



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Oie
WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

3rd Foot-and-Mouth Disease Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting for West Eurasia

Virtual Meeting

17-18 August 2021

Report

Acknowledgements

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Acronyms

ANSES	Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail
ARRIAH	Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
EPINET	West Eurasian Epidemiology Network
EuFMD	European Commission for the Control of Foot-And-Mouth Disease (an Inter-Governmental Commission based in the FAO)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO REU	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
FAST	FMD and Similar Transboundary Animal Diseases
FMD	Foot-and-mouth disease
FMDV	Foot-and-mouth disease virus
FMD WG	GF-TADs FMD Working Group
GF-TADs	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
Members	Member Countries and Territories or Member States
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OCP	Official Control Programme
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIE RR	OIE Regional Representation in Moscow
OIE SRR	OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia
PCP-FMD	Progressive Control Pathway for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
PSO	PCP-FMD Support Officer
PTS	Proficiency testing schemes
PVM	Post-Vaccination Monitoring
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services
RAG	Regional Advisory Group
RAP	Risk Assessment Plan
RBSP	Risk-Based Strategic Plan
RRL	FAO Regional Leading Laboratories
SAT	PCP-FMD Self-Assessment Tool
TRAC	PCP-FMD Tool for Review and Communication
WELNET	West Eurasian Laboratory Network
WRLFMD	World Reference Laboratory for Foot-and-Mouth Disease, The Pirbright Institute, UK

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Report of the meeting

Background

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is one of the most important transboundary animal diseases (TADs) globally, where it affects the productivity of livestock, disrupts regional and international trade in animals and animal products. In the West Eurasian region, the FMD animal health status is as follows: Kazakhstan and Turkish Thrace with free country/zone status; Kyrgyzstan with an OIE-endorsed Official Control Programme (OCP) for FMD; Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkish Anatolia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in PCP-FMD Stage 2 and Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in PCP-FMD Stage 1 (updated map available [here](#)).

As one of their contributions to the global fight against FMD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) developed a 15-year [Global FMD Control Strategy](#) in 2012. Under the Strategy, several initiatives were identified to establish an enabling environment to make FMD control a feasible option - among these are strengthening of Veterinary Services (VS) in order to enable better control of priority animal diseases like FMD, and to encourage countries to progressively control FMD using the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD ([PCP-FMD](#)) methodology.

It is against this background that the FMD Working Group (FMD-WG), under the umbrella of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases ([GF-TADs](#)), and with technical support from the European Commission for the control of FMD ([EuFMD](#)) initiated the meeting for epidemiology and laboratory experts (Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks meeting) in the West Eurasian region.

The last FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks meeting for the West Eurasian region was held in 2017; given a 2-year interval between meetings, the next one should have been in 2019, but was postponed to 2020 due to overlap with an FMD Roadmap Meeting for the same region (report [here](#)). However, the meeting also could not be held in 2020 due to the SARS COV-2 pandemic and, considering the continuing global travel restrictions, the meeting was proposed to the Member countries in virtual format (Zoom platform), on 17-18 August 2021.

The participants were Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) and their nominated national laboratory and epidemiology focal points (or point of contacts) involved in FMD control, from the following countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, the FMD Regional Advisory Group (RAG) for West Eurasia, as well as FAO Regional and National Representatives, OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives, and representatives from regional bodies and from the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory Network were invited.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the meeting were as follows:

1. Share information on the current FMD situation in the region and identify challenges;
2. Strengthen the engagement of the regional epidemiology and laboratory networks in capacity building programmes needed to support the implementation of the FMD control strategies in the region;
3. To update membership of the epidemiology and laboratory network leaders and regional leading laboratories;
4. Develop biennial regional epidemiology and laboratory networks workplans for 2021-2023;
5. Set the methodology for linking the laboratory and epidemiology networks for continuous support to the national and regional objectives for FMD control;
6. Provide an overview of FMD vaccines and diagnostics used in the region, and where relevant globally;
7. Introduce the PCP-FMD self-assessment tool (SAT) for monitoring progress and assessing national capacity on implementation of the FMD control strategy.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. The epidemiology and laboratory networks are strengthened and coordinated with specific timeframe for implementation of their workplan;
2. A two-year workplan for the Epidemiology and Laboratory networks is developed;
3. Countries share information on the current circulating FMD viruses and the appropriate vaccines for prevention and control;
4. Countries capacity building and training needs on FMD surveillance, diagnostics are identified;
5. Countries gain an understanding of the principles of the SAT.

Welcome and adoption of the agenda

M. Taitubayev, OIE Representative for Central Asia, on behalf of OIE Director General and OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, welcomed the participants of this two-day virtual meeting, and started by summarizing the context of the meeting and specific objectives and expected outcomes of that event acknowledging the absence of representatives of Afghanistan due to the current political situation.

E. Raizman, Senior Animal Health and Production Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) stated that the livestock sector in West Eurasia continues to develop but needs protection against many threats, particularly against TADs, FMD being one of the major ones because of its known impact on smallholders' livelihoods and trade. He reminded the participants that FMD control is a long process, and recognized the importance of the GF-TADs platform and regional meetings as a way to coordinate efforts at regional level to combat FMD.

N. Mapitse, OIE co-Chair of the FMD-WG presented the FMD-WG members, and introduced the meeting objectives and agenda. He mentioned that the agenda was influenced by the conclusions made at, and achievements from the last meeting in Shiraz in 2019 (report available [here](#)) and encouraged the two networks to continue their efforts.

The Chairperson of the West Eurasian Regional Advisory Group (RAG) for FMD, OIE Delegate for Kazakhstan: G. Nurtazina submitted the agenda to the audience for adoption.

Session 1. Setting the stage for the Networks

❖ Roles of the regional leading lab, EPINET and WELNET leaders

[M. Dhingra, FAO, FMD-WG]

M. Dhingra, FAO member of the FMD-WG, started by summarizing the foundations of the Global FMD Control Strategy (Global Strategy), developed by FAO and OIE and endorsed in 2012 by representatives of more than 100 countries and international and regional partners. The Strategy aims to reduce the global burden of FMD and the risk of re-introduction of the disease into free areas.

The FMD Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) were established for each FMD Roadmap region to work in close collaboration with the FMD-WG towards the implementation of the Global Strategy. In particular, RAGs are the key bodies in the acceptance process for countries progressing to PCP-FMD Stages 1 to 3. RAGs advise on issues or factors preventing effective progress of the FMD Roadmap in their region and assist in resolving problems and issues related to the implementation of regional activities and national strategies for the progressive control of FMD.

RAGs consist of 5 voting members nominated by the Members of the region for a period of 3 years and can be re-nominated. She reminded the meeting that the RAG for West Eurasia is currently composed of the CVO from Kazakhstan as chairperson, the CVOs of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and leaders of Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks (EPINET and WELNET respectively) and that there will be elections for the latter two positions of the EPINET and WELNET leaders.

Then, she went through the generic objectives and functions of the two networks, and emphasized the Leaders terms of references (ToRs), as summarized in the table below, in anticipation of the elections:

WELNET Leader ToRs	EPINET Leader ToRs
Organize laboratory network meetings and facilitate the implementation of the agreed workplan;	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;	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;	Analyze the information provided by the region to look for trends and formulate hypothesis to better address challenges within the region;
Offer expertise to the region on diagnostics to assist in the control of FMD;	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;
Provide recommendations on vaccine strain selection for implementation of control plans; Share information in real-time with the points of contact on the incursion of new virus strain in the region (early warning);	Provide recommendations to the region on FMD surveillance and epidemiology to assist in the control of FMD;
Facilitate training and workshop on diagnostics per the agreed workplan;	Support training based on upon the recommendations provided by the network;
Assist in submission of diagnostic samples for virus characterization and vaccine matching;	Prepare and provide an annual epidemiological network report to FMD-WG
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.	

Finally, she said that FAO has been working in the establishment and support of the Regional Leading Laboratories (RRL), whose roles and responsibilities were defined in 2012. The ToRs of RRL include communication with the national veterinary laboratories in the region, provision of assistance in development of technical reference documents such as laboratory manuals, SOPs etc. Also, RRLs have to provide trainings, diagnostic services and advocate national laboratories to submit samples to the FAO/OIE Reference Centers. Coordination in organizing proficiency testing schemes (PTS) and assistance in regional procurement of essential diagnostics, participation in regional laboratory networks and linking with regional Epidemiology network are other tasks for RRLs. Any national laboratory could be a RRL, if the following selection criteria are fulfilled: (i) the creditability and acceptance by the Member countries in the region are of paramount importance. The RRLs have the responsibility to strengthen and sustain their own capacities to fulfill the ToRs for which the (ii) commitment of the respective government to support would be required. (iii) Laboratories should have the capacity and capability to perform diagnostics for TADs and could handle exotic viruses received from other countries. (iv) Laboratories should have the required certification to ship and receive diagnostic samples, willingness to take part in OIE twinning program and have intention to become FAO/OIE Reference Center. Finally, (v) regular and successful participation in PTS carried out by the FAO/OIE Reference Centers is also the pre-requisite for the national laboratories to be selected as RRL.

❖ **Updates on implementation of WELNET workplan from the 8th West Eurasia FMD roadmap meeting of the GF-TADs**

[A. Bulut, ŞAP Institute, Turkey]

A. Bulut, virologist from the ŞAP Institute in Turkey and WELNET leader since the establishment of this network in 2009, introduced the activities over the past two years and shared reflections on the update of the workplan for the next 2 years (2021-2023). WELNET is composed of 14 countries (12 member countries of West Eurasia, plus Iraq and Syria which are observer countries of the West Eurasia FMD Roadmap). Initial objectives were to promote better communication, improve early detection, diagnostic capacity and performance of laboratories and also implementing a system for PTS. He reviewed the ToRs and objectives of the regional network, and then listed achievements of the WELNET in 2019-2021 as follows:

- The participation in annual PTS was partially done, as some laboratories could not participate in PTS organized either by WRLFMD or ANSES because of logistical issues or COVID-19 related restrictions and issues (financial shortage, dispatching different IATA rules);
- The assessment of the capacity/capability and performance of the national veterinary diagnostic laboratories, decided during the 1st Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks meeting (Georgia, 2017) to identify training needs of each member laboratories, was conducted by ANSES in 2020 under the EuFMD work programme (Pillar II). Results are available for 9 laboratories in 7 Member countries of WELNET, and will be shared by ANSES;
- Training on FMD diagnostics, building-up the laboratory diagnostic capacity was not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic (impossibility to hold face-to-face training). However, WELNET members attended the virtual course delivered by WRLFMD and EuFMD (FMD Laboratory Investigation Training Course, FLITC) and assessment results will soon be shared;
- The establishment of an early detection system was partially achieved through the following activities: development of a protocol for sample submission and transportation by ŞAP Institute and EuFMD; FMD epithelium sample submitted by Iran Veterinary Organization to ŞAP Institute; initiation of live animal and meat price survey (results will be shared by EPINET); tripartite meetings (Iran, Turkey, Pakistan) have been initiated under the coordination of EuFMD; information and data sharing platform was established within the South East European Neighborhood (Statement of Intention – SOI activities) with the financial and technical support of EuFMD; participation to the FAO/OIE Reference Laboratory Network annual meeting and European Commission Laboratory Network annual meeting;
- Webinars and evaluation meetings were conducted: FMD Investigation Training online course in Turkish and Russian version, management meetings for the SOI platform;
- Establishment a network for molecular epidemiology data sharing in West Eurasian laboratories (endemic countries) was not fully achieved, however ŞAP Institute has shared sequences with WRLFMD.

Gaps were identified as follows:

- WELNET structure: although the network visions, objectives and ToRs have been formalized, there is still a lack of a specific/dedicated funding to ensure sustainability of the network. In addition, the list of network members and points of contact is still not available. There is the need for strong political

commitment and attention by the Member countries to support the WELNET activities, and for developing efficient coordination and collaboration mechanisms.

- Despite significant progress in the setup of diagnostic methods, there is still a gap and heterogeneity in the FMD laboratory testing used routinely (cf. ANSES assessment), and conducting missions to collect appropriate samples.
- Despite strong international support (particularly from the EuFMD in the South East European Neighborhood), support from other international organizations, and to the whole WELNET region, should be sought.
- The COVID-19 pandemic impacted activities particularly face-to-face meetings, workshops, and research studies, laboratory training, and brought delays in FMD sample submission and reagents supply. Of note: successful meetings were held using virtual solutions, but a loss of motivation from participants was observed.

A. Bulut concluded with suggestions for the workplan 2021-2023 and prioritized activities as follows: continue participation in PTS, provide laboratory-based training on diagnostic methods, continue activities towards early detection system, continue webinars and evaluation meetings, establish a network for FMDV molecular epidemiology data in West Eurasia and finally support validated NSP sero-surveillance in vaccinated livestock population.

❖ **Updates on implementation of EPINET workplan from the 8th West Eurasia FMD roadmap meeting of the GF-TADs**

[T. Chaligava, NFA Georgia and J. Aliyev, AFSA Azerbaijan]

T. Chaligava presented the EPINET current structure and generic objectives. He then listed the activities implemented by the network in the past two years as follows:

- Sharing of updates on FMD situation: outbreak immediate notification are entered into the SOI database for the countries of the South East European neighborhood (Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq);
- FMD vaccines and vaccination: information is entered into the SOI database;
- Live animal prices across the borders (considered as proxy of informal or illegal animal cross-border fluxes) is reported quarterly to the EuFMD;
- Sharing of guidelines, SOPs and national control plans: elaboration and updating of guidelines, SOPs and study design every year;
- Implementation of GIS/risk-mapping integrating animal mobility (international and national) data, animal markets location and characterization, mapping of pastures areas in the framework of a collaboration between CIRAD and EuFMD to create national risk maps of FAST diseases introduction and spread, and ultimately optimize resources allocated for FAST control and surveillance;
- Assistance in serological (SP, NSP, immunogenicity studies) survey design and analysis, assessment of FMD control measures.

Gaps have been listed as follows:

- Busy professional schedule (routine tasks) of EPINET leader and co-leaders;
- Lack of face-to-face meetings;
- Less interest from Member countries to have active collaboration;
- Less use of needed systems (ArcGIS, QGIS, GPS, SOI-Data base);
- Lack of informative data from Member countries;
- Few activities of colleagues from EPINET Member countries (financial incentives should be considered);
- Impact of COVID-19 on EPINET activities.

Opportunities were identified (see below) and discussed during the break out group discussions (Session 4). It was suggested that countries seek for international funded projects; EPINET to conduct a survey to identify the reasons of low interests of member countries to be active under EPINET; to identify donors who will fund activities under the EPINET platform; to encourage face-to-face meetings when this will be possible and identify work plan activities which will be beneficial for all countries.

❖ Global and regional FMD update

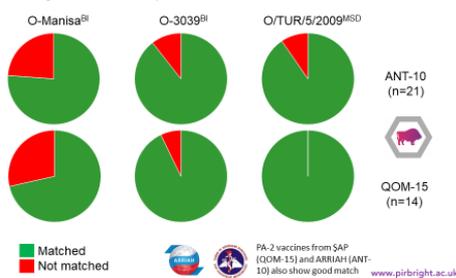
[D. King, WRLFMD, The Pirbright Institute]

On behalf of the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network (<https://foot-and-mouth.org/>), Donald King from the WRLFMD (Pirbright, UK) presented a brief overview of the FMD situation in West Eurasia. The talk highlighted the distribution of endemic FMDV lineages including O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2, A/ASIA/Iran-05 and serotype Asia 1. The region has also recently experienced the introduction of two exotic FMD virus lineages from Pool 2 comprising A/ASIA/G-VII (in 2015) and O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e, which was first identified in two samples collected in July 2019. Subsequent field sampling has revealed further FMD cases due to the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage in 10 districts within two separate provinces in North-Eastern and North-Western Pakistan (Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). The emergence of O/ME-SA/Ind-2001 in Pakistan expands the geographical range of this pandemic lineage and provides opportunities for onward spread in the region via established transboundary transmission pathways. These dynamic events underline the importance of continued field sampling of FMD outbreaks to characterise the FMD virus strains that are circulating in the region, where confirmatory testing of samples by OIE and FAO Reference Laboratories is performed free-of-charge.

The talk also summarised vaccine matching data (see images below) that has been generated at ARRIAH (Russia), the ŞAP Institute (Turkey) and WRLFMD, where a range of serotype O vaccines show good antigenic match against field isolates from the ANT-10 and QOM-15 sub-lineages of O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2. Encouraging antigenic data is also available for representative O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e isolates collected from countries where outbreaks due to this lineage have occurred since 2017. In contrast, vaccine matching data from WRLFMD for the FAR-11 and SIS-13 sub-lineages of A/ASIA/Iran-05 includes a greater proportion of field isolates that are not well-matched against the vaccines from Boehringer Ingelheim and MSD. Results reported for serotype A vaccines produced by ARRIAH show that only the A22 and A/TUR/06 vaccines were matched against field isolates collected in Pakistan (in 2018), while data presented at this meeting by the ŞAP Institute also revealed a poor match for locally produced serotype A vaccines against recent FAR-11 isolates collected in Iran. Taken together, these results reinforce the importance of ensuring that good quality vaccines are used with a booster regime (where this is recommended) with good coverage in target host populations. There are a diverse range of FMD vaccines and vaccine strains used in the region (including those from international suppliers and local sources) and the use of harmonised regional reference FMDV antigens provides an approach that could be adopted to allow heterologous post-vaccination responses to be measured and compared.

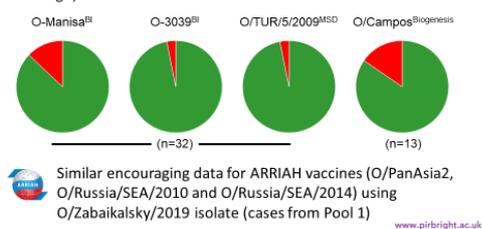
O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2 : vaccine matching (2014-2021)

- Quick and cost-effective laboratory assessment of the antigenic relationship between **field** and **vaccine** viruses

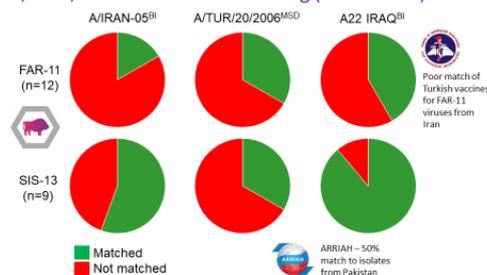


O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e: vaccine matching (2017-2021)

- Vaccine matching data from other regions where this lineage is present
- WRLFMD data now includes O-Campos (from Biogenesis Bago)



A/ASIA/Iran-05: vaccine matching (2014-2021)



- Reinforces the importance of good quality vaccines, booster regime with good coverage in target host populations

❖ **Laboratory capacity survey report in South East European Neighbourhood**

[L. Bakkali-Kassimi, ANSES]

National reference laboratories play an important role in the control of FMD. They conduct analyses to support national control strategy at different levels. They should provide quick, reliable and accurate results to decision makers. It is therefore essential that laboratories have a good diagnostic capacity.

As part of the EuFMD workplan (2019-2023) - Risk Reduction programme (Pillar II) - to support WELNET, the EuFMD initiated a survey on the different capacities and expertise of laboratories in the South-East European Neighbors (SEEN region). The survey was conducted by ANSES in June 2020 for nine laboratories through a questionnaire partly inspired by the FAO laboratory mapping tool ([information](#) and [publication](#)). Nine laboratories from seven countries namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Rep, of), Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey (3 labs), participated to the study. The main purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the laboratories main strengths and weaknesses regarding the detection of FMD and other similar TADs (FAST diseases including Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Sheep and goat pox (SGP), Rift valley fever (RVF), Ephemeral bovine fever (EBF) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)).

The results of this study showed that the staff skills vary between countries for the virology, serology and molecular biology competencies. Training on virus isolation and serology was expressed specifically for some countries but was less important than the need for training in molecular biology (PCR, RT-PCR) and sequencing, with a strong interest expressed in data analysis by some of the participants. The need for the implementation of serological tests specific for some of the FAST diseases was strongly expressed, especially for SGP, RVF, BEF and LSD. Staff skills in Quality Assurance, Quality Control, maintenance and laboratory management also vary from country to country. A third of the participants asked for training in Quality Assurance and Control and in laboratory management. Harmonization of practices at the regional level would improve the standards and allow the implementation of a coherent quality system throughout the region, improving the confidence of the diagnostic results provided by the laboratories. Some Members pointed out the need for trainings in biosafety/biosecurity regarding the shipping of infectious substances. Biosafety/biosecurity in the lab training could allow the proper handling of the FAST threats. Furthermore, awareness on the waste management modalities should be improved as few Members have an incineration circuit of biological waste and a proper disposal of chemical waste.

In conclusion, the identification of needs for improvement provided by this study will allow establishment of a targeted training action plan to improve laboratory diagnostic capacity for FAST diseases in the region. The survey and the follow-up actions might be an example to consider for other countries in the region. The questionnaire is available and could be provided by ANSES to laboratories upon request (contact: Head FMD Reference Laboratory, ANSES).

❖ **Identifying regional needs/priorities for both Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks, and preparation for the break-out sessions**

[F. Rosso, Deputy Executive Secretary EuFMD, FMD-WG]

F. Rosso started by reviewing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified for the PCP-FMD approach in West Eurasia during the 2019 FMD meeting in Shiraz, and recommendations formulated for the two regional networks (facilitate sharing of best practices and operational procedures; calibrate laboratory assays used to assess heterologous antibody responses (harmonize PVM studies); encouraging sharing of information on outbreaks, disease control measures and risk hotspots), for the region, for the countries, and finally for international Organizations and Reference Laboratories. The speaker emphasised that this information should be considered while discussing successes and challenges of EPINET and WELNET, and developing the workplan for the next biennium.

The common issues or support requested by both networks in 2019 were as follows:

- Lack of communication within network members
- Mapping of migration routes of animals
- Sample shipment to reference laboratories
- Lack of Laboratory Information Management Systems
- Lack of NRL in some countries

While defining the workplan 2021-2023 (Session 3), the speaker encouraged EPINET and WELNET members to reflect on the identification of **priorities** (priority objectives considering the reasons why they would contribute to the control of FMD in the region), the **achievement** of these objectives (through the identification of mechanism and tools that can assist and support the networks in achieving the objectives), the identification of the **main actors** to involve to ensure objectives are achieved, and the identification of the **risks** that can affect the workplan and its expected achievements and how these risks can be mitigated.

Session 2. Election of EPINET and WELNET Leaders

The session was chaired by D. Abdollahi, elections occurred in plenary session. Results of the elections for WELNET and EPINET leaders (2021-2023) are as follows: **Abdulnaci Bulut (Turkey)** was re-elected as Leader of WELNET and **Satenik Kharatyan (Armenia)** as Leader of EPINET.

Session 3. Update of EPINET and WELNET workplan 2021-2023

The members of WELNET and EPINET were placed in parallel breakout rooms, and discussion were held on the update of the respective workplans for 2021-2023, and based on the suggestions formulated by the former Networks' leaders (Session 1). Composition of the two groups can be retrieved in **Annex 3**.

Summary of the discussions were introduced by the newly elected Networks' leaders in Session 5.

Session 4. Technical presentations

This session was chaired by J. Perchet, OIE Regional Representation in Moscow.

❖ Overview of the PCP-FMD Support Officer (PSO) system

[C. Potzsch and E. Chevanne, EuFMD]

C. Potzsch and E. Chevanne provided background information on the PSO system, reflections on the system since its implementation in 2017/2018 and perspectives of PSO support in West Eurasia.

The FMD-WG established the PSO system, to provide tailored support to countries' Veterinary Authorities in developing and monitoring the impact of FMD control strategies. Initially aimed at countries assessed in PCP-FMD provisional stages, the scope of the PSO system expands to support countries requesting individual support or positively responding to an offer of support from the FMD-WG. The PSOs assist the assigned country(ies) to advance in PCP-FMD stages 1, 2 and 3. More specifically, a PSO would: **(i)** Establish a regular and consistent dialogue and communication with the Veterinary Authorities of the assigned country(ies), including the FMD designated points of contact to provide tailored guidance to support and guide the Veterinary Authority to complete the PCP-FMD Stage, and/or to develop and improve a Plan/Programme to progress along the PCP-FMD and during the acceptance process; ensure that the relevant Plan/Programme is technically and formally consistent with the latest guidelines and templates provided by the FMD-WG and that the feasibility of the Plan/Programme implementation is also clearly described including the resources mobilization and allocation processes. **(ii)** Assist the assigned country(ies) in assessing its progress within the PCP-FMD through the interpretation of the SAT and FAO and OIE evaluation tools outputs. **(iii)** Act as liaison between the assigned country(ies), the PSO network, the EuFMD team and the FMD-WG. **(iv)** Assist the assigned country(ies) in identifying the training needs, accessing relevant training material or liaising with relevant experts, the EuFMD team and the FMD-WG. **(v)** Report his/her activities and the country's progress along the PCP-FMD to the PSO network, and finally **(vi)** advocate for the regional uptake of principles of the PCP-FMD and the PSO system when participating in FMD Regional Roadmaps meetings, PCP-FMD related training course, webinars, workshop and missions upon request. Following PSO's commitment and performance, the FMD-WG may assign additional countries to a PSO or may involve the PSO as an independent reviewer of PCP-FMD strategic documents (as part of the PCP-FMD Review Support Team). Required and desired qualifications and experience for one PSO incumbent were also enumerated.

To date, 13 PSOs have been assigned by the FMD-WG to 29 countries but there is a need to further expand the PSO roster. To address this issue, a three-tier PSO training development framework was developed by the EuFMD (on its virtual learning website) and currently piloted for the SADC region with experts coming from the FAO/OIE Reference Centers. In this training development framework, PSO candidates would undertake different tasks to develop their knowledge and expertise in applying the PCP-FMD.

C. Potzsch started by reminding participants that according to the 2019 Shiraz meeting, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were encouraged to receive support from one PSO to develop or update their RBSP. To date, only 3 countries in West Eurasia are assigned a PSO: Afghanistan (G. Ferrari), Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (C. Potzsch), and noted that no countries requested PSO support by their own initiative. Dr Potzsch then presented outcomes of the recent review carried out by senior PSOs on the PSO system as follows:

- PSO system structure: more involvement of national focal points (or *primary PSOs*), supported by senior PSOs, this way senior PSOs could support several countries;
- Interaction between PSOs working on different TADs to encourage development of several disease strategies and control/eradication pathways;
- Regular meetings between roadmaps: virtual and face-to-face meetings to review and plan activities at national level;
- Guidance on how to kick start national support: provision of practical guidance for national focal point on how to kick-start a national Plan/Programme development or update, including setting-up a multidisciplinary team of national experts, and identifying funding;
- Formal introduction of PSO to national authorities and FMD focal points would help in clarify respective roles and responsibilities, consider modes of working and set expectations.

C. Potzsch concluded by encouraging representatives of countries in West Eurasia to take the opportunity and use the PSO system and continue developing or updating FMD control plans, nominate national PSO candidates and support the work of the two regional networks.

❖ **Vaccines and vaccine selection in support of FMD prevention and control programmes**

[D. Mikhailishin/ARRIAH]

The FGBI “Federal Centre for Animal Health” (FGBI “ARRIAH”, Vladimir, Russia) produces FMD vaccines in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. Immunogenicity of all vaccines is not less than 6 PD50 per dose. FMD vaccines do not induce antibodies to FMDV non-structural proteins i.e. the vaccines are NSP free.

A range of FMD vaccines produced in the FGBI “ARRIAH” and schemes for their application were presented: Adsorbed (aluminum hydroxide-saponin adjuvanted) vaccine for cattle, yaks, buffaloes, camels, sheep and goats (Immunity is induced 21 days post vaccination and lasts for at least 6 months, at least 6 PD50/dose). Emulsion vaccine for all susceptible animals (Immunity is induced 21 days post vaccination and lasts for at least 6 months, at least 6 PD50/dose). Universal concentrated vaccine for all susceptible animals (Immunity is induced 7 days post vaccination and lasts for at least 6 months, at least 20 PD50/dose). Methods for tests of anti-FMD vaccines in naturally susceptible animals were described. Finally, examples of successful use of FMD vaccines that has enabled to take control of FMD under in the countries such as Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Taiwan, were shown. FGBI “ARRIAH” presented data and their experience in developing control tools and methods in support of FMD control programs. It was explained that the latest vaccine matching tests results that are performed by ARRIAH (and other FMD Reference Laboratories) are collated in the Annual Report of the OIE/FAO Network (see: <http://foot-and-mouth.org/oiefao-fmd-reference-laboratory-network/oiefao-fmd-laboratories-network-annual-reports>).

❖ **Introducing the PCP-FMD self-assessment tool (SAT) to monitor progress and assessing national capacity on implementation of the FMD control strategy**

[G. Ferrari/IZSLT and EuFMD Standing Technical Committee member]

G. Ferrari (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana, IZSLT – EuFMD [Standing Technical Committee](#) member) gave a presentation on the PCP-FMD Self-Assessment Tool ([SAT](#)), a spreadsheet-based questionnaire developed by the EuFMD and the OIE to assist FMD endemic countries to assess their progress in

the PCP-FMD, for countries in PCP-FMD Stage 0 to 3. The SAT aims to assist Veterinary Services to identify completed and pending activities that should be carried out to better understand the FMD virus situation and better control FMD. It provides the framework for a standardized and harmonized country self-assessment over time and across regions. A yearly update of the SAT would allow to review the country's activities implemented to progress along the PCP-FMD.

The SAT results are also used during FMD Roadmap meetings to assist the FMD WG and ultimately the Regional Advisory Group to assess the appropriate PCP-FMD stage for each country.

The SAT starts by asking which plan or programme for FMD control is currently in place in the country, and whether this plan or programme has been approved by national authorities and/or accepted by the Regional Advisory Group. The SAT user is then directed through four sections: (i) Livestock and stakeholders, (ii) Surveillance and diagnosis, (iii) Veterinary Services, and (iv) Prevention, Control and Evaluation. These four sections include 93 statements based on the latest PCP-FMD guidelines and the PCP-FMD Stage 1,2 and 3 Focus and Key Outcomes. All 93 statements should be answered irrespective of the country PCP-FMD Stage. The SAT completion will then require different expertise (team work) from the Veterinary Services to complete the questions, hence it will be the responsibility of the CVO/OIE Delegate to lead its completion, and submit responses to the FMD WG and relevant RAG.

The SAT generates detailed outputs adapted to the PCP-FMD stage, intended to assist the Veterinary Services to prioritize the pending activities to progress through the PCP-FMD, and to guide and facilitate communication with the relevant decision makers.

The SAT is currently available in English and French and can be downloaded from this page: <https://www.eufmd.info/sat-pcp-fmd>. It will also be made available online through the PCP-FMD tool for review and communication (TRAC) developed by the EufMD and IZSLT.

Session 5. Presentation of EPINET and WELNET workplans

This session was chaired by S.Kharatyan, EPINET leader (Armenia).

❖ WELNET workplan 2021-2023

[A. Bulut/Turkey]

The WELNET Leader, A. Bulut (Turkey) made a presentation on WELNET Workplan 2021-23, highlighting the identified issues discussed during the breakout group session, and possible solutions observed regarding executing the WELNET mandate in West Eurasia. He further suggested agencies/institutions which can lead the solutions to these challenges and possible sources of assistance (technical, financial, logistical etc.)

The following five points were considered most critical and thereby to be prioritised;

1. Some countries in the region do not have National Reference Laboratories (NRL) for FMD, creating a communication gap between available NRL network. As a stopgap measure the **WELNET leader and Regional Offices should regularly meet members** (national laboratory focal points) and encourage the country to have a NRL. An **updated list of WELNET members should be collated** (names of the laboratories and points of contacts). The WELNET Leader should be responsible for implementing this solution, and regularly update the WRLFMD and FMD-WG. Similarly, the Regional Offices should organise regular online meetings within the network using all available tools - virtual tools, web-based communication platforms, etc. The FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratory Network was identified as a possible provider of assistance in the form of visibility and support to WELNET.
2. The presenter identified the need **to strengthen participation of NRL in FMD PTS** - current hurdles can be overcome by mapping laboratory capacities in West Eurasia and signing Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) between NRLs and Reference Laboratories for FMD, to facilitate exchanges and participation. The WELNET Leader volunteered to lead a **regional survey on laboratory capacities**. Through this, country representatives should express their willingness to take part in FMD PTS. The target countries are those in PCP-FMD Stages 2 and above including those with OIE recognised status. N. Mapitse mentioned that the objective should be the annual participation of WELNET members in the PTS. The lack of participation by the

Members in PTS was discussed. L. Bakkali-Kassimi (ANSES) commented that first there is a need to address the issue of no routine FMD testing in the laboratories and possibility of having enough reagents and diagnostic kits to participate in the PTS. The clarity in our objectives and goals is of paramount importance. Not all laboratories are at the same level, therefore before participation in the PTS (which can be considered ultimate step in capacity building programmes), the laboratory capacities should be assessed and mapped at national and regional levels. D. King (WRLFMD) indicated that PTS can be adapted to the level of capacity of the laboratories. A. Bulut called for financial and logistic support from FAO and other international organizations. Assistance can come from WRLFMD, ANSES and FAO/EuFMD, who have agreements to cover the cost of participation of some countries on PTS, and facilitation of reagents and samples. The WRLFMD will send PT panels late 2021, and countries are encouraged to connect with D. King (WRLFMD).

3. There is need to improve the Early Warning System by **improving sampling and sample submissions to FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratories** – i.e., sampling, sample transportation, political will, etc. and sharing of sequences. This is also an opportunity to implement risk-based surveillance and share results by collaboration with EPINET. To operationalise this initiative, there is need to raise awareness on FMD importance/impact to decision-makers. The use of lateral flow devices (LFD) can provide opportunities to ease international sample shipment (although the EuFMD Special Committee on BioRisk Management joint opinion on LFD international shipment is still pending). However, it was stressed that best samples for FMDV characterization are epithelium and vesicular fluid, these should not be substituted by LFDs. There is need to support availability of material for shipment and establish bilateral agreements with RLL and FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratories. In specific circumstances, sample shipment and information sharing is facilitated through bilateral country agreements, but results should be shared with the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network. Sequences can be shared through a database recently developed at WRLFMD and training on shipment of biohazardous materials for shipment of FMD samples. Funding to support sample submission for virus characterisation can be sourced through the WRLFMD, ANSES and FAO/EuFMD, and countries holding samples are encouraged to connect with D. King (WRLFMD) to arrange sample shipment.
4. There are gaps and non-standardisation (heterogeneity) in routine testing for FMD – this weakness can be overcome by **mapping the existing NRL in the region to assess training needs, tailor training content and format accordingly**. Assistance can be through capacity development framework with core competencies for laboratories and the development of a training management system for laboratory personnel (under development by EuFMD). The Virtual Learning Centre for Europe and Asia can provide support. A. Bulut called again for financial and logistic support from international organizations to support training. WRLFMD is offering e-learning training course in English on laboratory diagnosis to any laboratory (FLITC) and is currently coordinating its translation in French with EuFMD, WRLFMD mentioned the potential to translate this course in Russian with the engagement of ARRIAH. Finally, FAO Laboratory mapping tool and OIE PVS Sustainable Laboratory mission may also assist in identifying investments areas for capacity building in laboratories.
5. There is a challenge of high diversity of viruses and variability of virus sequences in the region - this can be addressed by calibration of SP ELISAs from different suppliers available in the region against different vaccine responses, vaccine assessment (identification of appropriate reference virus in the region), strengthening sample submission for virus sequencing and vaccine matching by FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratories, strengthening sample submission for vaccine matching by FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratories, and finally promote and implement immunogenicity studies and share results. This can be facilitated by WELNET/WRLFMD/ANSES and possibly funded by FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratories support to FMD diagnosis and vaccine matching.

During discussions, Dr King pointed out that one of the challenges in the region is the wide range of FMD vaccines that are used (different vaccine strains from different suppliers) and perhaps a priority for the WELNET should be to support the adoption of approaches that can be used to assess the performance of these vaccines - against common (risk FMD antigens) that are circulating in the region.

The representative from Iran raised the issue of data sharing tools which exist for countries – that different organisation such as the OIE WAHIS, Statement of Intention in Transcaucasia led by EuFMD and EPINET use different data sharing forms/templates, which may cause difficulties for Members to submit data by multiple templates. He recommended that other institutions should use the OIE WAHIS template for common data sharing. The response provided was that different templates are used because of the different objective of the database, some collecting more detailed data, real-time reporting, etc., but it was agreed that data reporting process should be useful, unified, or standardized. Further, the information system should be dynamic and

should assist risk forecasting or prediction of incursions (serve as early warning system). In conclusion the meeting emphasised the need to submit information required under the OIE WAHIS, it is important for immediate notification, six monthly reports and it is one of the requirements for OIE official recognition procedures. The burden to Members, of reporting through multiple platforms was raised with a request to minimise these platform as much as possible by providing some interoperability/exchange of data between them.

❖ **EPINET workplan 2021-2023**

[Dr S. Kharatyan/Armenia]

The new EPINET leader, S. Kharatyan (Armenia) presented the EPINET Workplan for 2021-2023. She identified the following priority areas for the EPINET work plan;

Operationalising the EPINET (network), with support from EuFMD, GF-TADs and FAO/OIE regional offices. This entails developing a close coordination and collaboration mechanism for EPINET & WELNET – continuing activities like **signing a MoU and facilitating regular meetings of West Eurasia Members together with FMD-WG and FAO/OIE Regional Offices**. In addition, it was mentioned the need to regularly update the list of contact points, and review progress in the implementation of the workplans.

The new EPINET Leader pledged to support continuous development of the objectives of the EPINET by gathering, analysing, and making available epidemiological information on the regional occurrence of FMD. S. Kharatyan outlined various activities required to achieve this; these includes developing formats/templates for information sharing, using standardised report formats of SOI database, data analysis to derive trends and information needed for informed decision making, and others. Assumption is that there will be access to required templates and tools.

S. Kharatyan further promised to **promote information sharing on FMD**, including outbreaks, virus circulation, vaccine selection, vaccination strategies, and vaccine effectiveness. This will be enabled by active focal points participation, using technical structures like the Group of Vaccination Advice (GVA), to provide technical support on the assessment of performance, identification of training needs and evaluation of process after the training. There will be closer collaboration between the EPINET and WELNET, at all levels.

There will be cross-border coordination for the implementation of vaccination strategies, movement control and harmonisation undertaken through various activities, such as supporting developing tools required for FMD risk mapping at regional level.

Finally, S. Kharatyan said **EPINET will support the development and updating of FMD National control plans** for countries in the region by assisting in development of OCP and RBSP, use of the SAT to monitor progress of monitoring and surveillance for early detection of epidemics. Cross network communications is also important to keep updates on the activities of both networks as they are complementary to each other.

Session 6. Discussions

This session was chaired by Dr M. Taitubayev (OIE SRR for Central Asia)

❖ **Regional Advisory Group (RAG) and implementation of the workplans**

[Dr G. Nurtazina / OIE Delegate Kazakhstan, Chairperson of the RAG]

G. Nurtazina started by reviewing the vision for FMD control in West Eurasia: “Regional cooperation among Eurasian countries for the progressive control of FMD leading towards freedom of clinical disease by 2025 for regional economic development, food security, and poverty alleviation”. She further reminded participants that EPINET and WELNET activities support the Regional FMD Roadmap of West Eurasia, and therefore, it is in the interest of the RAG to have the EPINET and WELNET workplans active and operational for the region to achieve its vision on FMD control.

She stressed that some activities in the workplans have not been implemented among other reasons the restrictions due to COVID-19, and challenges were identified during this meeting with proposed solutions for improved and sustainable regional engagement. The RAG expects that the two Networks will become more active

and exchange more regularly on the implementation of the activities identified in their respective workplans. In particular, the RAG for West Eurasia called for:

- Strong commitment from the national contact points and active meeting participation;
 - Improve communications within and between the EPINET and WELNET i.e. leaders to organise quarterly virtual meetings of the networks, produce report of progress and action items; FAO and OIE Regional/Sub Regional Offices and Representations could facilitate virtual meetings of national contact persons to discuss progress on activities and offer technical assistance; cross-border meetings on commodities movements, surveillance and simulation exercises;
- Improved utilisation of the PCP-FMD tools e.g. SAT and guidelines, FAO, OIE and EuFMD programmes, available technical assistance from PSO to progress on workplans' activities.

At country-, regional- and international Organization- levels, the RAG for West Eurasia identified the following priorities:

- Technical support to the EPINET and WELNET leaders by the countries, and national contact persons, regional and international Organizations.
- Strengthen political commitment to the regional EPINET and WELNET workplans and activities
- Development partners and stakeholders support in resource mobilization for regional and national FMD control activities including risk assessment, PPPs and simulation exercises.
- Conduct training workshops including virtual and e-learning, on international standards and guidelines and on PCP-FMD tools to support the willingness to advance along the PCP-FMD. It has been stressed that face-to-face meetings have more value in the region than virtual meetings

At the level of the FAO/OIE FMD Reference Laboratory Network, the following priorities were identified:

- Continue support to the EPINET and WELNET on surveillance, facilitation of samples shipment, FMD diagnostics including proficiency testing, appropriate vaccines selection and vaccination monitoring, and sharing epidemiological information;
- Improve FMD diagnostic capabilities of the central (national) veterinary laboratories.

She concluded by listing the next steps to be taken by the region following the meeting:

- Endorse the draft EPINET and WELNET workplans;
- The EPINET and WELNET members with the assistance of the FMD-WG, FAO and OIE Regional representations, to finalise the workplans and distribute the final plans to all members;
- Establish a regular information sharing mechanism to update on workplans implementation.

Aligned with the previous discussions, Dr G. Nurtazina called partners to develop or harmonize tools for the members (common tools, easy to use). She noted that the RAG for West Eurasia did not meet in 2021 and identified limitations and difficulties faced by the RAG as follows: (i) high turnover and replacement of OIE Delegates within the RAG with no introduction of RAG activities and progress to newly appointed members; (ii) working in the RAG (especially when it comes to plans/programme acceptance) is time and resource consuming and this aspect should be taken into consideration by the GF-TADs governing bodies. She finally apologized to the Georgian representatives for the delay in the provision of the RAG decision on their PCP-FMD Stage 3 application, and kindly reminded the representatives of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the OCP of Georgia.

Closure of the virtual meeting

N. Mapitse (OIE) thanked the audience for the active participation during the meeting and promised that the FMD-WG will keep working with EPINET and WELNET leaders to make the workplans operational, achievable and aligned with the vision for FMD control in West Eurasia. Dr M. Dhingra (FAO) also thanked the participants for a fruitful meeting and acknowledged the hard work achieved, and as part of the FMD-WG, FAO will stand ready to assist the region for improved FMD control. Dr F. Rosso (EuFMD) thanked the former and new Network Leaders; and reminded participants that there is still the need to reflect on the Networks governance and how specific objectives of the two networks will be achieved, as it is well recognized that Leaders cannot do everything themselves. He advocated for integration of Networks priorities and actions in TADs projects implemented at national or regional levels.

A. Bulut, newly elected WELNET Leader thanked participants and organizers, especially the OIE SRR for Central Asia He stressed the need for strong political commitment from each member countries to implement WELNET activities, and reminded country representatives to share email addresses of WELNET points of contacts.

S. Kharatyan, newly elected EPINET Leader will stand ready to collaborate with all EPINET members. She stressed on the need to build a team and conduct activities as a team and requested for email addresses of EPINET points of contacts.

G. Nurtazina Chairperson of the RAG for West Eurasia welcomed the intensive two-day-discussion, and commended all countries for sharing valuable information. She invited all OIE Delegates and the Chief Veterinary Officers to embark in PCP-FMD activities and was looking forward for further collaborations.

M.Taitiubayev (OIE SRR for Central Asia), also thanked the participants and the organisers for a successful meeting on behalf of OIE colleagues from region, and closed the meeting.

Annex 1 – Agenda



3rd FMD Laboratory and Epidemiology Networks for West Eurasia 17-18th August 2021

Agenda

Time zones: Rome /Paris (CET) 11:00 ; Nur Sultan 15:00; Ankara 12:00; Tbilisi 13:00; Tehran 13:30

Day 1 – 17 August 2021

Schedule CET	Topic	Chair/Speaker/Rapporteur
10:30 - 11:00	Access and Registration	All
	Welcome and adoption of agenda	Facilitator: OIE SRR CA (M. Taitubayev)
11:00 - 11:20	Welcoming Remarks and Opening of the meeting	OIE RR Moscow (M. Taitubayev) FAO REU Budapest (E. Raizman)
11:20 - 11:30	Meeting objectives and adoption of the agenda	GF-TADs FMD WG (OIE: N. Mapitse)
	Session 1. Setting the stage for the Networks	Chair: OIE Delegate Kazakhstan (G. Nurtazina) Rapporteur: E. Chevanne
11:30 - 11:45	Roles of the regional leading laboratory, EPINET and WELNET Team Leaders	GF-TADs FMD WG (M. Dhingra)
11:45 - 12:05	Updates on implementation of WELNET workplan from the 8 th West Eurasia FMD roadmap meeting of the GF-TADs	WELNET Leader (N. Bulut)
12:05 - 12:25	Updates on implementation of EPINET workplan from the 8 th West Eurasia FMD roadmap meeting of the GF-TADs	EPINET leader (T. Chaligava, J. Aliyev)
12:25 - 12:45	Global and regional FMD update	WRLFMD (D. King)
12.45 - 13:00	Laboratory capacity survey report in the South East European Neighborhood	ANSES (L. Bakkali-Kassimi)
13:00 - 13:05	<i>Health Break</i>	
13:05 - 13:15	Identifying regional needs/priorities for both Epidemiology and Laboratory networks and preparation for the break-out sessions	GF-TADs FMD WG (F. Rosso)
	Session 2. Election of EPINET and WELNET Leaders (parallel sessions – Breakout rooms)	Chair: Iran (D. Abdollahi)
13:15 - 13:25	Elections of the EPINET and WELNET team Leaders	All participants

Schedule CET	Topic	Chair/Speaker/Rapporteur
	Session 3. Update of EPINET and WELNET workplan 2021-2022 (parallel sessions – Breakout rooms)	
13:25 - 14:05	Epidemiology session ➤ Updating the workplan for 2021-2022	FAO/OIE/EuFMD Rapporteur : B. Purevsuren
	Laboratory session ➤ Updating the workplan for 2021-2022	FAO/OIE/EuFMD/ WRLFMD/ANSES/ARRIAH Rapporteur : M. Arshed
14:05 - 14:10	Wrap-up of the plenary session (closure of Day 1) and introduction of Day 2	GF-TADs FMD WG (N. Mapitse)

Day 2– 18 August 2021

Schedule	Topic	Chair/Speaker/Rapporteur
	Session 3. Update of EPINET and WELNET workplan 2021-2022 (Cont.) (parallel sessions – Breakout rooms)	
10.45 – 11.00	➤ Epidemiology session Updating the workplan for 2021-2022	
	➤ Laboratory session Updating the workplan for 2021-2022	
	Session 4. Technical presentations	Chairperson: J. Perchet Rapporteur: E. Chevanne
11:00 - 11:20	Overview of the PCP-FMD Support Officer (PSO) system	EuFMD (E. Chevanne; C. Potzsch)
11:20 - 11:40	Vaccines and vaccine selection in support of FMD prevention and control programmes	ARRIAH (D. Mikhalishin)
11:40 - 12:00	Introducing the PCP-FMD self-assessment tool (SAT) to monitor progress	IZSLT (G. Ferrari)
	Session 5. Presentation of EPINET and WELNET workplans	Chairperson: S. Kharatyan Rapporteurs: M. Letshwenyo
12:20 - 13:00	➤ EPINET workplan 2021-2022 ➤ WELNET workplan 2021-2022 ➤ Discussions	EPINET and WELNET newly elected leaders EPINET: S. Kharatyan WELNET: N. Bulut
13:00 -13:10	<i>Health break</i>	All
	Session 6. Discussions	Chair: OIE SRR CA (M. Taitubayev) Rapporteur: E. Chevanne
13:10 - 13:30	Regional Advisory Group (RAG) and implementation of the workplans	RAG
13:30 - 13:40	Closure of virtual meeting	GF-TADs FMD WG/EPINET and WELNET leaders

Annex 2 – List of participants



Country/ Organisation	Name	Surname	Position	Breakout group
Armenia	Georgi	Avetisyan	OIE Delegate	EPINET
Armenia	Perch	Tumanyan	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Armenia	Satenik	Kharatyan	EPINET Leader (2021-2023)	EPINET
Azerbaijan	Jeyhun	Aliyev	EPINET Leader (2019-2021)	EPINET
Azerbaijan	Aytan	Hajiyeva	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Azerbaijan	Tamilla	Aliyeva	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Georgia	Vasili	Basiladze	OIE Delegate	EPINET
Georgia	Tengiz	Chaligava	EPINET Leader (2019-2021)	EPINET
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Darab	Abdollahi	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Reza	Hassanzadeh	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Kyrgyzstan	Adilet	Sotovaldiev	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Kyrgyzstan	Murat	Abdrayev	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Kyrgyzstan	Larisa	Ermakova	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Kyrgyzstan	Emil	Akybayev	Observer	EPINET
Kazakhstan	Gulzhan	Nurtazina	OIE Delegate / RAG Chair	EPINET
Kazakhstan	Samat	Tyulegenov	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Kazakhstan	Sayan	Kurmangaliyev	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Kazakhstan	Azimkhan	Tegzhanov		WELNET
Kazakhstan	Talgat	Karibayev		EPINET
Kazakhstan	Maksat	Berdikulov		EPINET
Pakistan	Riasat	Wasee Ullah	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Pakistan	Muhammad	Abubakar	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Tajikistan	Ismoil	Andamov		-
Turkey	Abdulnaci	Bulut	WELNET Leader (2019-2023)	WELNET

Turkey	Anil	Demeli	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Turkmenistan	Shohrat	Bashimov	WELNET Network member	WELNET
Turkmenistan	Arslan	Soltanmyradov	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Uzbekistan	Amirkhon	Tukhtasinov	Observer	EPINET
Uzbekistan	Shamurad	Rahmatullaev	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Uzbekistan	Abrar	Akbarov	OIE Delegate	WELNET
Uzbekistan	Sabitdjan	Tulyaganov	EPINET Network member	EPINET
Uzbekistan	Asqarali	G'oziev	WELNET Network member	WELNET
EU - DG Health and Food Safety	Moritz	Klemm	Observer	EPINET
EC - DG SANTE	Francesco	Berlingieri	Observer	WELNET
WRLFMD/Pirbright Inst	Donald	King	Virologist	WELNET
ARRIAH	Alexey	Mischenko	Virologist	WELNET
ARRIAH	Ilya	Chvala	Virologist	WELNET
ARRIAH	Artem	Metlin	Virologist	WELNET
ANSES	Labib	Bakkali-Kassimi	Virologist	WELNET
IZSLT/EUFMD	Giancarlo	Ferrari	EuFMD Specialist / PSO	WELNET
OIE	Neo	Mapitse	GF-TADs FMD WG (OIE - Chair)	WELNET
OIE	Bolortuya	Purevsuren	GF-TADs FMD WG (OIE)	EPINET
OIE	Moetapele	Letshwenyo	GF-TADs FMD WG (OIE)	EPINET
OIE	Jean	Perchet	OIE Regional Representation in Moscow	EPINET
OIE	Mereke	Taitubayev	OIE SRR for CA	EPINET
OIE	Aigerim	Zhorgabayeva	OIE SRR for CA	-
FAO	Madhur	Dhingra	GF-TADs FMD WG (FAO)	EPINET
FAO	Muhammad Javed	Arshed	GF-TADs FMD WG (FAO)	WELNET
EuFMD	Fabrizio	Rosso	GF-TADs FMD WG (EuFMD)	WELNET
EuFMD	Carsten	Potzsch	EuFMD Specialist / PSO	EPINET
EuFMD	Francesca	Ambrosini	EuFMD Pillar II Supervisor	WELNET
EuFMD	Paolo	Motta	EuFMD Pillar III Supervisor	-
EuFMD	Etienne	Chevanne	EuFMD Specialist	WELNET