

GF-TADs AFRICA 9th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: Recommendations

Considering that:

1. GF-TADs Africa 5-year Action Plan is in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP);
2. GF-TADs for Africa five-year action plan need to be completed with baseline situation on the priority diseases in order to show progress along the relevant indicators to the Global Steering Committee;
3. The Recommendations of the 6th GF-TADs Global Steering Committee and the systematization exercise undertaken by the Management Committee to streamline and harmonize the reporting on the performance indicators under the GF-TADs Regional Action Plans;
4. The meetings of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Africa should focus on evolving issues since the previous meeting while allowing quality time for discussions;
5. The current epidemiological situation of TADs and zoonoses in Africa as provided by OIE, AU-IBAR, and FAO using reporting tools (WAHIS and ARIS) and other information supporting tools such as GLEWS, and recognizing the need to improve surveillance systems in order to address the gaps in the epidemiological knowledge of prioritized diseases in Africa;
6. The priority diseases defined in the GF-TADs for Africa 5-year Action Plan and namely Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Rabies, African Swine Fever (ASF), Newcastle disease (ND) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP);
7. The 2011 declaration of Rinderpest eradication at global level, the ongoing post-eradication phase and the establishment of the FAO/OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory committee, and the Procedure for the designation of facilities holding Rinderpest virus containing material to maintain global freedom of Rinderpest was recently adopted by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (2014);
8. The recommendations of the FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2012 especially those referring to the Global FMD Control Strategy and its supporting tools such as the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP), the PVS Pathway and OIE Terrestrial Code chapters particularly regarding the official recognition of country control programme and disease status, and the planning of a third FAO/OIE Global Conference;
9. FMD reoccurred in Tunisia after an absence of 15 years in the Maghreb region and the difficulties that this country is facing to control the disease and considering that FMD remains a concern for several countries in Africa in particular Uganda where the disease is spreading in new region (Karamoja);
10. The ongoing activities and progress made on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) control by AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, and other partners, the ongoing work of the GF-TADs Working Group on PPR including the preparation of a PPR global control and eradication strategy and the organisation of an International Conference on PPR in March 2015 in Cote d'Ivoire;
11. The new articles of the OIE Terrestrial Code related to PPR adopted during the OIE General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2013, which make PPR a new disease with official OIE Status and open the possibility for endorsement of official control programmes for PPR;
12. The recent CBPP situation in West Africa;
13. The need for concrete actions on the "One Health" approach including better information sharing on TADs and zoonoses, especially rabies;

14. The need to consider very carefully the potential for possible negative impact of miscommunication regarding evolving situation related to emerging and re-emerging diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED), and Influenza A H7N9;
15. Donors require appropriate coordination mechanism and strong basis to justify the investment being made in the animal health sectors;
16. RAHCs are appropriate tools at regional level for taking in charge TADs, although uncertainties remain regarding their funding;
17. Veterinary Services are global public good and that reinforcing their governance is crucial for animal health, food safety and food security, while ensuring safer trade in animals and animals products in Africa;
18. The ongoing IRCM initiative led by AU-IBAR and progress made, and the need to report to GF-TADs;
19. The need expressed by participants for a more inclusive membership within the GF-TADs;
20. The uncertainties related to funding of GF-TADs Africa,
21. The GF-TADs for Africa is the animal health component of the ALive platform;
22. The recommendations of the FAO-OIE Inter-Regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever and the establishment of the OIE Ad Hoc Group to review the Terrestrial Code on RVF; and
23. The pending recommendations of the GF-TADs for Africa 8th Steering Committee meeting (See Annex).

The Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Africa recommends that:

1. The Regional GF-TADs for Africa 5-year Action plan be completed with baseline situation provided by countries, AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, RECs and other relevant partners for the following diseases: FMD, PPR, CBPP, ASF and RVF; and according to this situation, the update on diseases status be focused on these 5 diseases (OIE as Secretariat, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and FAO,);
2. The GF-TADs for Africa Secretariat, in collaboration with the President and Vice-President of the Regional Steering Committee, use the template to be provided by the GF-TADs Global Secretariat for reporting to the Global GF-TADs Steering Committee;
3. The agenda of the next RSC be developed in a way to allow for discussion on issues of importance for the region;
4. The partners of the GF-TADs for Africa share their respective calendar of activities in order to limit overlapping, while supporting the labeling by GF TADS for Africa more systematically and ensuring a better coordination, harmonization and advocacy of the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa;
5. The Secretariat of the Alive Executive Committee, supported by key partners of GF-TADs for Africa, ensure a proper advocacy at the highest authority (Ministers/policy makers) to promote ownership of the GF TADs for Africa mechanism and its 5 year Action Plan by the RECs and Members Countries and this be reflected in the ALive revised operational guidelines;
6. OIE, FAO, AU-IBAR and other institutions involved in the GF-TADs for Africa, support infected countries in their fight against FMD and advocate for more political support and investment from the Governments and economic partners;
7. This steering committee advocate for a better understanding of the epidemiology of CBPP at sub-regional level through, for example, mapping of slaughterhouses, serological surveillance, animal identification schemes, and registration of pathologies;

8. The expert panel on CBPP be revived jointly by AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE;
9. Any communication related to emerging and re-emerging diseases be based on scientific facts;
10. African countries be encouraged to continue their progression in the OIE PVS Pathway, especially by requesting, when relevant, PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission, and taking ownership of the outcomes in order to improve the good governance of their Veterinary Services and to ease access to funding both internally and externally using round tables with donors, while facilitating full access of PVS related information to GF-TADs partners (OIE lead, AU-IBAR, FAO);
11. The relationship between the RAHCs and the RECs and their related networks be discussed at GF-TADs Management Committee meeting; and
12. The implementation of the pending recommendations of the SC8 be continued.

In addition, the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Africa noted:

1. The progress on AU-IBAR's efforts in operationalizing the African initiative for the progressive control of neglected animal diseases (NADs) and activities towards the development of a tool for assessing social and economic costs of NADs to influence and inform livestock policies, strategies and decision making.

The SC10 is proposed to be held in North Africa and hosted by UMA in Rabat on 16 of February, 2015, back to back with the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (16-20 February 2015) or by Tunisia in Tunis, 16-17 June, 2015.

The Steering Committee thanks the Government of Burkina Faso for supporting and hosting the GF-TADs for Africa 9th Steering Committee meeting.

Annex to the Recommendations (RSC9):

Pending recommendations from the 8th RSC Meeting June 2013

1. AU-PANVAC and relevant partners continue to ensure implementation of recommendations of the FAO/OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee;
2. AU-IBAR and partners continue advocacy for resources mobilization to address Rinderpest-like syndromes and priority TADs in Africa;
3. The GF-TADs Working Group on FMD continue to promote the use of the Progressive Control Pathway and the OIE PVS Pathway as monitoring tools for the progression of the countries towards having their status being recognized by the OIE (Action led by FAO and OIE);
4. Ongoing activities related to the assessment of economic impact of high impact diseases be strengthened (Action led by FAO, AU-IBAR and OIE);
5. The Regional PPR control strategy for Africa be enhanced taking into consideration latest scientific knowledge, regional and country programmes, and the Global PPR Control Strategy when available (AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, relevant partner's institutions);
6. The Global PPR Control Strategy, currently developed by the FAO/OIE GF-TADs PPR Working Group, consider regional experiences gained by AU-IBAR and the different partners;
7. AU-PANVAC continue to provide required quality certification services for vaccines including PPR, ND and other priority TADs;
8. AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE continue to pursue the finalization of CBPP progressive control program and appropriate regional strategies and related funds mobilization (FAO lead),
9. AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE and other partners continue ongoing efforts in finalizing the development of the ASF control strategy including project formulation and resource mobilization by engaging other relevant partners,
10. Greater collaboration with public health authorities to ensure that funding be directed at controlling rabies at its animal source and especially in dog population;
11. Regional GF-TADs partners ensure synergy when assisting countries to develop appropriate projects or proposals for resources mobilization and particularly to improve ownership of the outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway; and
12. IRCM activities continued to be reported at GF-TADs for Africa in support of GF-TADs efforts in Africa and serve as a mechanism for linkage with RECs and MS and the coordination of interventions;