



Foot and Mouth Disease & Peste des Petits Ruminants

Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) Meeting

Ganja, Azerbaijan

1–3 July 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Member States

Common (PPR & FMD)

- Enhance political commitment on FMD and PPR control and eradication strategies by raising the topic at ministerial level, identify strategic meetings for integration of these disease strategies and communicated to FAO/WOAH for support
- Strengthen regional collaboration and coordination among Veterinary Services to improve preparedness, surveillance, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases through transparency, trust and timely information sharing.
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration by establishing efficient mechanisms for rapid exchange of epidemiological information, coordinated risk assessments, and joint preparedness and response activities.
- Harmonize surveillance methodologies, outbreak investigation procedures, laboratory diagnostic approaches, and biosecurity measures through regional guidelines, SOPs and standardized reporting tools.
- Strengthen implementation of farm-level biosecurity measures through development of national biosecurity programmes, improvement of farmers' awareness, promotion of good farming practices and integration of biosecurity assessments into veterinary inspections.
- Strengthen laboratory capacity and regional laboratory networking through quality assurance, harmonized diagnostic methods and inter-laboratory proficiency testing.
- Organize regular regional simulation exercises and emergency preparedness activities.
- Strengthen animal identification, traceability systems and risk-based movement controls, including integration of identification databases with veterinary surveillance, certification and movement control systems to support rapid outbreak investigation and targeted response.
- Strengthen national technical capacity through regional training programmes and technical workshops.
- Continue regular regional technical meetings to review the epidemiological situation, monitor implementation of recommendations and exchange best practices.
- Strengthen collaboration between official Veterinary Services and private veterinary practitioners, including clear roles and responsibilities in disease surveillance, vaccination, reporting and outbreak response.

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- Improve farmers' engagement and awareness through continuous communication campaigns and practical training on early disease detection, reporting obligations and biosecurity practices.

PPR-specific

- Exchange experience on vaccination strategies, monitoring of post-vaccination immunity and evaluation of vaccination effectiveness.
- Countries to participate in PPR Reference Laboratory Network Activities and utilise detailed resources available in the [website](#)

FMD-specific

- Support regular Regional Advisory Group (RAG) coordination meetings.
- Develop regional preparedness plans and rapid response mechanisms for potential introduction of SAT1 and SAT2 viruses, including coordinated risk assessment, pre-agreed mechanisms for vaccine access, emergency vaccination strategies, vaccine bank arrangements, emergency vaccine matching and timely sharing of epidemiological information.
- Promote timely sharing of information regarding virus sequencing data, vaccine matching results and risk assessments.
- Strengthen non-structural protein (NSP) surveillance to support differentiation between infected and vaccinated animals and to evaluate the effectiveness of FMD control programmes.
- Improve monitoring of vaccination coverage, vaccine quality, cold chain management and post-vaccination immunity to ensure effective population protection.
- Designate and support dedicated FMD specialists within national Veterinary Services.
- Continue strengthening the regional epidemiology and laboratory networks (WeINet and EpiNet).

Recommendations to FAO & WOAH

Common

- Continue facilitating regional coordination mechanisms, both at the level of policy decision making and technical platforms that promote collaboration, strengthening of surveillance and control strategies, and exchange of best practices.
- Support regional laboratory and epidemiology networks and facilitate harmonization of surveillance methodologies.
- Support the development of regional technical guidance, SOPs and capacity-building programmes.
- Continue organizing regional meetings, technical workshops and simulation exercises.
- Support countries in improving animal identification and traceability systems and promoting interoperability between identification databases and disease surveillance platforms.
- Develop regional guidance on farm-level biosecurity assessment and support countries in integrating biosecurity measures into national disease control programmes.

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- Promote digital tools for disease surveillance, animal movement monitoring, outbreak investigation and risk-based decision-making.

PPR-specific

- Continue supporting implementation of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR through regional coordination that optimise decision and technical forums, implementation of regional recommendations and technical assistance.
- Support harmonized approaches for surveillance, monitoring vaccination effectiveness, post-vaccination immunity, transition out of vaccination and increase the level of preparedness across the region.
- Facilitate regional collaboration on biosafety, biosecurity and biological risk management related to PPR, with specific mention for sample and vaccine handling.

FMD-specific

- Continue supporting the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) as the regional coordination mechanism for implementation of the West Eurasia FMD Roadmap.
- Facilitate coordinated regional risk assessments and preparedness planning following incursions of exotic FMD virus serotypes.
- Continue supporting of regional vaccine matching activities, virus characterization and dissemination of technical guidance.

Recommendations for Reference Laboratories

Common

- Strengthen collaboration with national laboratories to improve diagnostic capacity, quality assurance, proficiency testing and technical support.
- Continue supporting harmonization of laboratory diagnostic methodologies and regional laboratory networking.

PPR-specific

- Support harmonization of PPR diagnostic methods and proficiency tests.
- Provide technical support on biosafety, biosecurity and safe handling of PPR viruses and biological materials.
- Support monitoring of post-vaccination immunity through standardized laboratory methods.

FMD-specific

- Strengthen regional laboratory support for virus characterization and vaccine matching.
- Support development and implementation of standardized approaches for genomic surveillance and timely sharing of sequencing data to monitor virus evolution and emerging risks.
- Expand the availability of reference materials, including reference sera for SAT1.
- Support rapid laboratory confirmation and sharing of laboratory findings during outbreaks.

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- Support national laboratories in maintaining diagnostic readiness for emerging FMD virus serotypes, including SAT1 and SAT2.

Recommendations to Vaccine Manufacturers

Common

- Strengthen collaboration with Veterinary Services, FAO and WOAH by participating in regular technical consultations and providing timely information on vaccine availability, production capacity and vaccine performance.
- Provide information on vaccine production capacity, lead times, antigen availability and emergency supply mechanisms to support regional preparedness planning.
- Maintain availability of vaccines covering relevant regional risks, including SAT1 and SAT2 lineages, based on recommendations from Reference Laboratories and vaccine matching results.

PPR-specific

- Continue collaborating with countries and international organizations to ensure timely availability of quality-assured PPR vaccines for national and regional vaccination campaigns.
- Share data on vaccine performance to support evaluation of vaccination effectiveness and post-vaccination immunity.

FMD-specific

- Provide regular updates on vaccine composition, emergency vaccine stocks and vaccine effectiveness against circulating and emerging FMD virus lineages.
- Collaborate with Reference Laboratories and Veterinary Services on vaccine matching activities to facilitate rapid vaccine selection during emergencies.

Recommendations to Donors

Common

- Continue supporting regional coordination mechanisms, laboratory strengthening, surveillance systems, technical capacity-building, simulation exercises and sustainable regional networks.
- Support investments in preparedness, emergency response capacity, laboratory infrastructure and cross-border collaboration.
- Support sustainable strengthening of Veterinary Services, including workforce development, retention of trained personnel and improvement of field veterinary capacities.
- Support development and maintenance of sustainable animal identification and traceability systems as essential components of disease prevention and control strategies.

PPR-specific

- Continue supporting implementation of the PPR Global Eradication Programme, including surveillance, vaccination, laboratory strengthening and regional coordination activities.

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- Support projects aimed at improving biosafety, biosecurity and biological risk management capacities related to PPR.

FMD-specific

- Continue supporting implementation of the West Eurasia FMD Roadmap, including emergency preparedness, vaccine matching, regional laboratory networks and surveillance for emerging FMD virus serotypes.
- Support sustainable financing for regional coordination mechanisms, including the activities of the Regional Advisory Group (RAG), WeiNet and EpiNet.

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