



**Report of the 8th OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network Meeting 1st -2nd November 2012
Jerez De La Frontera, Spain.**

Dr. Jef Hammond, The Pirbright Institute, Pirbright, UK

Day 1

- Introduction and welcome- Jef Hammond- Network Secretariat
- Overview of world FMD situation as known to the network- Jef Hammond
- **The OIE/FAO Global FMD control strategy** - Action plan **FAO**- Samia Metwally
Samia outlined how the Global Strategy combines and integrates FAO and OIE tools:
 - PCP and regional roadmaps
 - PVS competencies for each PCP stage
- Strengthens:
 - Laboratories
 - Epidemiology
 - Vaccines
- Supports at advanced FMD-PCP stages:
 - Emergency responses
 - Identification of farms and animals
 - Biosecurity
 - Public/private partnerships
- Advocates for continued research, in particular in the field of diagnostics, strain characterization, vaccines, vaccine quality control and epidemiology
- Socio-economic studies will be stimulated to provide further evidence of the damage caused by FMD
- In regions where incentives for FMD control appear to be lacking, studies and workshops will be initiated to develop multi-disease approaches specific and optimal for the region
- There needs to be support for regional laboratories to become a reference laboratory/centre where FMD reference lab is missing

Samia also identified that the majority of countries (34) at PCP stage 0 are within Africa and the majority of countries (12) at PCP stages 1 and 2 are within Eurasia. There needs to be more emphasis for capacity building in virus pools 3, 4, 5 & 6

Samia then developed the idea that there should be integration of FMD sub-networks into existing Regional Lab networks with one regional/Ref lab serving each virus pool, identify gaps

and ensure sustainability through networks supported by economic communities (e.g. ASEAN, SADC). Where possible, existing funding should be used for lab capacity building activities. Finally there is a need to establish an advisory committee for mobilizing resources and there is an FMD FAO-wide meeting in Rome, Dec 11-12, 2012.

- **The OIE/FAO Global FMD control strategy-** Action plan **OIE-** Jemi Domenech

Jemi explained that the Action plan was worked out in the form of typical activities

- At country level – for each of the PCP stages and for each of the Strategy components, at regional level (for stages 1 - 5) and at global level (for stages 1 – 5). Typical activities indicated in the Strategy per PCP stage and for the different levels (country, regional, global) need to be embedded in concrete programmes/projects that can be used for fund raising. This implies new or intensified FMD control programmes at the national level, but in a regional context, in particular in virus pool regions 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- There needs to be support to regions and countries
- There should be an annual global report.

Jemi then highlighted that to set developments at the national level in motion, to implement activities foreseen at the regional and global levels, to evaluate, to oversee and to report, a strong and sustainable backbone structure is needed.

- The joint FAO/OIE FMD Working Group and its Secretariat is imperative for this purpose, to push and to pull but its continuity is endangered by loss of key staff.
- At the regional level activities should include the provision of regional epidemiologists, laboratory experts, communication expertise, establishing regional leading laboratories and epi-centers, a global coordinating lab and epi-center and regional vaccine banks and regional vaccine quality control centers
- And at the global level should be the coordinating, evaluating and backstopping expertise functions

For all of these activities a budget has been included in the Global Strategy and specific implementation projects can be worked out per item (*to improve the chances of obtaining funding*)

It is vital that:

- Countries where FMD is still endemic will be stimulated to step up their control efforts using the Progressive Control Pathway
- Countries where FMD has been controlled, as well as development partners, will be requested to increase their support for FMD control at source (usually in developing countries)
- Specific attention will be paid to countries in the FMD virus pool regions 3, 4, 5 and 6, the need of which was indicated by the portfolio review of the Global Strategy
- Socio-economic studies will be stimulated to provide further evidence of the damage caused by FMD at the country, sector and household levels
- In regions where incentives for FMD control appear to be lacking, studies and workshops will be initiated to develop multi-disease approaches tailor-made for the (sub)region
- Specific support will be requested from development partners to fund the studies and regional and global activities foreseen under the Global Strategy
- **Group discussion**
- Lunchtime visit to local horse show

PM Session Day 1

- 2012 Workplan progress report
- Working groups
 - Vaccination and assessing herd immunity
 - Vaccine matching
 - Annual report
- Reference laboratory presentations for each pool including disease situation and reporting, vaccine suitability, involvement in PTS and training undertaken and carried out.
 - ARRIAH, OVI & BVI, PANAFTOSA & SENASA, LVRI & PDFMD

End Day 1

DAY 2

- Reference laboratory presentations for each pool continued.....
 - RRL Pakchong
 - REMASA- Lillian Peuch
 - African Networks- Senegal, West Africa-East Africa-Ethiopia
 - Group discussion
 - NCFAD
 - Aphis
 - Open FMD- Discussing the potential for an FMD 'Cloud' where Jef Hammond suggested we should call it the FMD 'Plume'
- Dr Yanmin Li then presented an update on the previous vaccine matching PTS, the recent Asia 1 Shamir vaccine trial and presented a proposal for vaccine matching PTS for 2013-
- Then followed a brief presentation and discussion on meeting outcomes leading into issues arising and potential workplan for 2013-Jef Hammond
- Location for next meeting- Jef Hammond
- Jef Hammond suggested Bangkok and Pakchong, Thailand.
- This was unanimously accepted by members and will be the next venue in November 2013 subject to discussion with RRL senior staff and OIE regional subcom
- Discussion- All
- Agreement that Jef Hammond would circulate the meeting summary/issues/workplan document, updated contact details and ppt presentations to all.

All agreed that this was the most successful meeting of the network yet and that the progress made was excellent

An important issue raised in AOB was to ensure that the reference laboratory network members had a closed forum in which to discuss sensitive issues at the next network meeting.

It was suggested and agreed that the meeting could be split into 2 sections; an open session with other participants from leading national labs giving presentations and a closed session for OIE/FAO reference laboratories and centres only.

The 2013 meeting should be organised with this format

Issues Raised During the Meeting

- FMD global problem
 - Some obvious information gaps but improving the information exchange between the network members through more face to face meetings
 - Still need more 'real time' information from India and China.
 - Much of the work reported by the network still comes through Pirbright WRLFMD
 - How can we improve submissions to and facilitate sample exchange with other network labs in 2013?
 - How will the network integrate with the OIE/FAO global control plan?

- Vaccine matching comes up time and time again as a problem area
 - *Methodologies*
 - *Interpretation*
 - *Delivery of results and advice to decision makers*
 - *We need to address this as a network of experts*

Draft Workplan for 2013

- Prepare network report for 2012 – all information to Jef Hammond by 16th January 2013
- Continue with workplan items from 2012
- Vaccination and assessing herd immunity
 - Continue progress with PVM working group and prepare draft document for network review-Samia Metwally- FAO and Susanne Munstermann-OIE
- Extend vaccine matching review at both global and regional levels
 - *Literature*
 - *Methodologies*
 - *Interpretation*
 - Rossana Allende PAHO/Yanmin Li Pirbright and others tbd
- Carry out vaccine matching PTS in 2013- Yanmin Li and Jef Hammond Pirbright
- Support and progress Open FMD initiative- All

Meeting closed with Jef Hammond thanking all for their support, attendance and participation with wishes for a safe trip home.

