



**OIE ME Commission
REVC**



AU-IBAR



Red Sea LTC

**EPIDEMIOLOGY OF RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK TRADE
SHARJA (UAE), 21-22 November 2004**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering that:

- RVF is a Regional Problem, which has a considerable impact upon animal and public health and upon livestock trade in the region.
- RVF may have a wider distribution in the region, than is currently believed.
- There is a general lack of baseline temporal and spatial information on RVF virus activity throughout the Region, efforts should be made to undertake studies to remedy the situation.
- RVF epizootic periods are extremely rare in the region and are correlated with periods of a high El Nino activity.

Participants recommended that:

- OIE member countries in the Middle East and Greater Horn of Africa should discuss trading issues related to RVF in order to reach a consensus on the strategies to be implemented in RVF pre-epizootic, epizootic and inter-epizootic periods in the region.
- Each country should determine the distribution of RVF virus following an epizootic period, by a post-epizootic serological survey.
- Within each country, high risk areas should be defined, based upon the highest levels of sero-positivity in animals and the ecology of the area.
- Countries should establish some competence in the identification of RVF vector species, their population dynamics and feeding biology.
- Countries in the region are urged to establish emergency preparedness and contingency plans for a RVF epizootic, to promote a regional network and to discuss their capacities and strategies in order to react to RVF epizootic model predictions.
- Member countries should address issues related to trading activities. These should consider the long inter-epizootic periods, when very little or no virus activity is taking place and the pre & epizootic periods, as identified by a predictive model. They should especially address the time of onset and removal of any trade restrictions taken in the relevant situations. It is suggested that a period of three to six months after the last recorded evidence for any virus activity, should be taken as a guideline.
- Participants expressed their wishes to improve the exchange of information on RVF in the region and urged member countries to establish their trade regulations following the OIE standards.