



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME



Partnering and investing for a
PPR-free World

GLOBAL CONFERENCE

6th - 7th September 2018

ALBERT BORSCHETTE CONFERENCE CENTRE
BRUSSELS | BELGIUM

BACKGROUND

Following the worldwide eradication of rinderpest in 2011, a global consensus was reached on the need to eradicate *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) or sheep and goat plague. A PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) was endorsed during an international conference on PPR, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in April 2015, with the vision of a PPR-free world by 2030. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), through governing body resolutions of both organizations, confirmed their commitment to this initiative.

To drive the PPR eradication effort on a global scale and effectively support countries in fighting the disease, as well as building on the efforts of the FAO-OIE Global Framework of the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), FAO and OIE established a Joint PPR Secretariat in March 2016. In October 2016, an initial PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for 2017-2021, which had been developed through an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, was launched by FAO and OIE to put the GCES into action.

On 10 October 2017, during a high-level meeting between the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development and the Directors General of FAO and OIE, the European Union confirmed its intention to join FAO and OIE in the global eradication campaign against PPR. The European Union is committed to helping pastoral populations, especially in fragile countries, where populations' livelihoods often rely on small ruminants. The three organizations determined to organize a PPR Global Conference in Brussels with the aim of rallying all stakeholders behind the PPR-GEP and mobilizing the additional support required for the eradication of the disease by 2030.

The importance of small ruminants

Small ruminants – totaling 2.1 billion heads worldwide according to FAOSTAT - are the primary livestock resource of 300 million poor rural families around the globe, including subsistence farmers and landless villagers as well as pastoralists. For these households, sheep and goats are a source of food and regular income, a means to capitalize savings, and a safety net during times of hardship. Selling animals or their products provides the necessary resources to access food, as well as educational and social services.

Food products derived from sheep and goats are an essential part of the diet for many people around the world and contribute to overcoming malnutrition. Sheep and goat milk and meat are of high nutritional value and provide high-quality protein, vitamins and minerals critical for cognitive development and physical strength, particularly for children.

Small ruminants are well adapted to arid and semi-arid environments, and are kept in a variety of production systems throughout the world. These include pastoral areas, where goats and sheep make a mixed flock. Households may totally depend on the animals for survival, as crop production is almost absent in such arid or desert areas. Small ruminants are mobile assets; pastoralists move with them in search for water and new pasture, or in times of climatic stress and volatile security situations. In such pastoral systems, meat and milk are key for food security and nutrition. Income from sales of live animals and their products account for between 60 and 80 percent of total household income. This money is essential for purchasing cereals and other household items, covering social and financial obligations, paying for school, or dealing with doctors' fees. In most pastoralists' cultures, women are in control of small ruminant operations and the associated income flow. This favours gender balance and contributes to an equitable allocation of earnings and animal-source foods within the household. Pastoralism is dominant in some large regions in Africa (Sahel region, Afar in Ethiopia, Turkana in Kenya, Somali region), the Middle East and Central and East Asia. In particular, in the dry zone in the Sahel region, it is the only way of life.

The disease...

PPR is an acute, highly contagious and devastating disease that affects and kills sheep and goats. It is caused by the PPR virus (PPRV), a member of genus *Morbillivirus* of the family *Paramyxoviridae*. PPR primarily affects sheep and goats, although cattle, camels, buffaloes and some wild ruminant species can also be infected, indicating spillover from domestic sheep and goats. Morbidity and mortality rates in small ruminants vary, but can be as high as 100% and 90%, respectively in previously unexposed flocks. PPRV also acts as a predisposing factor for secondary bacterial infections, which can contribute to high morbidity and mortality.



Since its initial identification in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, the disease has spread at an alarming rate with now more than 70 countries affected throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Today, over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat population are at risk. If left uncontrolled, it will spread even further, causing loss and hardship for millions of farmers and herders – most of whom are women – whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

...and its impacts

PPR causes annual economic losses of up to USD 2.1 billion. Looking beyond this figure, 300 million families are at risk of losing their livelihoods, food security, and employment opportunities. Moreover, small ruminants and their products are internationally traded commodities, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. PPR considerably affects export earnings and creates supply shortages. The inability of families, communities, and institutions to anticipate, absorb, or recover from PPR, can compromise national and regional development efforts, and turn back the clock on decades of progress.

A PPR outbreak is an emergency due to its rapid spread and high animal mortality rate. Fatal diseases of small ruminants, such as PPR, affect the already vulnerable livelihoods and can decimate the savings of poor populations, in particular in pastoral areas. Moreover, people become desperate when they lose their assets. PPR outbreaks, and the desperation due to the loss, can therefore trigger turmoil, migration, and volatile security situations. Eradicating PPR will increase sustainability, alleviate poverty, improve the resilience of poor pastoralists and their communities, enable them to better cope with other shocks and threats, prevent forced migration and mitigate extremist trends.

As an example, Mongolia reported its first-ever PPR outbreaks in sheep and goat populations in September 2016. In the absence of an adequate response by local veterinary services, the disease rapidly spread, devastating rural livelihoods, and disrupting exports and value chains. In December 2016, PPR spilled over to wild antelope species killing up to 60% of the *Saiga* antelope population, a critically endangered species according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Why invest in PPR control and eradication?

Controlling and eventually eradicating PPR means fighting rural poverty, ensuring food security and nutrition, and strengthening resilience and national economies. It will contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), but also SDGs 5 (gender equality) and 8 (decent work and economic growth).

PPR can be eradicated worldwide by 2030. It can be readily and cost-effectively diagnosed and a reliable, inexpensive and high quality vaccine is available that confers lifelong immunity to vaccinated animals after a single dose. Strengthening the capacities of national Veterinary Services to control and eradicate this disease will also generate wide-ranging benefits in the fight against other animal diseases.

Growing international consensus and political support for the eradication of PPR, technical feasibility, high rates of return on investment that span generations, and the FAO-OIE partnership proven to have successfully eradicated transboundary animal diseases – such as rinderpest – are strong guarantees of success of the PPR-GEP.

The PPR-GEP

The PPR-GEP encompasses a multi-country, multi-stage sequential process comprising epidemiological and socio-economic assessments, control and eradication of PPRV and maintenance of PPRV freedom. Each country is guided and supported in a tailored manner in building the capacity needed for the implementation of the five key elements of PPR prevention, control and eradication: the diagnostic system, the surveillance system, the prevention and control system, the legal framework, and stakeholder involvement. As the implementation of the PPR-GEP requires effective national Veterinary Services, it provides capacity building using proven frameworks such as the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway. The programme also promotes activities geared towards reducing the prevalence of other prioritized small ruminant diseases. Finally, the PPR-GEP provides required technical assistance and coordination at regional and global levels.

PPR infected-countries are found in nine regions in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. FAO and OIE have completed a first round of regional consultations – PPR Roadmap Meetings – in all these regions, presenting the PPR-GEP and its tools, and

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Around **200 participants** are expected to attend the Global Conference including representatives from:

- Infected and at risk countries (Minister in charge of Livestock and Chief Veterinary Officer)
- Continental and regional organizations
- Resource partners (bilateral and multilateral)
- Civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector representatives
- GF-TADs Global and Regional Committees, the PPR Advisory Committee, and the Global Research and Expertise Network on PPR (PPR-GREN)
- EU, FAO and OIE

carrying out a first self-assessment of each country's PPR situation and the capacity of its Veterinary Services. The Regional Roadmap meetings are key to ensuring continuous assessment and monitoring of the disease situation, discussing challenges faced and progress made on the PPR-GEP implementation, and promoting regional approaches, which are critical due to the transboundary nature of the disease.

FAO and OIE have also developed partnerships with regional organizations in Africa – the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) and Regional Commissions (RECs) - in the Middle East and in Asia, as well as with relevant civil society organizations.

FAO, OIE and partners are providing support to countries and regions to formulate their PPR National and Regional Strategic Plans, which detail the steps for assessing, controlling, and eradicating PPRV, and maintaining PPRV freedom, as well as the financial resources required and committed by national and regional authorities to implement the Plans. Eight out of the nine regions have formulated their respective regional strategies, which now need to be endorsed by their constituencies. In addition, more than 50 infected countries have formulated their National Strategic Plans in alignment with the regional and global strategy.

PVS Pathway missions – with a specific component related to PPR control and aligned closely with the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool of the PPR-GEP – have been successfully piloted. By incorporating lessons learnt from the pilots, methods used towards building the capacity of national Veterinary Services are ready for scale up.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The objectives are as follows:

1. To reaffirm international political commitment to globally eradicate PPR, as a vital contribution to fight rural poverty, ensure food and nutrition security, and strengthen the resilience of communities, thus supporting the attainment of the United Nations SDGs by 2030.
2. To provide a forum for governments to confirm their political commitment to the PPR-GEP and commit national investments to the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.
3. To obtain commitment and support from resource partners for the implementation of the PPR-GEP, by providing adequate funding for national, regional and global activities in order to eradicate PPR by 2030.
4. To exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices among invited participants that can be harnessed for the implementation of the PPR-GEP.

The main **expected outcomes** are as follows:

- A common understanding has been created as well as new partnerships forged for a global, concerted and sustained effort towards the control and eradication of PPR among all stakeholders - including governments, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, foundations, resource partners and regional and international organizations.
- Investments have been committed by governments and by resource partners for the implementation of the PPR-GEP and progress towards the eradication of the disease.
- Experiences, lessons learned and good practices in implementing PPR control and eradication activities have been exchanged.

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

PPR control and eradication starts with commitment and investment at national level. However, support is needed from regional and international partners in building the capacity of national, regional and sub-regional institutions, and bringing about a coordinated, sustained and harmonized approach necessary for the eradication of the disease. A globally concerted effort is now required to support both national and regional actions plans and the strengthening of Veterinary Services.

The overall cost of the first five-year global programme is estimated at USD 996 million. This includes the cost for the vaccination of 1.5 billion sheep and goats (procurement of vaccines, logistics, and post vaccination evaluation), which makes up more than 70 per cent of this estimate. About nine per cent of the budget is allocated to the control of other prioritized small ruminant diseases, seven per cent to coordination and management of PPR control and eradication, and five per cent to assessment and surveillance. The remaining activities to finance include the strengthening of laboratory and of national veterinary services, the organization of regional roadmap meetings, as well as strategy, advocacy and communication. A wide range of resource partners, including bilateral donors, development banks, foundations, international organizations as well as countries affected by PPR, are presently contributing to PPR efforts at country and global levels. The Conference will be a privileged opportunity to account for ongoing support and will also address the most critical financial gaps.

The conference will be held as a half-day event. It will provide a platform for high-level political interventions, for representatives from affected and at risk countries and regions to set forth their experiences, challenges, and commitments, and for resource partners to express their pledges for support.

A Stakeholder Forum will be organized the day before the Global Conference, involving pastoralists, traders, representatives of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, women's associations, parliamentarians and other stakeholders. This forum will provide the opportunity to exchange views, collect first-hand testimonies on the serious impact of PPR and issue a final statement to be delivered during the Conference by stakeholder representatives.

PROGRAMME

Day 1: 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

13:00	Registration of participants
14:00	Opening remarks
14:30	Role of small ruminants in building resilience of pastoral communities
15:00	Challenges and policy priorities related to sustainable livestock development
15:30	General discussion
17:00	Preparation and adoption of the final statement of the forum
18:00	End of the Stakeholder Forum

End of Day 1

Day 2: 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Opening Ceremony

09:30

- European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development
- FAO Director General
- OIE Director General

Theme 1: Progress on PPR control and eradication, and investment priorities going forward

10:15

- Introductory remarks** by:
- AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
 - Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
 - Secretary general of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

11:00

- Panel speakers** (Ministers)
- Africa/Asia/Middle-East
 - *Discussion*

Theme 2: Why invest in PPR eradication?

11:30

Introductory remarks by WB and IFAD

12:00

- Panel speakers** (Resource partners)
- Bilateral and multilateral partners

12:30

- Report from DG SANTE-led conference on animal diseases in Europe

12:45

- Report from the Stakeholder Forum

13:00

- *Discussion*

13:15

Closing session

13:30

Lunch

End of Day 2

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with the support of the
European Union

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LEARN MORE

For more information:

Fao.org/ppr
oie.int/PPR
PPR-Secretariat@fao.org



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