



FAO/OIE International Conference on FMD Control Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 June 2012

Background

The first global conference on FMD, 'The way towards global FMD control', was organized by OIE and FAO in Asuncion, Paraguay in June 2009. The participants of the Conference formulated a set of recommendations and reiterated their strong support for a globally coordinated approach to FMD control. Recommendation 14 called for a pledging conference with the participation of free and affected countries, relevant organizations and donors, to support a global FMD-control programme.

Under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), FAO and OIE have jointly prepared a draft Global FMD Control Strategy in collaboration with regional organizations, international organizations, national experts and specialized experts. The Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD developed by FAO and OIE, and the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway provided by OIE, are important tools to build and implement the Global FMD Control Strategy. Lessons learned from regions with advanced FMD control programmes will be fully incorporated.

As demonstrated in several countries and regions, it is possible to control the spread of FMD and, under certain circumstances, to eradicate the disease. Important components of a successful strategy have been identified, including effective Veterinary Services, competent diagnostic laboratories, quality-controlled vaccines that match the strains prevailing in the region, well-designed epidemio-surveillance systems, well-functioning private-public partnerships, regional and global coordination and continuing research programmes.

In addition to the core objective of decreasing the impact of FMD, the global FMD control strategy includes two additional objectives, namely:

- the strengthening of the Veterinary Services and
- the improvement of other (transboundary) animal disease control activities..

Experience has shown that better control of FMD requires improved capabilities and infrastructure of national Veterinary Services. Achieving this will improve a country's capability to prevent and control other (transboundary) animal diseases.

By combining FMD control activities with those of other disease control programmes, economy of scale advantages may be obtained and incentives for owners may be created. Such combinations of disease control activities should be fine-tuned to the regional needs.

Therefore the overall aim of the Global FMD control Strategy is to reduce the global impact of FMD, but in addition to use the FMD control programme as an entry point to achieve sustainable progress in veterinary systems and spin-off effects in other disease control areas.

Joint FAO/OIE International Conference on FMD Control

The Global FMD Control Strategy will be presented during an international conference organized by FAO and OIE, with the active support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Thailand. The conference is scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand, from June 26-29, 2012.

Experts will present an analysis of the global FMD situation, the socio-economic impact of the disease, the progress achieved with existing regional FMD control initiatives and 'state of the art' overviews regarding vaccines, diagnostic methods and current research. This will be followed by presentation of the Global FMD Control Strategy, the tools and methods it will employ and the gaps and needs that should be addressed to achieve sustainable progress. The budget required to implement the strategy during the first five years will also be presented. Donors and representatives of FMD-free and FMD-infected countries and regions will have an opportunity to present their views.

The conference is expected to attract over 400 participants, including Chief Veterinary Officers and Directors of Animal Production, decision-makers, and representatives of donor agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and industry and agricultural producer organizations. Ministers from both FMD-free and FMD-infected countries will also be invited.

A provisional programme of the conference and additional information will be published shortly at the following URL: <http://www.fmdconference2012.com> and http://www.oie.int/eng/A_FMD2012/Objective.html