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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS GLOBAL ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Contributing to food security, poverty alleviation and resilience

Five years (2017–2021)



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Small ruminants (numbering around 2.1 billion head worldwide) are the primary livestock of many low-income, food-deficit households. They are reared within a variety of production systems, adding value to land.

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic small ruminants caused by a *Morbillivirus* (family Paramyxoviridae). It occurs throughout Africa (apart from the most southern countries), the Middle East, Turkey, West and South Asia, and China. First reported in 1942, PPR has been spreading at an alarming rate over the last 15 years, reaching regions previously not infected and putting hundreds of millions of small ruminants at risk. In populations not previously exposed to PPR, the disease has been associated with devastating socio-economic losses and serious damage to the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of millions of small-scale farmers and pastoralists. The annual global impacts of PPR have been estimated at between US\$1.4 billion and US\$2.1 billion.¹ Loss of livestock because of PPR forces pastoralists and rural farmers to migrate away from their lands and cultures in search of alternative livelihoods. These losses induce poverty, malnutrition, social and economic instability, and conflict.

Investing in the eradication of PPR will significantly contribute to food security and reducing poverty in the world's most vulnerable pastoral and rural communities. As a result it will directly benefit the livelihoods and stability of millions of pastoralists and livestock smallholders in affected countries.

Global consensus has been reached on the need to control and eradicate PPR. The PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) was endorsed at the International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR, organized by FAO and OIE, and held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 31 March–2 April 2015. Eradication of the disease by 2030 is its goal. The strengthening of veterinary services (VS) envisaged in support of stamping out PPR will also help to control other small ruminant diseases prioritized by stakeholders.

The push for PPR global eradication is framed as a 15-year process running to 2030. The first five-year PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) lays the foundation for implementing the strategy. The activities of these first five years influence, and are complementary to achieving, the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The PPR GEP aims to work with partners to strengthen implementation models, and to reactivate and build on the partnerships forged by the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP).

Programme objectives

The PPR GEP lays the foundation for eradicating PPR by first reducing its prevalence in the countries currently infected. The programme will also develop the capacity for non-infected countries to demonstrate the absence of PPR virus (PPRV), as a basis for official OIE endorsement of PPR-free status. Over the five years of the programme, national VS will become key players in its successful implementation. Where appropriate, the programme will additionally support activities to reduce the prevalence of other prioritized small ruminant diseases (SRD), in

¹ PPR GCES 2015

particular those with the best chance of boosting the PPR GEP's objectives. The 62 countries that report PPR presence and the 14 suspected of being infected or at risk will be the PPR GEP's main focus.

Programme approach

The PPR GEP, as part of the PPR GCES more widely, is a multi-country, multi-stage process that will decrease epidemiological risk levels and increase prevention and control. The four stages it sets out involve assessment, control, eradication and maintenance of PPR-free status. Regardless of the stage in which a country initially places itself, it will be supported to achieve the capacity it needs for the five key elements of PPR prevention and control: diagnostic system; surveillance system; prevention and control system; legal framework; and stakeholder involvement. Putting these five elements in place will enable any country to move with confidence to the next stage of control and eradication. The PPR monitoring and assessment tool (PMAT) is used as part of the overall PPR GCES. The tool measures activities and their impacts at each stage by requiring countries to input epidemiological and activities-based evidence, which it converts into guidance and milestones.

Because of the transboundary nature of PPR, the PPR GCES identifies nine regions/subregions and promotes regular regional coordination meetings and exchange of information between stakeholders. The PPR GEP additionally introduces an epizone approach, which combines regions/areas with similar epidemiology into zones and requires concerted control and eradication efforts across regional borders.

Programme framework

Planned activities for the next five years are as follows:

Component 1: Promoting an enabling environment and reinforcing veterinary capacities

Building the right environment for implementing the PPR GEP requires a logical and structured framework for action, the full support and involvement of farmers and herders, an adapted legal framework, and strengthened VS.

Subcomponent 1.1: PPR strategy and technical plans

Countries entering the PPR eradication step-wise approach will develop a National Strategic Plan (NSP), complemented by relevant technical plans as follows:

- i. National Assessment Plan (for countries entering at Stage 1);
- ii. National Control Plan (for countries entering at Stage 2); and
- iii. National Eradication Plan (for countries entering at Stage 3).

These plans will be integrated with the epidemiological assessment described in Component 2. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will also be supported in developing their own regional strategies tailored to the GCES.

Subcomponent 1.2: Stakeholder awareness and engagement

Awareness of PPR among various participants in the small ruminant (SR) value chain is critical if they are to engage effectively in the programme. Stakeholder organizations and activities will be mapped nationally, alongside developing and disseminating advocacy, communication strategies and materials. Active partnerships between public VS and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector and civil society organizations will be promoted. Appropriate training for



community-based animal health workers (CAHWs), operating under veterinary supervision, will be championed wherever needed.

Subcomponent 1.3: Legal framework

An adequate legal framework is the cornerstone providing national and local authorities, and VS in particular, with the necessary authority and capability to implement measures to eradicate PPR. The OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme will assist countries in appropriately updating their legal frameworks to allow for this to happen. Other legal aspects to consider with the relevant national authorities include land tenure, commerce, import-export, CODEX, commodity trade and child labour. In collaboration with the RECs, the PPR GEP will facilitate regional seminars to harmonize veterinary strategy.

Subcomponent 1.4: Strengthening veterinary services

Countries that have already had an OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation will have these findings and recommendations reviewed by relevant authorities and policy-makers in the PPR GEP context. Countries in which the PVS evaluation is older than five years will be encouraged to request a PVS evaluation follow-up, or a PVS gap analysis (if not already done). PVS evaluation and gap analysis reports will be analysed by the OIE regional and subregional representations, coordinating with the relevant RECs, to better define needs.

Component 2: Support to the diagnostic and surveillance systems

The PPR GEP will support efforts to better understand the presence (or possibly the absence) of PPR in a country or region, its distribution among the different farming systems and, ultimately, its impact on these systems. This requires an assessment of the epidemiological situation and the establishment of a functional surveillance system. The programme will support regional laboratory and epidemiology networks in better coordination and exchange of information.

Subcomponent 2.1. Epidemiological assessment

At the national level, PPR status will be updated annually using the PMAT. Countries will formulate a national assessment plan and undertake field assessments to identify risk hotspots and transmission pathways, through risk analysis principles applied to epidemiological systems and value chains. Regional assessments will also be carried out to maintain a country's PPR-free status, where applicable.

Subcomponent 2.2. Strengthening surveillance systems and laboratory capacities

At the outset of the programme, the purpose of surveillance will be to inform strategy development and enable eradication. The objective is to identify populations that are critical in maintaining the virus, and then develop appropriate vaccination strategies. The programme will provide a series of training courses in outbreak investigations, participatory epidemiology and participatory disease surveillance – including syndromic approaches, epidemiology and risk assessment. It will also support the development of the FAO-led Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPVs) to tackle PPR.

Capacities for laboratory diagnostics and testing, differential diagnosis of PPR and characterization of field virus isolates will be strengthened. At regional level, at least nine Regional Leading Laboratories (RLL) will be identified and assisted in developing assured expertise, so as to quality assure diagnostic tests and support national laboratories. International/regional proficiency tests will be conducted.

Subcomponent 2.3. Regional epidemiology and laboratory networks

The programme will establish or reinforce regional laboratory and epidemiology networks, and facilitate the designation of one RLL and one Regional Leading Epidemiology Centre (RLEC) in each of the nine regions/subregions. Exchanges between national laboratory and epidemiology staff in each region will be facilitated by regional network meetings.



Component 3: Measures supporting PPR eradication

As set out in the PPR GCES, measures that support PPR eradication include vaccination, improved biosecurity, animal identification, movement control, quarantine and stamping out. These various tools are likely to be applied at different levels of intensity as a country moves towards PPR-free status.

Subcomponent 3.1. Vaccination and other PPR prevention and control measures

The vaccines available currently (live attenuated forms of PPR virus) are highly effective, providing long-lasting protection. Thermostable PPR vaccines are soon expected to be available on a commercial scale. The PPR GEP will support implementation of quality standards for PPR vaccine production and delivery (best practice for storage, shipment and handling).

Some countries have not completed full epidemiological assessments for PPR (Stage 1) but are actively vaccinating nevertheless. Consultations will be conducted with these countries to review their vaccination methods and ensure that campaigns are properly planned and resourced, with the involvement of the communities concerned. Depending on the assessment and surveillance data, the vaccination should be time-limited with high coverage (aiming for 100 percent vaccination coverage to achieve the necessary herd immunity in high-risk areas) to achieve elimination of PPR. The goal is to avoid or move away from the low-coverage, annual vaccination campaigns often reported. The vaccination protocol will be based on vaccination for two years, following up on young animals (of four months to one year in age) within one year. A total of around 1.5 billion animals are to be vaccinated during the programme. After each round of vaccination, countries will be encouraged to conduct a Post-Vaccination Evaluation (PVE) and report findings to the FAO/OIE Secretariat.

Subcomponent 3.2. Demonstrating PPR-free status

Around 79 countries historically free from PPR can get assistance with preparing to apply for OIE-certified PPR-free status, if they so wish, on a historical basis. For countries entering in Stage 4, their surveillance system should be able to provide evidence of the absence of PPRV infection and generate the data required to make this application to the OIE.

Subcomponent 3.3. Control of other small ruminant diseases in support of PPR eradication

The PPR GCES advocates combining control strategies for PPR with efforts to combat other significant SR diseases, for cost-effectiveness. Where adequate epidemiological data are available, countries will be supported in formulating and implementing control plans for the SRD they wish to prioritize. The decision to combine PPR with other SRD must consider whether adequate epidemiological data are available for the prioritized diseases.

Component 4: Coordination and management

The success of the PPR GEP requires effective global, regional and national coordination mechanisms.

Subcomponent 4.1. Global level

At a global level, the PPR Secretariat –under the authority of FAO and OIE management– is responsible for the overall oversight, facilitation, consensus-building and management of the programme and its implementation, assessment, refinement and reporting. The PPR Secretariat will work closely with regional organizations, reference laboratories/centres and technical and research institutions, and will promote broad partnerships with other relevant organizations. A PPR Advisory Committee will be established to advise the PPR Secretariat on the programme's ongoing relevance and achievements. A PPR Global Research and Expertise



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Network (PPR GREN) will be set up as a forum for scientific and technical consultation, debates and discussions about PPR, encouraging innovation.

Subcomponent 4.2. Regional level

The PPR Secretariat will partner with continental and regional organisations such as AU-IBAR and the African RECs, ASEAN, ECO, GCC and SAARC, together with other relevant institutions, and the FAO and OIE regional, subregional and country offices, to support PPR eradication efforts. Each region will nominate a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) to oversee the implementation of PPR controls. The RAG will be made up of three Chief Veterinary Officers, coordinator of the regional epidemiology network, coordinator of the regional laboratory network, the PPR secretariat, two representatives from regional/subregional FAO and OIE offices, and a representative from a regional and subregional organization.

Subcomponent 4.3. National level

The programme will support countries in establishing, within the ministry in charge of livestock, a PPR national committee to facilitate consultation and promote stakeholder engagement. A PPR national coordinator will be appointed by the relevant ministry to oversee the programme's implementation. Collaboration between neighbouring countries will be promoted to develop and implement a harmonized transboundary epizone approach to PPR eradication.

Programme costs

The estimated budget for the five-year programme is: **US\$996.4 million**.

