

25th Conference of WOAHA Regional Commission for Africa
Gaborone, Botswana, 21-24 February 2023

Final

Recommendation No. 1

Eradication of PPR: Results and Perspectives

CONSIDERING:

1. The importance of sheep and goats for livelihoods, food and nutrition security, incomes and resilience of rural households in Africa, as well as their contribution to national economies and the emerging opportunities for enhanced intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area;
2. The continued threat of PPR to sheep and goat populations in Africa and the uncontrolled internal and cross-border movements of animals;
3. The gaps in knowledge on the global, regional and sub-regional PPR strategies/programmes and the tools to support and assess the implementation of the national PPR strategies;
4. The different approaches to the implementation of national PPR vaccination programmes, and the potential value of DIVA vaccines and accompanying laboratory tests;
5. The general lack of funds for PPR emergency interventions and the inadequate resources (human, technical and financial) to effectively implement existing national strategies for the eradication of PPR and to undertake WOAHA processes and procedures for PPR Status recognition and the endorsement of official control programmes towards meeting the global eradication target of 2030;
6. The need to strengthen the engagement of all stakeholders in PPR control and eradication efforts.
7. On one hand, the attainment of WOAHA PPR free status recognition by six Members and a PPR free zone by one and, on the other hand, the slow progress towards WOAHA PPR status recognition of other Members without history of the disease or its vaccination.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. WOAHA continue to provide support to its Members in strengthen their Veterinary Services and mainly with respect to the control and eradication of PPR through the implementation of the PVS Pathway with a PPR specific content to assess the Members' specific needs to control this disease, including training on WOAHA official recognition procedures;
2. Members and Regional Economic Communities (REC) enhance efforts in collaboration and coordination to enforce regulations and procedures to control both internal and cross-border animal movements. This should be supported by the regular sharing of information on nomadic, transhumant and trade-related movements of animals;

3. WOA, FAO, AU-IBAR and RECs to continuously raise awareness on the PPR-GCES, the pan-African PPR Strategy and the respective regional PPR strategies among Members and policy makers, to enhance ownership, buy-in and continued support as well as the appropriate alignment and harmonisation of national PPR eradication activities, including vaccination strategies as espoused in the recently launched PPR-GEP Blueprint to eradication, which needs to be widely disseminated;
4. Members in consultation with WOA, FAO, AU-IBAR, development partners and respective RECs prioritise the review and implementation of their national PPR strategic and investment plans in alignment with the global PPR GEP Blueprint, GF-TADs Strategy and regional priorities and in the spirit of cooperation under the GF TADs, apply for WOA endorsement of their official control programmes;
5. Members improve knowledge of their PPR epidemiological situation, by monitoring the trends of PPR in their ecosystem through coordinated surveillance activities and submit reports to WOA in compliance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* regarding the notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information. This knowledge should support decision making to target the animal populations at risk for PPR eradication activities, in line with the ecosystem approach;
6. Members improve their PPR diagnostic capacity through participation in relevant activities among them, through membership and participation in WOA PPR Reference Laboratory Network;
7. Members ensure the use of quality vaccines including taking advantage of WOA vaccine bank mechanism as an additional WOA tool supporting disease control and eradication through the facilitation of procurement of high-quality vaccines at special negotiated prices;
8. WOA, in collaboration with FAO, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and RECs, develop vaccination guidelines to facilitate post vaccination monitoring and evaluation of national PPR vaccination programmes, with the aim of cessation of vaccinations two years before any application of official recognition of PPR free status or by 2028 in order to achieve PPR eradication by 2030;
9. WOA Reference Centres and Members expedite the validation of the DIVA vaccines and the regulatory approvals for field use respectively;
10. WOA, in collaboration with partners, encourage Governments to continue to commit to, and support PPR control and eradication by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) as well as supportive legislation to foster proper implementation of relevant strategies or programmes including, among others, cooperation with farmers, targeted vaccination, post-vaccination monitoring and movement control;
11. Members enhance the engagement and involvement of stakeholders in PPR control and eradication activities beyond the conventional partners. In particular, efforts should be made to leverage on and reach out to sheep and goat farming communities, of private sector animal health service providers, farmers associations, community based organisations, and service providers in other community focused sectors, to better deliver PPR control and eradication interventions;
12. Members that have never reported PPR and do not vaccinate against the disease implement the necessary activities to ensure compliance with the relevant WOA standards with regard to official PPR free status and subsequently undertake the procedures and processes for submission of an application to WOA for the official recognition of their PPR free status.