

The Shiraz Declaration

The impact of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) affects the livelihoods of all people keeping livestock in the West EurAsia region, through increasing the cost of production, and decreasing the market opportunity and value of animals and products. It is the most contagious disease of livestock and epidemics emerging in one part of the region often result in regional pandemics of devastating consequence. The development of a stepwise roadmap to attain disease control and eventual freedom is important to safeguard the growth in production, livelihoods and trade needed to feed a region that is increasingly food insecure. The attendees of the "Regional Workshop to Develop a Long Term Foot-and-Mouth Control Strategy for West Eurasia" developed a vision for the region:

Regional cooperation among Eurasian countries for the progressive control of FMD through public and private partnerships leading towards freedom of clinical disease by 2020 for economic development, food security, and poverty alleviation.

The attendees have agreed that all countries should aim to progress along a risk reduction pathway, through a set of sequential activities and stages involving assessment of the risk of FMD, development of National FMD Risk Reduction (Control) Programme to manage the risks which are backed by stakeholder support. The National Plans should be developed between the private sector and public sector, be realistic to the difficulties involved, and optimise the limited resources in public and private to best long term effect, and consistent and compliment the efforts of neighbours within the regional Roadmap framework.

To be successful, a Region Secretariat should be established and financed by the countries with national and international support and though FMD is considered the highest priority, other transboundary animal diseases should be addressed. It is envisioned that the Secretariat would be responsible for the collation and dissemination of information, preparation of its annual meetings, coordinating the networks in epidemiology and diagnostic laboratory services, facilitating communication and arranging independent audits on performance along the road map.

The participants support the launching of regional co-ordinated actions to improve the capacity of each veterinary service to develop and implement the Risk reduction plans and to safeguard against new epidemics. These are:

- a laboratory support network, for virus characterization and vaccine selection;
- co-ordinated action to improve planning disease control measures, use of epidemiology and risk analysis;
- multi-lateral actions to reduce risk associated legal and informal trade across land borders;
- actions to harmonise and optimise use of FMD vaccination across the region;
- Communication, Awareness and Training.

The participants recognise that the success of the regional effort relies on the relevant Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Commerce, and Foreign Affairs (among others) to implement national risk reduction activities that will assist the region's economic development as well as the welfare of its citizens, animal genetic resources, and food security.

As the competent authority responsible for animal health in one of the countries at risk from FMD in West EurAsia, we recognise the need to commit ourselves to regional co-ordination of efforts against FMD, and to commit to the principles of long term effort in surveillance and in prevention and control measures that will bring FMD fully under control in West Eurasia.

Signed: _____

Competent authority/Ministry _____

Date _____

Stamped with official seal of the veterinary service/Ministry/authority