SUMMARY REPORT

Partnering and investing for a peste des petits ruminants-free world

GLOBAL CONFERENCE
6th-7th September 2018
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) was endorsed during an international conference on PPR held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire in April 2015 with the vision of a PPR-free world by 2030. Furthermore, the Membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), through governing body resolutions of both organisations confirmed this international consensus and their commitment to this initiative.

The eradication of PPR will contribute to fighting rural poverty by preserving the income and asset base of farmers, which is fundamental for the economic empowerment of women in Africa, Asia and the Middle East where such empowerment is game changing. Indeed, women are most often responsible for domesticated small ruminants for both providing food and selling the related products in local settings. Sheep and goats are a primary source for food and income for 300 million of rural families throughout the globe. Food (milk and meat) from sheep and goats are an essential part of the daily diet of these communities and contribute to preventing malnutrition. Thus eradicating PPR is an effective tool for tackling food insecurity and malnutrition, resulting in a lasting positive impact on the nutritional status of vulnerable rural populations.

On 10 October 2017, during a high level meeting between the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development and the Directors General of FAO and OIE, the European Union (EU) confirmed its intention to join FAO and OIE in the global eradication campaign against PPR. The three organisations agreed to organize the Global Conference “Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world”, hosted by the European Commission (EC) and supported by the African Union Commission, on 7 September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The objective of the conference was to advance PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy endorsed in 2015 towards the eradication of PPR by 2030.

More specifically, the Conference aimed to:

- Reaffirm international political commitment to globally eradicate PPR by 2030;
- Provide a forum for governments to confirm their political and financial commitments to the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) for 2017-2021;
- Obtain commitment and support from resource partners.

The Conference was preceded on 6 September 2018 by a Stakeholder Forum, which provided the opportunity to exchange views and to collect first-hand testimonies on the serious impact of PPR.
STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The Stakeholder Forum gathered around 250 representatives of farmers’ and pastoralists’ associations, civil society and non-governmental organisations, cross-border traders, research community, and other stakeholders. The opening remarks were provided by the OIE Director General and FAO Director, Animal Production and Health Division (AGA).

Alejandro Acosta from FAO AGA delivered the opening keynote presentation “Coping with multiple shocks: the key role of small ruminants in strengthening rural households’ resilience” based on the analytical work of the Livestock Policy Lab (LPL). Using econometric methods, the study aimed to assess the wider economic effect of livestock related policy interventions. His presentation influenced the policy debate by showing that strengthening households’ resilience will be fundamental to eradicate poverty and put an end to hunger, that livestock assets can help to reduce the negative effect of a severe external shock by 25%, and that half of this potential is associated with small-ruminants.

The second topic on “Livestock development in the Sahel – what paths and perspectives” was presented by Mamadou Ba, APESS Regional Coordinator. He recalled the importance of livestock in the Sahel countries using detailed figures collected from four countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. He highlighted the main challenges and opportunities that the livestock sector is facing: population growth, land access, inadequate public funding and transformation of the family farming. He pointed out the need for more inclusive policies taking into consideration smallholder needs.

“Engaging the private sector veterinary paraprofessionals in partnership with government for the national control of PPR in Afghanistan” was the third topic presented by Raymond Briscoe, Executive Director of the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) Livestock Programs. 75% of the rural population rely on livestock and sheep and goats as the predominant form of livestock for both herders and farmers. PPR has been endemic in Afghanistan since its first occurrence in 1995. He described the mechanism through which the national PPR eradication programme is being implemented by veterinary paraprofessionals contracted by the government (Sanitary mandate) to perform surveillance and disease reporting, extension activities for PPR awareness and vaccination (12.5 million small ruminants vaccinated since 2015).

H.E. Ambassador Seydou Cisse, Permanent Representative of Côte d’Ivoire to FAO, IFAD and WFP in Rome also addressed the meeting on behalf of the newly established Group of FAO Permanent Representatives Friends of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP). He explained the objectives of the Group which are to advocate for the importance of PPR GEP and support FAO and OIE and their Joint PPR Secretariat.

Following fruitful discussions, participants adopted the attached conclusions, which were subsequently presented to the Ministerial Conference by Dr Paula Menzies, International Goat Association (IGA).
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The opening session was addressed by Mr. Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner International Cooperation and Development, Dr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director General and Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General.

Over 280 participants from 45 PPR-infected or at risk countries, international and regional organisations (ACP, AUC, AOAD, CEBEVIRHA, CIHAEM, CILSS), resource partners, civil society organizations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, private sector representatives attended the Conference. The event was graced by the presence of 16 Ministers from the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Italy, Mongolia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, and Zambia.

Opening remarks

Mr Neven Mimica recalled the 2011 collective achievement of rinderpest eradication, the result of continued joint efforts and international cooperation between 1975 and 2010. He underlined that livestock represents an essential part of rural livelihoods, especially in Africa where about 1 in 3 people’s livelihoods depends on it. He also pointed out the multi-dimensional importance of small ruminants - and livestock in general - not only as a source of food and income, but also as they play important cultural and social roles in many rural communities. He informed that the EU has provided over 300 million EUR over the past 3 years for livestock development and animal health actions. In order to achieve the 2030 PPR eradication goal, Mr Mimica highlighted the following crucial actions: (i) All partners need to commit to a long-term vision and plan of action; (ii) There is a strong need to modernize Veterinary Services to significantly improve animal health; and to (iii) Ensure strong international guidance on countries efforts (PPR Secretariat), and enhance regional coordination (AU-IBAR).

Dr Graziano da Silva reminded the strategic importance of small ruminants, as they represent a fundamental livelihood source for more than 300 million poor families in emerging economies. He pointed out that, most of the time, small ruminants are the only available assets for the poorest of the poor – especially in the Sahel. He noted that failing to eradicate PPR would mean contributing directly to the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, as sheep and goats provide an essential part of people's diets, especially for children (e.g. milk). Dr da Silva stressed that PPR can also trigger distress migration, as people may lose their livelihoods because of this disease; hence, eradicating PPR is also part of the response to tackle distress migration and create more jobs for youth, especially in Africa. He indicated that over 60% of the targeted resources for the 5-year PPR GEP has already been mobilized, but that USD 340 million are still needed in order to reach our USD 1 billion goal. He also highlighted critical elements needed to achieve PPR eradication: (i) Long-term political commitment; (ii) Engagement of local authorities and communities for operationalizing PPR Control and Eradication strategies; and (iii) Cooperation, coordination and partnerships.
Dr Monique Eloit highlighted the importance of AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC in supporting Member Countries, and as partners for FAO, OIE and the PPR Secretariat. She noted that the OIE has been striving to improve and enhance its internal capacities and tools, so as to be able to provide better and more effective assistance to countries in eradicating PPR. She underlined the importance of partnership and coordination, and international collaboration for supporting farmers and achieving PPR eradication. Dr Eloit stressed that PPR eradication by 2030 is indeed achievable, but it is also important to be realistic: the disease is still spreading at an alarming rate, and therefore more collective efforts and resources are needed to reverse the trend and achieve our goal. She reminded the key role played by women in rural communities (as care-takers, livestock-keepers, etc.), and how PPR eradication can contribute to alleviating poverty and hunger.

Discussion on progress on PPR control and eradication, and investment priorities going forward was preceded by introductory remarks provided by:

- **H.E. Somanogo Koutou**, Minister of Animal Resources of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Union Commission;
- **Prof. Ibrahim El Dukheri**, Director General of AOAD on behalf of Arab countries.

Ministers were invited to provide their statements through targeted questions raised by the Moderator. A total of 27 interventions were recorded from Ministers and high level representatives of international and regional organisations.

Ministers from PPR-infected and at risk countries confirmed that the disease remains a major concern in their respective countries. They indicated that they have already mobilized resources at national level and urged resource partners and the development community to contribute in bridging the PPR GEP’s USD 340 million funding gap. They renewed their commitment to eradicate the disease by 2030 and adopted the attached Ministerial Declaration.

A list of ministers and high level representatives of international and regional organisations is also attached.

ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States) Secretariat representative indicated that recommendation will be made to the ACP Committee of Ambassadors to focus on PPR eradication as a priority, and that as much as possible intra-ACP funding should be allocated to the programme. Concrete actions and figures will be defined and made public by the end of the month.

Statements from resource partners confirmed their interest and commitment to support the PPR GEP.

The European Commission provided an overview of ongoing projects and indicated new projects under preparation for a total envelope of 37 million EUR.

The representative of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (USA), explained their ongoing support to Niger to eradicate PPR and highlighted the need to adopt more sustainable approaches at country level.

PPR remains a major key priority for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) according to its representative. The Foundation considered that the achievements of the public-private partnership supported by FAO in Afghanistan have shown that PPR control is achievable even in protracted crisis countries. For the PPR global eradication, some emerging science topics such as PPR in wildlife and thermostolerant vaccine need to be considered. The Foundation emphasized the importance of constant monitoring of actions and reaffirmed their willingness to accelerate the effectiveness of the global eradication programme.

Support and commitment to PPR GEP were also expressed by the representatives of France, Germany and the World Bank.

Before the closing remarks provided by Mr Xavier Prats-Monné, Director-General for Health and Food Safety, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE); and the Directors General of FAO and OIE, the participants were provided with the conclusions of the Stakeholder Forum and of the DG SANTE-led conference on animal diseases in Europe, both held on 6 September 2018.

Despite the tight agenda, the Conference took place in a very constructive atmosphere with fruitful discussions among participants. The Conference represented a historic milestone for the collective effort to address PPR, one of the root causes of hunger and poverty for 300 million families across the globe.
ANNEXES

1. MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

2. CONCLUSIONS OF THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM

3. LIST OF MINISTERS WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE AND LIST OF HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS
MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, the Ministers in charge of livestock, animal production and health of Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Italy, Mongolia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, and Zambia, together with the high level representatives from 28 PPR-infected and at risk countries, gathered in Brussels upon invitation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the African Union Commission, and in the presence of representatives of the African, Asian and Middle East Regional Economic Communities, resource partners, private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations;

1. Strongly reaffirm our political commitment in combatting the Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), towards its global eradication, as this animal disease directly threatens the livelihoods of the poorest people of our countries with significant losses in our local economies;

2. Confirm that we are fully part of the international consensus aiming at PPR eradication by 2030, according to the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy adopted in Abidjan in April 2015, during the PPR Ministerial Conference;

3. Commend FAO and OIE for joining their forces in implementing this strategy, in collaboration with the European Union, African Union Commission, African, Asian and Middle East Regional Economic Communities, PPR infected and at risk countries and scientific, technical and financial partners, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

4. Emphasize that, considering the risks to our livestock, we have already mobilized our human and financial resources at national level, as much as possible. As the spread of the disease does not respect borders, we are working in coordination with the African Union Commission, the African, Asian and the Middle East Regional Economic Communities, and we congratulate them for this close collaboration;

5. Support the conclusion of the Stakeholder Forum on PPR held on 6 September 2018 and we underline that pastoralists and farmers are at the frontline of the fight against the disease. They are the sentinels of PPR outbreaks and will be the first beneficiaries of PPR eradication. In this regard, the veterinary services, including public and private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, are at the heart of disease eradication and will receive all the means of intervention that we can bring together.

6. Urge resource partners and the development community in general to join our efforts to fill the critical funding gaps to effectively eradicate PPR. While the majority of the allocated resources – 61% - have been provided by affected and at risk countries, there is still a gap of USD 340 million to preserve critical investments and eradicate a pest that is causing more than USD 2.1 billion in economic losses per year. Therefore, we strongly encourage resource partners to walk with us the last mile to definitively eradicate PPR within the expected time limit.
We, the Representatives of farmers' and pastoralists' associations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, cross-border traders, research community, and other stakeholders, are committed to protecting small ruminants as an essential component of the livelihood of hundreds of millions of the poor families around the world; recognising the crucial role these animals play in local economies; aware that these animals are threatened by a highly contagious and devastative disease, the Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), now present in more than 70 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East; taking into consideration that there is a strong and long-lasting international consensus aimed at eradicating PPR by 2030; knowing that FAO and OIE, according to the mandate they receive from their respective Membership, are fully involved in coordinating the fight against the disease at global level, hand-in-hand with the Regional Economic Communities, AU-IBAR and the countries, including through the PPR Global Eradication Programme; underlining that there is an effective and affordable vaccine, and that one single injection protects the animal during its lifetime; encouraging transboundary and sub-regional coordination between countries; acknowledging the particular challenges faced by countries and regions facing conflict, poverty or weaknesses in regulation; reinforcing the need to establish financial economic sustainability through cooperation between national governments and development financing mechanisms; noting the potential impact and role of wildlife in PPR and the importance of wildlife populations to biodiversity and national conservation efforts; understanding that the global PPR eradication programme delivers opportunities to control other important small ruminant diseases; emphasising the link between PPR eradication with other major global challenges such as food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, strengthening resilience and migration control, and beyond that with the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

We adopt the following main conclusions:

- We are convinced that PPR must be combated by any means in order to achieve its eradication by 2030, and we join the international consensus built by FAO, OIE and countries' political will and coordination in this objective;
- We underline that farmers, traders and pastoralists, primarily women and youth, are at the heart of the process by contributing to prevention, surveillance and control measures, including targeted and massive vaccination, depending upon the status of the country, aimed at eradicating the disease within their own flocks;
- We believe planning and implementation of regional and national strategies must be fully informed by and in compliance with the rights and needs of mobile pastoral communities;
- We commit ourselves to supporting, at the field level, the public and private veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and other technical, scientific and administrative personnel involved in this eradication process (including at border inspection posts), such as through the development of systematic capacity building programmes with the support of research and training institutions;
- We understand the role of the private sector in the global eradication programme and their need to anticipate vaccine demand to ensure adequate and timely quantity and quality;
- We are ready to advocate and to raise awareness in our respective communities, in order to convey key messages, useful information and best practices at all levels;
- We stress that the cost / benefit ratio of vaccination against PPR alone is a very strong argument in favour of the control measures, as the value of an animal represents more than a hundred times the cost of its vaccination;
• **We commit** to accountability and transparency, and reinforce the need to establish the means to measure progress towards the goal of global eradication to justify public and private funding;

• **We ask** that countries, Regional Economic Communities and AU-IBAR to maintain the political will and institutional momentum towards PPR eradication by keeping the topic at the top of their agendas and by consistently looking for support in this regard, including through national and regional budgets and means;

• **We urge** the donor community, the development partners, the philanthropic foundations, the financial institutions and all entities involved in assisting the poor people to strengthen their resilience, to mobilise their resources and to join forces with countries, sub-regional, regional and international organisations in order to bring together any technical and financial means necessary for the implementation of the PPR Global Eradication Programme launched by FAO and OIE, with a long-term view to sustainable financing;

• **We request** the opportunity for the stakeholder forum to reconvene at a future date to review progress.
LIST OF MINISTERS WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE

• H.E. Hamdullah Hamdard, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan
• H.E. Ermira Gjeçi (Ms), Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania
• H.E. Narayon Chandra Chanda, MP, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh
• H.E. Yanko Ivanov (Ms), Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Bulgaria
• H.E. Somanogo Koutou, Ministre des Ressources Animales et Hydrauliques, Burkina Faso
• H.E. Yérima Youssoufa Mandjo, Minister of Livestock and Animal Health, Central African Republic
• H.E. Gayang Souaré, Minister of Livestock and Animal Production, Chad
• H.E. Henri Djombo, Ministre d’Etat, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Congo
• H.E. Dr. Ezzaldin Omar Ezzaldin Abusteit, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt
• H.E. Roger Patrick Milimono, Minister of Livestock and Animal Productions, Guinea
• H.E. Maurizio Fugatti, Under-Secretary of State for Health, Italy
• H.E. Batjargal Batzorig, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia
• H.E. Albadé Abouba, Ministre d’État, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Niger
• H.E. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (Mrs), Minister of Livestock and Animal Production, Senegal
• H.E. Bushara Gumaa Aror Abdalla, Federal Minister of Animal Resources, Sudan
• H.E. Kampamba Mulenga (Mrs), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Zambia

LIST OF HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

• Dr Masum Burak, President of International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
• Mr Adoum Djibrine DJIME, Executive Secretary of the Comité permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS)
• H.E. Ahmat Awad Sakine, Ambassador, Agriculture Permanent Representative; African Union Permanent Mission to EU and ACP Group of States
• Dr Pedro Bayeme Bayeme Ayingono, Executive Secretary, Commission Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques (CEBEVIRHA)