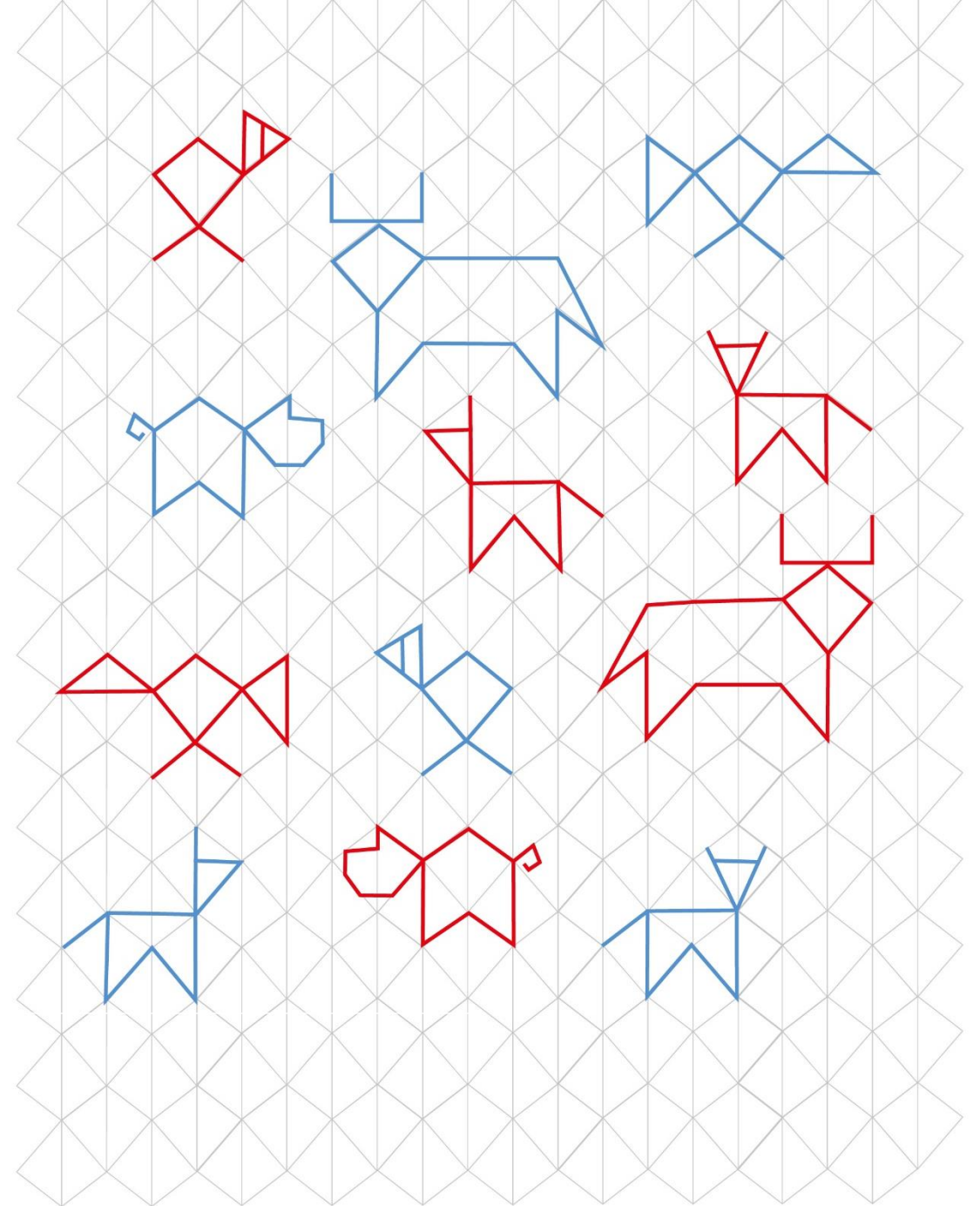


# Roles of the regional leading laboratory, EPINET and WELNET Team Leaders

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Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**FAO Member GF-TADs FMD Working Group**





# Contents

- Regional advisory group
- Objectives and functions of regional epi and lab networks
- Terms of reference of network leaders
- Regional leading lab terms of reference and selection criteria

# THE GLOBAL FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL STRATEGY

STRENGTHENING ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH IMPROVED CONTROL OF MAJOR DISEASES

2012

2012



**PCP =  
Assessment tool  
(2nd Edition 2018)**

**RAG-FMD:  
Regional Advisory Group  
5 members, including the  
leader of the laboratory and  
the epi network**



**GF-TADs FMD Regional Advisory Group (RAG)  
for Progressive Control Pathway- FMD Roadmaps**

**I. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. To review the progressive control pathway (PCP)- FMD stage assessments of countries during the PCP-FMD regional roadmap meetings (Component 1)
2. To guide FMD training and capacity development activities in countries to support FMD regional /national strategies and their alignment with the principles of the FAO-OIE Global FMD Control Strategy(June 2012)

2013



## GF-TADs FMD RAG Composition-WEA

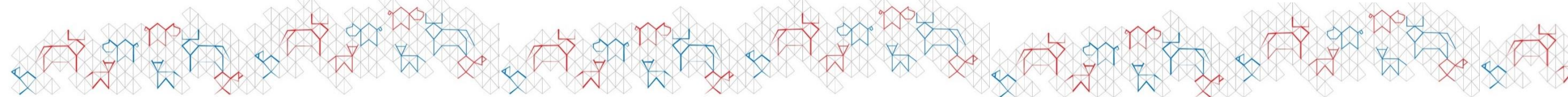
### ➤ Voting members

- ❖ 3 CVOs from the region (Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Iran)
- ❖ *leader of the FMD regional epidemiology network from Georgia and Azerbaijan*
- ❖ *leader of the FMD regional laboratory network from Turkey*

**3-Years Term**

### ➤ Non voting members

- ❖ representatives from the GF-TADs FMD WG (FAO and OIE)
- ❖ 2 representatives from regional/sub-regional FAO and OIE offices
- ❖ PCP and PVS experts, as appropriate
- ❖ 1 representative from a regional organization, with preference given to a member of the GF-TADs



# Regional Epidemiology Network EPINET



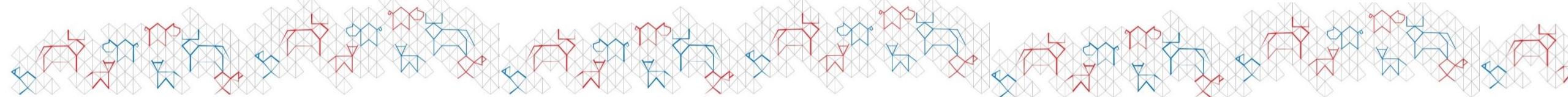
# Objectives of the Epi Network

- Collect, analyse, and **share epidemiological information** on the regional occurrence of FMD;
- Promote sharing information on FMD including outbreaks, virus circulation, **vaccine selection, vaccination strategies**, and vaccine effectiveness;
- Strengthen the **competence of epidemiologists** within the region to implement FMD and other TADs control activities;
- Ensure **cross-border coordination** and harmonization of activities;
- Ensure the development of FMD National control plans, SOPs and **national FMD strategies** in the region.



## Activities of the EPINET

- **Develop a regional workplan** addressing the needs and gaps to implement FMD control strategies;
- Meet (physically or remotely) on regular basis to **review progress and agree on network work plan**;
- **Design and convey trainings and workshops** in accordance with the agreed workplan;
- Develop a **memorandum of understanding for lab and epi** to ensure countries' commitment in support to the network's objectives;
- Develop **database for information sharing** on FMD and other TADs;
- Facilitate **training and scientific exchange** on PCP-FMD and FMD epidemiology;
- Provide an annual epidemiological **network report** to GF-TADs FMD WG;
- Seek funding for the network activities.



# Epi Network Leader

## Terms of Reference

- Organize and lead the epidemiological network meetings and facilitate the implementation of the agreed workplan;
- Lead the formulation of a memorandum of understanding to meet the network objectives;
- Analyze the information provided by the region to look for trends and formulate hypothesis to better address challenges within the region;
- Share information in real-time with the points of contact on the FMD situation in the region (early warning) including data on virus circulation, vaccine selection, vaccination strategies, and vaccination monitoring;

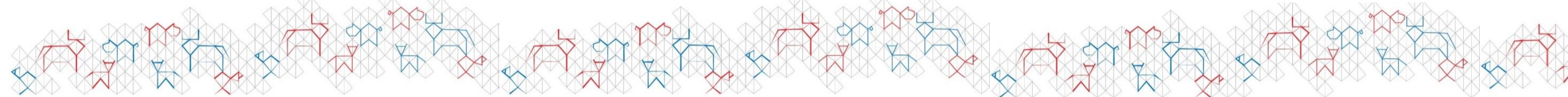




# Epi Network Leader

## Terms of Reference (cont.)

- Provide recommendations to the region on FMD surveillance and epidemiology to assist in the control of FMD;
- Support training based on upon the recommendations provided by the network;
- Prepare and provide an annual epidemiological network report to GF-TADs  
FMD WG



# Regional Laboratory Network WELNET



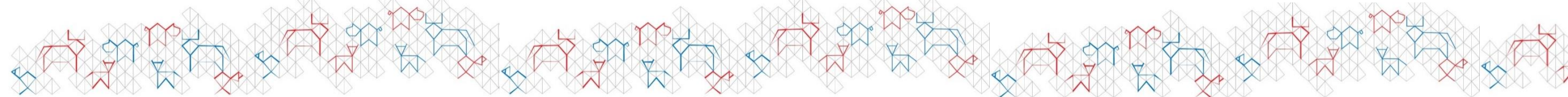
# Regional Lab Network Objectives

- **Share available laboratory information** on the regional occurrence and spread of FMDV;
- Provide recommendations on **selection of vaccine strains** and engage in evaluation of vaccines quality;
- Harmonise **FMD diagnostic procedures** through the participation in proficiency tests;
- Prepare and exchange **reference diagnostic reagents**;
- Advocate **submission of samples** for diagnosis or confirmation to reference laboratories;
- Encourage **accreditation of diagnostic procedures** by national or international accreditation body;
- Promote the implementation of the international **lab biosafety and biosecurity standards**;
- Increase **competency of national laboratories** and identify constraints and to propose solutions.



# Activities of Regional Lab Network

- Meet to review progress and to agree on work plan of the network;
- Provide an annual network report to GF-TADs FMD WG;
- Develop a memorandum of understanding for lab and epi to ensure countries' commitment in support to the network's objectives;
- Develop processes based on best practices to achieve equivalence in FMD laboratory outputs and follow the international standards of diagnostic procedures and biosafety and biosecurity;
- Agree to the exchange of materials and data between national laboratories;
- Connect with the OIE-FAO reference laboratory network for exchange of information and expertise;
- Facilitate training and scientific exchange on FMD laboratory activities; and
- Seek funding for the network activities.



## Lab Network Leader Terms of Reference

- Organize laboratory network meetings and facilitate the implementation of the agreed workplan;
- Lead the formulation of a memorandum of understanding to meet the network objectives;
- Assist in the evaluation of capacity/capabilities and performance of the center laboratories within the region;
- Offer expertise to the region on diagnostics to assist in the control of FMD;
- Provide recommendations on vaccine strain selection for implementation of control plans;



## Lab Network Leader Terms of Reference (cont.)

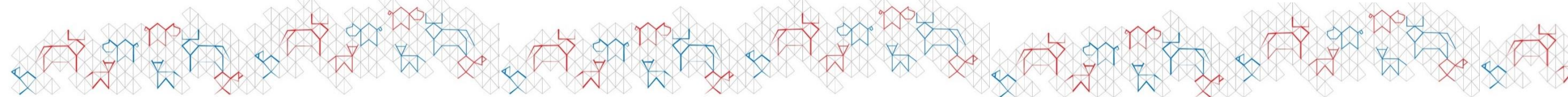
- Share information in real-time with the points of contact on the incursion of new virus strain in the region (early warning);
- Facilitate training and workshop on diagnostics per the agreed workplan;
- Assist in submission of diagnostic samples for virus characterization and vaccine matching;
- Provide SOPs and protocols to harmonize the laboratory results;
- Coordinate and prepare proficiency test scheme for the region; and
- Participate in the annual OIE-FAO FMD reference laboratory network.



# ToRs- Epi & Lab Network Leaders

## During the roadmap meetings

- Review and assess the PCP- FMD stage of the countries;
- Deliver a presentation on activities and advancement of the network towards the regional priorities and workplan;
- Lead the discussion on the regional needs in epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis to update the workplan;
- Work closely with the FMD WG and RAG on the delivery of the regional priorities;
- Advise on issues or factors preventing effective progress along the FMD roadmap.



# Regional Leading Laboratory

## Terms of Reference

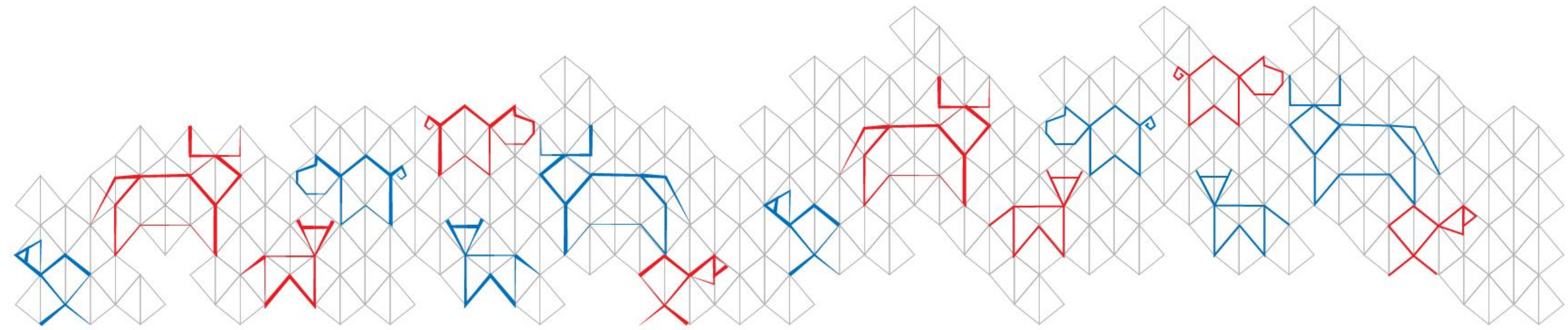
1. **Communicate with the national laboratories** on the services they can provide
2. Development of **technical reference documents** (manuals, SOPs, guidelines)
3. **Provides training** to national laboratories (train the trainers approach)
4. **Provide diagnostic service** and **technical advice** on diagnostics to countries in the region
5. **Advocate national labs to submit samples** to FAO/OIE reference centers for full characterization
6. **Coordinates proficiency testing** for the region (limited to screening tests)
7. Assist in the **procurement/production** and/or maintenance of stock **reagents**
8. Participates in **regional laboratory network** activities (**potential leader**)
9. Links with the regional **epidemiology network**





# Regional Leading Laboratory Selection Criteria

1. **Creditability** and accepted by countries of the region
2. Commitment from the government to support and sustain lab functions as described in the terms of reference
3. **Lab capacity** and capability to perform diagnostics for FMD/PPR/other TADs
4. Capability to handle exotic viruses from other countries in the region
5. Certification to ship and receive international diagnostic samples
6. Participated or willingness to take part in OIE twinning program
7. Keen interest to be designated as a FAO/OIE reference center
8. Established link with FMD reference laboratory
9. Maintain good performance on proficiency testing carried by reference center



Thanks for your attention