

MISSION REPORT

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OIE Regional Workshop on the OIE procedure for the official recognition of Member Countries disease status and for the endorsement of national official control programme with regard to foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants.

Cairo, Egypt, 5-6October 2016

Aim of the meeting:

- To provide the participants with information on the OIE standards and on the OIE procedure relevant to the official recognition of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) status as well as national control programme endorsement;
- To capacitate Member Countries on the preparation of dossiers for the official recognition of disease status with regard to FMD and PPR or for the endorsement of the national official control programmes by the OIE and related technical questions;
- To strengthen the Regional network of veterinarians working on FMD and PPR.

Participants from the OIE Headquarters:

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of Status Department, SD
Dr Simona Forcella, Chargée de mission, SD

Participants from the RR / SRR or OIE experts

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative(RR)
Dr Ali El Romeh, (RR)
Ms. Rita Rizk,(RR)
Dr TrevorDrew, OIE FMD expert
Prof Hassan Aidaros, OIE expert

Participants from other organizations/experts:

FAO and USDA-APHIS

Summary:

The Workshop was attended by 30 participants, among them 5 OIE Delegates, from 10 OIE Member Countries of the OIE Middle-East Region; participants from 2 Member Countries (Syria (for visa) and Yemen (airport closure) could not attend. The list of participants is attached.



Opening remarks were made by the OIE Egyptian Delegate, followed by an introductory session covering the objectives of the Workshop and allowing participants to introduce themselves and to share their expectations of the Workshop.

General presentations were given on the current FMD and PPR situation in the Region, and on the Standard Operating Procedures for official recognition of disease and for the endorsement of official control programmes. More specific presentations were given on the general requirements of the FMD and PPR *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* chapters for the official recognition and endorsement of a national official control programme; the *Terrestrial Code* general requirements for zoning and for FMD and PPR surveillance; as well as on the questionnaires for Member Countries applying for endorsement of their official control programme.

Finally, short overviews on the "FMD Global Control Strategy" and on the 'Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR' were provided. In particular, the links between the Strategies and the OIE procedure for the endorsement of a national official control programme or for the recognition of free status were highlighted. The benefits that could derive from the implementation of the PVS pathway in OIE Member Countries, to eventually gain control of FMD and freedom from PPR, were also emphasised.

The practical part of the Workshop allowed participants to work on quizzes which covered the important points from the topics presented and to work on fictitious dossiers.

At the end of the Workshop, a specific time was allocated for the participants to provide their feed-back on the Workshop.

Few weeks before the workshop, participants were requested to fill in a need assessment questionnaire with the two following objectives:

- 1) For the participants to self-assess their level of knowledge and understanding of key topics related to the official recognition of FMD and PPR status / programme;
- 2) For the OIE team to adapt the workshop to answer to the specific needs / gaps of information in the region.

At the end of the meeting, the participants were requested to complete again the first part of the questionnaire (self-assessment of their level of knowledge and understanding) to assess the immediate impact of the workshop.

Comments:

The feedback from the participants was very positive and they appreciated the interactivity generated by the "hands-on" training.

The Workshop provided the opportunity for the Delegates and for staff from the Veterinary Services working on FMD and PPR related matters to meet with the staff from the OIE RR and the OIE Headquarters in charge of OIE official status recognition and endorsement of national control programmes as well as with an OIE FMD expert.

It also allowed direct interaction among the participants in similar positions in the Middle-East Region to share their experience with regard to FMD and PPR control and to the OIE procedure for official status recognition and endorsement of national control programmes, in particular with regard to maintenance of free status over time.

The review and highlighting of the important points through quizzes following the presentations and the direct "hands-on" training on the fictitious dossiers under the supervision of the OIE Staff and the OIE Expert provided great benefit to the understanding of participants on the OIE procedure for the official recognition of countries status in general and particularly for FMD. It also emphasised the main shortcomings noted in the past years when evaluating applications for official recognition of FMD and PPR free status and for the endorsement of Member Countries' national official control programmes for FMD and PPR.

The participants had also the possibility to understand the practical implication of the OIE tools (endorsement of control programmes; status recognition and PVS pathway) in the context of the FMD and PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategies.

Key person(s) met and subjects of discussion:

See the list of participants attached;

Follow-up:

A follow-up (more advanced training) should be considered when the countries of the region are more advanced along FMD and /or PPR control.

Enclosed documents

List of participants

Agenda of the meeting

Presentations

Diffusion: Director General, Deputies General Director, Director of Finance, Heads of Service and Unit, Regional and Sub Regional Representatives, Documentaliste