eradication programme model.
  - c. While all SAARC member countries have national strategies to control HPAI in poultry, given the regional importance of the disease the meeting recommends that a sub-regional HPAI strategy to cover SAARC member countries be developed as soon as possible and to be compatible with the FAO/OIE Global Strategy on the Control of HPAI.
  - d. The disease specific roadmaps should be developed with the CVOs of each country based on the already agreed GF-TADs Framework for SAARC, taking into account the need for harmonization of approaches, including the need for regional epidemiological studies based on pathogen ecology, management of cross border livestock movement, disease information sharing, and improved understanding of the biological (particularly genetic and immunological)

characteristics of pathogens, and the mechanism of provision of vaccines in case of emergencies.

2. In order to enhance more regional coordination using the GF-TADs framework, the meeting emphasized on early implementation of GF-TADs in SAARC, by early establishment of RSU and all associated units and networks.

In the meantime the meeting acknowledges and supports the ongoing work on HPAI and FMD being conducted by FAO and OIE in some countries and the sub-region.

Given the increasing importance of emerging infectious diseases it is recommended that broader capacity on early detection and response be developed in the region and greater cross-sectoral collaboration be promoted on the broad principles of One World One Health.

3. Considering the rapid spread of A/H1N1 influenza in humans, the propensity of the virus to recombine with other Influenza A viruses, and the presence of H5N1 virus in the region, it is recommended that in the context of SAARC member countries a surveillance strategies for H1N1 and H5N1 be developed in pigs and mixed pig-poultry farming systems and overall capacity building in the region to diagnose this disease be strengthened.
4. In the context of long term capacity building for the region to control TADs and EIDs, it is recommended that SAARC countries are encouraged when appropriate to have their veterinary services assessed using OIE PVS tool, and PVS gap analysis (OIE in collaboration with FAO and other partners).

The meeting recognizes and appreciates the efforts of FAO and OIE in fostering regional cooperation and collaboration for improved control of TADs in SAARC countries.