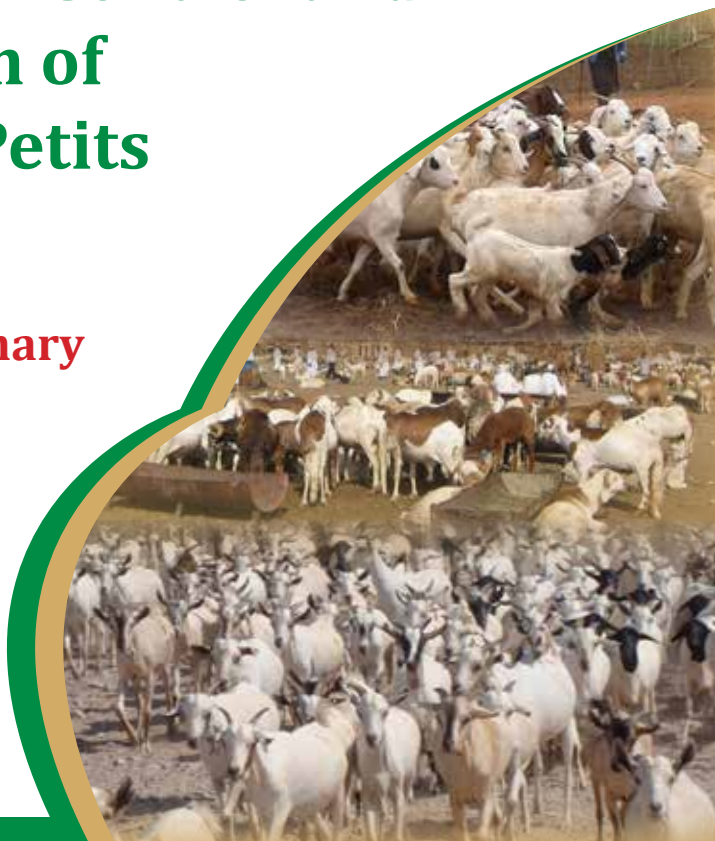




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The Pan African Strategy for Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

Executive Summary



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This Pan African Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is a revised and updated version of the Pan-African Strategy for the Progressive Control of PPR that was prepared in the second half of 2010 following the recommendation of the 8th Conference of the Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa held in Entebbe, Uganda in May 2010. The revision of the strategy has been necessitated by the need to align it to the Global strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and launched in April 2015 following endorsement by stakeholders during a global PPR conference held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 31st March to 2nd April 2015.

The important role of small ruminants in the social economy of pastoralists and other communities in Africa, as well as the negative impacts of PPR on the livelihoods and economies of African Countries, are the major justifications for this strategy.

The strategy is made up of three components: (i) the progressive control and eradication of PPR, (ii) the control of other national/regional priority small ruminants' diseases (SRDs) for the overall improvement of the health and productivity of small ruminants and (iii) the strengthening of veterinary services in Africa to accelerate the achievement of the first two components. For the first component, the strategy espouses among others: (a) a risk-based approach in order to gain a better understanding of the epidemiology and drivers of the disease. This will guide the sequential application of interventions targeting firstly, "virus hot spots" that are sources of virus dissemination in order to reduce disease incidence, followed by other targeted interventions for disease

eradication; (b) an adaptive management approach that maximizes the uptake of lessons learnt during the implementation; (c) regional approaches, with harmonisation of control measures, policies and legal frameworks and exchange of information; (d) effective partnerships and alliances that leverage the expertise and other resources needed to attain the objectives of the strategy; and (e) effective and sustainable programmes for animal health services delivery.

The overall objective of the strategy is to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and the resilience of livestock-dependent communities in Africa and economic growth of the affected countries. Specifically, the strategy will improve the health and production of small ruminants in Africa. The strategy has three main outputs, namely: (i) PPR eradicated from Africa by 2030; (ii) other SRDs controlled and (iii) veterinary services strengthened. The actions needed to achieve the objectives of the strategy are presented as tools and include among others: epidemiological surveillance; laboratory diagnostics; vaccine, vaccination and vaccine delivery systems; post-vaccination evaluation; communication and awareness; capacity development and utilisation; research and technology; coordination; and OIE Standards with the Performance of Veterinary services (PVS) pathway.

A phased approach with well-coordinated and harmonised activities across all regions and countries is adopted given that PPR is endemic in most of the affected countries on the continent. This phasing is based on four different stages which correspond to a combination of decreasing levels of epidemiological risk and increasing levels of prevention and control. These are:

Stage 1 (epidemiologic and socio-economic impact assessment) - the objective at this stage is to gain a better understanding of the PPR

epidemiological situation within the local socio economic context (presence or possibly the absence) of PPR in the country, its distribution among the different farming systems and, ultimately, its impact on these systems (in addition to the epidemiology study, stage 1 will be used for the preparation of activities for the next stage of the programme);

Stage 2 (control) - the aim at this stage is to target vaccination, in particular mass vaccination, in “hotspot areas” and potential sources of virus dissemination so as to break the maintenance and spread of PPR virus in different epidemiological situations, geographical areas or production systems;

Stage 3 (Eradication) - the actions here aim to eradicate the virus from the national flock;

Stage 4 (Verification of absence) - when the country can provide evidence that there is no virus circulation either at zonal or national level, and is ready to apply for the OIE official country status of PPR freedom.

The OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway will be a major tool for structuring and planning the activities and for assessing progress in the strengthening of veterinary services. Thus, countries progressing along the stages will have to simultaneously develop their veterinary services to be able to fulfill the criteria for attaining freedom from PPR. The strategy recognizes that the approach and the activities proposed under “Strengthening Veterinary Services” are not PPR-specific and therefore are expected to have spill-over effects on the control of other major transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

The tools to be used for implementing PPR eradication will also contribute to the control of other SRDs. Achieving progress in PPR eradication (i.e.

reaching higher stages) and controlling other SRDs will not be possible without having created an appropriate enabling environment for disease control, i.e. having improved the capacities and capabilities of the veterinary services with policies, legislation, equipment and trained personnel.

Resource mobilisation is presented as a shared responsibility between the Pan-African, regional and national levels. However, the responsibility of implementing the interventions in the different countries directly remains with the respective Governments. The regional levels will have the responsibility of directly coordinating and providing support for cross-border actions to the countries, while the responsibilities of the continental level will be overall coordination of implementation, coordination of regional actions, support for capacity building at national and regional levels and resource mobilisation at the three levels.



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