



***Peste des petits ruminants 2<sup>nd</sup>* Regional Roadmap Meeting for Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Region**



**Dushanbe, Tajikistan: 28 February - 2 March 2017**

## BACKGROUND

PPR, year after year, deeply affects the lives of some 300 million of the world's poorest rural families, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. Over 80% of the world's sheep and goat population is at risk of becoming infected by the disease, which can kill over 90% of animals exposed. PPR causes annual global losses estimated at USD 1.4 billion to USD 2.1 billion. PPR has spread at an alarming rate over the past 15 years, reaching regions previously not infected. In 2016, it was reported for the first time in Georgia (over 800,000 small ruminants) and Mongolia (over 45 million small ruminants). If left uncontrolled, it will spread even further, causing further losses and hardship for millions of farmers and herders, most of whom are women, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

Central Asia region hosts 190 million of sheep and goats, representing around 8.5 % of world small ruminant population and 12 % of small ruminant population in infected or at-risk countries.

The first *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) Roadmap meeting for Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries<sup>1</sup> was held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 23 to 25 February 2016. In line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), endorsed during the FAO-OIE International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 31 March to 2 April 2015, the participants in this meeting adopted the regional Roadmap of Central Asia to achieve eradication of PPR by 2030.

In collaboration with the ECO Secretariat, the governmental of Tajikistan, FAO and OIE, through their joint PPR Secretariat, established in 2016, organised the second PPR Roadmap workshop for ECO Region in Dushanbe from 28 February to 2 March 2017.

The meeting was officially opened by **Honourable Sattori Izzattullo**, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan following remarks from Mr Memduh Unal, Director of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism of ECO, Mr Viorel Gutu, FAO Representative in Tajikistan and Dr. Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative for Europe.

The Central Asia PPR Roadmap meeting brought together Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), laboratory and epidemiologists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives from the ECO Secretariat, FAO and OIE.

The objectives for the PPR Roadmap workshop aim to:

1. Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the first PPR roadmap workshop;
2. Assess the PPR epidemiological situation in the region;
3. Present the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP)
4. Present the template for the elaboration of the PPR National Strategic Plans (NSP)
5. Re-discuss the use of the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT)
6. Discuss the PPR Resources mobilization strategy and partnerships in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> Without Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are ECO countries but part of another PPR Roadmap regional meeting process, and with Armenia and Georgia

The review of the recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> PPR roadmap workshop and the country presentations demonstrated that progress had been made over the last year. Key achievements include:

- Appointment of PPR Points of Contact in the 10 countries
- Surveillance activities regularly carried out
- Organization of refresher training of veterinary staff to review clinical recognition of PPR.

Georgia which reported its first-ever PPR outbreak in January 2016 indicated that the disease has been eradicated in March 2016.

In the region, the following challenges remain:

- Limited understanding of the presence (or possibly the absence) of PPR, its distribution among the different farming systems in some countries
- Inadequate capacity for risk analysis
- Limited involvement of farmer organizations
- Poor information sharing between countries
- Lack of harmonized strategies for PPR vaccination
- Absence of an independent quality control center for animal disease vaccines.

The disease is still endemic in Turkey and Iran, the latest managing to regularly decrease the cases number since 2015.

Following fruitful discussions, the participants in the PPR roadmap workshop agreed on the following.

### **1. Assessment of the PPR situation**

Considering that the implementation of the PPR control and eradication stepwise approach requires a clear understanding of the PPR situation;

Considering that an assessment of the PPR situation will also contribute to a deep understanding of current country capacities with regard to laboratory, surveillance, prevention and control, legal framework and stakeholders' involvement;

The meeting recommended to countries to carry out an assessment using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), which will contribute to identify PPR risk areas and practices along the small ruminant value chains that may contribute to PPR introduction and/or spread.

## 2. PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP)

Considering that PPR eradication requires harmonised approach and logical and structured framework for action in each country;

Considering that several countries within the region have already drafted their PPR strategy or plan of actions;

The meeting recommended to countries to develop or update their PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP) using the template provided by the PPR Secretariat.

Furthermore, the country representatives agreed on the following timeframe for the submission of their draft NSP for review by the PPR Secretariat and relevant FAO and OIE decentralized offices.

**Table 1:** Deadline for submission of draft NSP

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of draft NSP</b>
<b>Armenia</b>	By end of June 2017
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	By end of June 2017
<b>Georgia</b>	By end of October 2017
<b>Iran</b>	Existing PPR national plan will be updated and submitted by end of June 2017
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	By end of October 2017
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Existing PPR national plan will be amended and submitted by end of June 2017
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Existing PPR plan of action will be updated and submitted by end of March 2017 (final version by end of July)
<b>Turkey</b>	Existing plans developed for Thrace and Anatolia will be updated and submitted by end of July 2017.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	By end of October 2017
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Existing PPR national plan will be updated and submitted by August 2017

### **3. Strengthening of surveillance systems and laboratory capacities**

Considering the need to develop the epidemiological skills required to conduct PPR surveillance;

Considering the need to enable the full diagnosis of PPR within the region from ELISA to virus isolation;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to organise refresher training of veterinary staff to review clinical recognition of PPR and its differential diagnosis and to extend the training also to sample collection, shipping and laboratory diagnosis;
- Countries to use the rapid test (Point of care (POC) test) in the field and to confirm results in the laboratory using immune-capture ELISA (ICE) or RT-PCR before sending positive samples to a reference laboratory for further viral characterization studies;
- FAO and OIE to support strengthening the laboratory capacities within the region.

### **4. PPR Vaccination**

Considering that vaccination (using quality certified vaccines in compliance with OIE standards) remains the main tool to control PPR outbreaks;

Considering that, 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 flock immunity in high-risk areas;

Considering that the vaccination protocol adopted in the PPR GEP recommends two successive years vaccination in Stage 2, followed by vaccination of young animals (4 months to one year in age) within one year or two;

Considering the absence of an independent quality control center for animal disease vaccines in ECO region;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to adopt a risk-based vaccination approach aiming to reach 100% immunity of the flocks in hotspot areas;
- Countries to carry out Post Vaccination Evaluation (PVE) at the completion of each round of vaccination to evaluate the immune response and the population immunity;
- FAO and OIE to support PVE training as needed;
- ECO Secretariat, with the support of FAO and OIE, to explore the possibility to establish a regional vaccine quality control laboratory, as proposed during the previous meeting in 2016. Until this facility is established, countries are advised to quality certify their vaccines in OIE/FAO reference laboratory.

## 5. Information sharing and Coordination

Considering that PPR is a transboundary animal disease that needs coordination and harmonisation at all levels, that information sharing is a challenge within the region;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries to regularly provide update on their PPR situation to their neighbouring countries;
- PPR national Points of Contact, with support of OIE office in Astana, to establish a monthly exchange of information, Skype call when available, to share and update each other on ongoing activities;
- The FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat, to liaise regularly with the PPR Regional Advisory Group (RAG) established in 2016, and with ECO and the PPR National Points of Contact, as needed.

## 6. Control of other small ruminant diseases in support of PPR eradication

Considering that the PPR GCES advocates combining PPR with strategies to control other important diseases of small ruminants for better cost-effectiveness when adequate epidemiological data are available;

Considering the list of priority diseases adopted during the last PPR roadmap and updated this year (table 2);

**Table 2:** List of prioritized small ruminants diseases (SRD)

Countries	Priority SRD		
	Disease 1	Disease 2	Disease 3
<b>Armenia</b>	Pasteurellosis	Sheep and Goat Pox	Viral diarrhoea
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Pasteurellosis	Blue Tongue	Ecthyma
<b>Georgia</b>	Ecthyma	Sheep and Goat Pox	Pasteurellosis
<b>Iran</b>	Sheep and Goat Pox	Ecthyma	Blue Tongue
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Sheep and Goat Pox	Pasteurellosis	Ecthyma
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Pasteurellosis	Sheep and Goat Pox	Ecthyma
<b>Tajikistan</b>	CCPP	Chlamydiosis	Sheep and Goat Pox
<b>Turkey</b>	FMD	Brucellosis	Sheep and Goat Pox
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	Ecthyma	CCPP	Blue Tongue
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Pasteurellosis	Sheep and Goat Pox	FMD

The meeting took note that there is no single disease prioritized by all countries and, therefore, agreed that countries should provide adequate epidemiological data for their listed diseases for further consideration in their national PPR NSP.

## **7. PPR Resource Mobilization**

Considering the launching in 2016, by FAO and OIE, of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021, presented during the meeting;

Considering that PPR eradication can be achieved only with sufficient political and financial investments, that the PPR resource mobilisation is a shared responsibility between FAO/OIE, the regional economic organizations and the countries;

Considering the potential stakeholders and partners mentioned by the countries;

The meeting recommended to:

- Countries, together with ECO Secretariat, to support the FAO/OIE resource mobilisation strategy necessary for the implementation of the PPR GEP;
- Countries to advocate and raise awareness of decision makers and stakeholders, as well as sensitize their national partners on the PPR GEP;
- ECO to advocate at regional level, in order to raise awareness of decision makers and potential PPR-GEP partners;
- FAO and OIE to provide the various communication material in Russian language, as much as possible.

## **8. OIE PVS Pathway**

Considering the key role of the Veterinary Services in PPR eradication, in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy and the PPR-GEP, the meeting recommended that countries make use of their OIE PVS mission reports and update them by requesting an OIE PVS follow-up mission when necessary (for all missions carried out before 2013).

## **9. PPR Stage Progression 2016 - 2030**

The participants agreed on the attached updated PPR Stage Progression 2017-2030 (Annex 1)

## **Acknowledgement**

The participants of the Central Asia PPR roadmap meeting are grateful to the Government and People of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Agriculture, the CVO and the veterinary services of Tajikistan, FAO and OIE, for the support extended to them during the preparation and the conduct of the workshop.

Dushanbe, 2 March 2017

ANNEX 1

Second PPR Roadmap meeting for Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Region

28 February - 2 March 2017, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

*Provisional roadmap for 2017-2030, based on self-assessment questionnaires*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Armenia	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free			
Azerbaijan	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free				
Georgia	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	Status Free				
Iran	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free				
Kazakhstan	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free										
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free		
Tadjikistan	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	Status Free		
Turkey (Anatolia)	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free							
Turkey (Thrace)	3	3	4	Status Free												
Turkmenistan	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free		
Uzbekistan	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	4	4	Status Free						