

# *Recommendations*

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2011**

**endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 24 May 2012**

**11th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Beirut, Lebanon, 3 – 6 October 2011

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Preparation of Veterinary Strategic Plan and Cost and Benefit Analysis

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Extension programmes dedicated to the activities of the Veterinary Services

Recommendation No. 1

**Preparation of Veterinary Strategic Plan and Cost and Benefit Analysis**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal production, consumption and trade is expected to increase substantially in the next decades, in particular in less developed and in-transition economies;
2. Current demographic trends will result in continuing demand for high quality food, including protein of animal origin (milk, egg, meat, etc.);
3. Numerous parameters have to be taken into account in the cost and benefit analysis of animal health programmes;
4. The OIE PVS Evaluation and OIE PVS Gap Analysis are internationally recognised tools, the outcomes of which can be used in the development of Veterinary Services' strategic planning;
5. Veterinary Services face financial constraints that force them to be more efficient in the use of the resources allocated to them;
6. In the Middle East, there is a lack of relevant information and studies on animal health related cost and benefit analysis;
7. An increase in the resources allocated to the Veterinary Services and an improvement in the efficiency with which current resources are allocated are significant factors in the success of efforts aimed at improving animal and human health; and
8. There are social economic and environmental impacts related to animal diseases.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Continued efforts be made by the OIE, in collaboration with its Members, to analyse technical, organisational and economic aspects of the Veterinary Services by means of surveys relevant to the OIE PVS Pathway, especially OIE PVS Gap Analysis;
2. The OIE promote with relevant stakeholders and partners the development of a cost and benefit analysis approach adapted to the realities of the Veterinary Services, taking into consideration previous studies;
3. The OIE promote the creation of fora for Members to exchange information relating to the cost and burden of animal diseases;
4. The Veterinary Services include cost and benefit analyses in animal health decision-making processes through greater collaboration with economists;

5. In order to better use economic information as an incentive to value animal health, the Veterinary Services focus on the economic valuation of:
    - a. Impacts of animal diseases including zoonotic diseases;
    - b. Animal health and farm-level productivity;
    - c. “Catastrophe” scenarios: risk and costs associated;
    - d. Cost of surveillance in “peace time” compared to the cost of biological disasters.
  
  6. The OIE, in collaboration with relevant partners, promote the organisation of regional cost and benefit seminars and workshops with the participation of professionals with complementary backgrounds.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 6 October 2011 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2012)

Recommendation No. 2

**Extension programmes dedicated to the activities of the Veterinary Services**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Extension activities must be clearly differentiated from the concept of strategic communication as defined in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
2. Veterinary extension activities represent an important tool to assist the Veterinary Services in controlling animal diseases and improving animal health and veterinary public health (including food safety) and animal welfare;
3. Veterinary extension can have positive effects on the livelihood of animal holders, by helping them to improve the health status of their animals and reduce losses caused by animal diseases;
4. Zoonoses are still considered as a serious threat to public health in the Middle East Region and well-defined veterinary extension programmes could help to reduce this threat;
5. In most countries in the Middle East, veterinary extension programmes represent a small part of the overall agricultural extension work;
6. The role of the Veterinary Services in the establishment of veterinary extension programmes is not well defined;
7. There is a shortage of qualified veterinary extension workers due to the limited number of training centres and inadequate curricula for personnel in charge of veterinary extension;
8. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector play a limited role in the field of veterinary extension in the Middle East;
9. Inadequate veterinary extension programmes limit access to new technologies and practices that are very important for improving productivity and preventing animal diseases;
10. Traditional animal production methods still predominate in the Middle East Region, and well trained veterinary extension workers and well defined extension programmes are therefore needed to convince farmers of the advantages of adopting new technologies and practices;
11. Regional and international organisations are paying greater attention to veterinary extension and are beginning to include veterinary extension in their technical assistance projects;
12. There is a need to better use current knowledge regarding technologies and practices derived from research; and

13. Extension activities should be considered as a mean to support the implementation of Veterinary Services' policies and thus help countries to comply with international standards.

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Extension programmes be considered beneficial to the activities of the Veterinary Services and be under their technical supervision;
2. Member Countries support the training of qualified and capable veterinary extension officers, for the public and private sector, by encouraging the establishment of extension training centres;
3. Member Countries' teaching and training institutions be encouraged to give more space in their curricula for veterinary extension, directed at farmers and other key players in the field of animal health and veterinary public health while taking into consideration the traditions and the cultural realities of the Region;
4. Veterinary Services encourage the establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms with research institutions, farmers associations, NGOs and the private sector in order to involve all the parties concerned in the design and implementation of extension programmes;
5. Member Countries be encouraged to establish regional cooperation in order to facilitate the development of veterinary extension activities through the exchange of information, programmes and training material;
6. The OIE encourage the relevant international and regional organisations to take into account the importance of appropriate extension activities in the implementation of international animal health standards;
7. The OIE promote, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, the importance of proper veterinary extension in raising awareness regarding zoonoses;
8. The OIE explore the feasibility of better assessing extension activities through the OIE PVS Evaluation tool; and
9. Any extension programme in the field of animal health, veterinary public health (including food safety) and animal welfare should take into account the standards and guidelines published by the OIE.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 6 October 2011 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2012)

**27th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Tehran, Iran, 19-23 November 2011

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Active participation of Members in the development of the OIE *Codes*.

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Epidemiological developments and control of FMD in the region.

Recommendation No. 1

**Active participation of Members in the development of the OIE Codes**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE develops international standards for diseases control methods and safe trade in animals and animal products and these standards are adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates;
2. These OIE standards are published in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*;
3. The OIE Codes outline science-based sanitary measures which the Veterinary Authorities (or other Competent Authorities) of Members should apply to manage risks posed by animal diseases and zoonoses;
4. The World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures recognises the OIE as the international standards setting body for matters pertaining to animal diseases and zoonoses;
5. The application of the Code standards by OIE Members is the cornerstone to facilitating safe international trade in animals and animal products;
6. The standards published in the Codes are developed and updated through a flexible, transparent and rapid process which depends on the active participation of OIE Members;
7. Analysis of data from OIE records reveals a low level of participation by Members in the Asia, the Far East, and Oceania Region in the process of developing Code standards;
8. According to the analysis of data from a questionnaire, time provided by the OIE and lack of expertise in Member countries are the most common barriers to participation faced by Members in the Region;
9. Analysis of data from a questionnaire indicates that the extent to which Competent Authorities in the Region consult with farming and aquaculture organisations when formulating comments on draft Code texts is low;
10. The two-year cycle of standard development requires careful scheduling of Specialist Commission meetings and *ad hoc* group meetings around the annual General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates and it would be very difficult for the OIE to provide significantly more time for Members to provide comments;
11. Most Members in the Region have OIE National Focal Points nominated but there is a still a turnover of these Focal Points that occurs frequently; and



12. Few Members in the Region use the modern methods of email lists and website postings when consulting with stakeholders on proposed changes to *Code* texts and informing them of new or revised texts when they have been adopted.

## THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to provide support to Members of Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region in strengthening their Veterinary Services by implementing, if needed, the OIE PVS Pathway;
2. OIE Members ensure, as much as possible, the stability of their national Focal Points so the expertise gained in capacity building activities be sustainable for the Veterinary Services;
3. The OIE continue to provide support to Members in the Far East, Asia and Oceania Region through the ongoing provision of seminars for OIE National Focal Points;
4. The OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations of the Region organise, with the support of Headquarters and Members of the Specialist Commissions, workshops to train Members to assess critically and comment constructively on draft *Code* texts;
5. OIE Members in the Region be encouraged to develop efficient processes, including email lists in conjunction with website postings, for consulting with relevant stakeholders on proposed changes to *Code* texts and informing stakeholders of new or revised *Code* texts once they have been adopted;
6. The OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representation of the Region organise, with the support of Headquarters, workshops to assist Members to develop email lists in conjunction with website postings as a tool for communicating with stakeholders;
7. OIE Members in the Region strengthen the level of consultation with farming and aquaculture producer organisations when formulating comments on draft *Code* texts;
8. Members of the Region consider the possibility to develop mechanisms for the Region to come up to eventual common position regarding OIE standards;
9. With the support of the OIE Headquarters, the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission progress the proposal to develop official guidelines on the OIE standards setting process and consider Members' comments; and
10. The OIE establish a mechanism providing detailed scientific information, article by article, on significant *Code* text under creation or modification, when appropriate.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 23 November 2011 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2012)

Recommendation No. 2

**Epidemiological developments and control of FMD in the region**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The human and animal population of the Region, in 2011, represents the major part of the overall world human and animal population;
2. The consumption of animal products in this Region will augment with the constant increase and access of the human population to middle class ;
3. In the Region, FMD outbreaks have continuously occurred widely and appear to spread even more quickly;
4. The increase cross boundary movement of people, animals, animal products and other commodities represents a high risk of spreading FMD and other animal infectious diseases;
5. Phylogenic analysis of FMDVs isolates in the Members of the Region and their neighbours suggests that FMD outbreaks are closely linked to each other's;
6. In most cases, there are good matching vaccines available against FMDVs occurring in Region, but for some FMD viruses, especially the recent Asia 1 and some SEA topotype isolates, no suitable matching vaccines are currently available;
7. Due to the epidemiological role of pigs in FMD, the involvement of this species in an outbreak can complicate its containment; and
8. In the context of the upcoming Joint FAO /OIE Global Conference on FMD Control, the OIE and FAO are currently working together on the development of the Global Strategy for FMD control

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue its support for building good governance capacity of Veterinary Services through the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway;
2. In order to prevent FMD to spread in the Region, the OIE Members establish more effective measures to strengthen border controls through mutual collaboration;
3. In order to reduce the economic damages caused by FMD in the region, the OIE Members early notify systematically the occurrence of FMD by using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);
4. The OIE Members continue to improve their FMD control strategies in order to ensure early detection and rapid control of FMD outbreaks;

5. The OIE Members ensure the use of FMD vaccines produced according to the standards of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and that those vaccines do not contain, as much as possible, non-structural proteins;
  6. The OIE Members ensure the use of vaccines matching field strains by sending isolated viruses to the OIE FMD Reference Laboratories for virus characterization;
  7. The OIE provide support for the improvement of FMD diagnostic capacity in the Region by promoting and implementing Twinning activities and specific regional workshops in Member countries;
  8. The OIE, with the support of Members, OIE Reference Laboratories, and Collaborating Centers, evaluate potential alternative tools, such as the use of antiviral agent in pigs, as complementary to existing disease control methods; and
  9. The OIE Members ensure that the Global Strategy for FMD control reflects their specificities regarding that disease by actively participating in the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) Programme and/or the OIE/JTF Project on FMD Control in Asia and apply when relevant, on a voluntary basis, to the OIE for official recognition of their national control programme in the framework of the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP);
  10. The OIE Members of the Region collaborate and share information, using all appropriate mechanisms, in order to ensure a harmonized approach to FMD control strategies;
  11. The OIE and its Members develop strategies ensuring compliance of producers with vaccination campaign needs;
  12. With the experience gained in pilot project of vaccines banks, the OIE pursue work towards expanding this concept to other regions, especially for FMD vaccine; and
  13. The OIE stimulate research addressing the need for a better understanding of the epidemiology of FMD, including the role of wildlife.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 23 November 2011 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2012)