

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2013**

endorsed by the Assembly of the OIE on 29 May 2014

**12th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Amman (Jordan), 23 to 26 September 2013

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Veterinary education and incorporation of the “One Health”
concept

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Proper application of Halal slaughter

Recommendation No. 1

Veterinary education and incorporation of the “One Health” concept

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Most Member Countries of the OIE Middle East Region have continuing education programmes for Veterinarians;
2. Less than 50% of veterinarians in the region receive continuing education training each year;
3. There is strong awareness of OIE ‘Day One Graduate Competencies’ and ‘Veterinary Education Core Curriculum’ programmes across Members of the Region;
4. There is recognition of the One Health concept as an opportunity for Veterinary Education and continuing education for veterinarians;
5. Members prioritized several methods OIE can utilize to support continuing education programmes including;
 - a) an OIE regional veterinary education **Collaborating Centre**
 - b) the development of **Standards** on initial veterinary education
 - c) the facilitation of **Twinning** projects
6. There is a consensus among Members that the OIE should strengthen its support for veterinary education;
7. The One Health concept and approaches are gaining momentum and attention across OIE Member Countries;
8. There exists a broad understanding among Members that One Health represents multiple collaborative efforts at the interface of animals, humans and the environment;
9. A majority of Members indicated they have a One Health implementation plan in place or one to put one in place in the future;
10. There are active One Health collaborations with Public Health Agencies focused on key zoonotic diseases (e.g. brucellosis, rabies, influenza and tuberculosis) and food safety; and
11. Several opportunities exist for enhancing veterinary continuing education through utilizing active learning methodologies (e.g. wet laboratories and simulation exercises) and by integration of One Health concepts and competency based programmes; and
12. Veterinary Education includes both initial and continuing education.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE take a larger role in supporting veterinary education worldwide;
2. An OIE Regional Veterinary Education Collaborating Centre be established in the Middle East;
3. The OIE work towards the development of standards on initial veterinary education based on the OIE ‘Day One Graduate Competencies’ and “Veterinary Education Core Curriculum”;
4. The OIE continue supporting veterinary education and veterinary statutory body Twinning projects in the Region;
5. The OIE and its Members continue to emphasize and promote One Health concept as an opportunity for Veterinary Education and continuing education for veterinarians;
6. OIE actively seek collaborations and innovative methods for integrating active learning methodologies and the One Health concept into continuing education training programmes for veterinarians;
7. OIE advocate for inclusion of the “One Health” concept into veterinary education;
8. OIE and Members together highlight strong multi-disciplinary One Health collaborations, and share lessons learned in creating functional One Health partnerships;
9. The Member Countries of the Region take a better ownership of the involvement of the Veterinary Services in the initial and continuing education of veterinarians;
10. The Member Countries of Middle East use the results of evaluations performed within the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway to identify the needs for continuing training programmes and twinning actions between Collaborating Centres, between veterinary education establishments (VEE) and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB); and
11. The OIE advocate, at high political level, the importance of allocating adequate resources towards the improvement of continuing education of veterinarians.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2013
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

Recommendation No. 2

Proper application of Halal slaughter

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Religion is the foundation and major source of the culture and ethics in the Middle East Region, and most people believe it is the main driver of all aspects of their lives;
2. Until now, in many Member Countries of the Region, the understanding of animal welfare, especially during slaughter, has generally been expressed in terms of religious precepts and humane ethics rather than through regulations and legislation;
3. In spite of the fact that the majority of populations in the Region are Muslim, Halal slaughter is not being implemented in some cases as it should be, according to religious precepts;
4. Slaughterhouses in most Middle East countries need to make huge efforts to achieve better animal welfare and food safety objectives;
5. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, national and international public policy issue with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and commercial dimensions;
6. The OIE has a mandate to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, that standards on animal welfare were first adopted at the General Session in May 2005 and that they have been regularly updated ever since;
7. Animal health is a key dimension of animal welfare and that the subject of animal welfare is included in the OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services and is also taken into account in the OIE initiative on veterinary legislation and veterinary education;
8. Regional animal welfare strategies or approaches, adapted to the situation in each region and accompanied by a suitable implementation plan, make a major contribution to enabling the OIE to carry out its mandate with respect to improving animal health and welfare worldwide;
9. Through PVS evaluations and other activities, the OIE has been able to assess the challenges faced by some countries in the Region of Middle East in trying to fulfil the missions inherent in good quality of Veterinary Services;
10. The lack of organisation of the various involved parties in the animal production sector prevents the creation of public-private partnerships essential for the sustainable implementation of OIE recommendations and standards in the field of animal health and welfare; and
11. It is important to continue capacity-building activities and to improve and develop them, both for the exchange of information and for their contribution to the overall strengthening of the capacities of the Veterinary Services using all the components of the OIE PVS Pathway.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Delegate of OIE Member Countries of the Region of the Middle East sensitise religious leaders and other relevant authorities of their country with regard to the cruelty that may currently occur, especially during transport and slaughter of animals for human consumption;
2. OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, with the support of the Member Countries and the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, take the lead in promoting the proper application of animal slaughter in accordance with OIE Standards, which also comply with Halal precepts, and that NGOs, national and religious authorities, producers, consumer associations and other stakeholders also be included in this process so to encourage the creation of public-private partnerships;
3. Member Countries of the Region better implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including those dealing with land transport and slaughter of animal for human consumption;
4. Member Countries improve abattoirs by equipping them with all the facilities required for the proper implementation of animal welfare standards, including the following: correct design of the facility, unloading facilities and lairage; availability of feed and water; ante-mortem inspection; control of animal movement within the slaughterhouse; equipment for restraining animals; slaughter boxes;
5. Member Countries promote the involvement of consumer associations as possible leaders to highlight the regulatory partnerships for Halal slaughter, animal welfare and food safety and quality;
6. Member Countries of the Region sensitise official veterinarians in charge of livestock, especially at abattoirs, to the concepts of animal welfare and how these relate to Islamic precepts;
7. Member Countries implement effective and continuous training and education for all personnel working in abattoirs, and especially slaughterers;
8. OIE provide technical support to the publication of a document on the best practice for Halal slaughter complying with OIE adopted standards, which should be made available to personnel in slaughterhouses and also to the general public;
9. The OIE use the results of evaluations performed using the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool and Gap Analysis Tool to propose suitably adapted continuing training programmes, including training the trainers seminars as well as twinning actions using OIE Collaborating Centres (CC) specialised in animal welfare and between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE), or other relevant twinning activities; and
10. The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East with the support of the Member Countries and the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East work jointly on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS), which will define the required action plan for the Region and include the standards that Member Countries consider to be necessary to improve animal welfare in the Region with proper application of Halal slaughter precepts being one of the main components.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2013
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

**28th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Cebu (Philippines), 18 to 22 November 2013

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control, including practical examples from the region

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) PRRS control in the Region

Recommendation No. 1

**The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control,
including practical examples from the region**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock play a significant role in the economies of the Region;
2. Economics is the science of the efficient allocation of scarce resources;
3. Economic analyses represent a source of information to animal disease control decision makers that will enable them to efficiently allocate monetary and human resources;
4. Diseases may have a significant negative impact on human health, livestock production and trade;
5. Diseases and their pathogens are not limited by geographic boundaries;
6. According to the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among Member Countries in the Region, 19 different animal diseases or pathogens were each considered by at least two countries to be among their five most important diseases/pathogens;
7. According to an analysis of data provided in the questionnaire, the proportion of individual countries' five most important diseases that are endemic to that country ranged from 37% to 56%;
8. Human and livestock demographic and epidemiological data are necessary to conduct economic analyses of animal disease control programmes;
9. An objective of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region for 2011-2015 is to take into account the economic impacts of “measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses”;
10. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) was identified by 78% of the questionnaire respondents as being among their five most important animal diseases;
11. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents felt that cost-benefit analysis was either very or somewhat important in disease control in their country;
12. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents felt it would be helpful to have access to unpublished reports on the socio-economic animal disease impact from other countries;
13. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that more socio-economic analyses of the impact of animal disease should be made in their country;
14. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, a vast majority of the respondents replied that animal disease control decisions made in their country should be based either absolutely or mainly on socio-economic criteria;

15. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should deliver regional workshops on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact;
16. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should produce socio-economic guidelines on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact;
17. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should maintain a register of analyses on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact; and
18. According to the analysis of data from the questionnaire, almost all of the respondents replied that the OIE should provide a list of experts on the use of socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact.

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

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries consider economic analyses in the planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;
2. The Member Countries identify the sources of demographic and epidemiological data to support economic analyses and consider the means of addressing the gaps in this information;
3. The Member Countries encourage publication and dissemination of economic analysis undertaken in their countries in order to share with one another findings and methodologies used in performing economic analyses of animal disease control;
4. The Member Countries identify economists in their Veterinary Services, universities and other institutions, and establish working relationships between these experts, policy analysts and decision makers, to support the development of capability in economic analysis of disease control and eradication programmes;
5. The OIE continue to advocate, at high level, on the economic benefit of animal disease control;
6. The OIE promote the use of economic analyses of animal disease control and eradication programmes by delivering regional workshops;
7. The OIE support economic analyses of animal disease control programmes by producing a special publication on socio-economic analysis of animal disease impact that could be then translated in relevant national languages, if resources are available;
8. The OIE support economic analyses of animal disease control programmes by maintaining an indexed register of analyses undertaken by Member Countries and providing a list of relevant experts;
9. The OIE promote the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre on the use of economic analysis in animal disease control; and
10. The OIE establish an ad hoc Group and publish guidelines on economic analysis in animal health policies including disease control and eradication.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 22 November 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)

Recommendation No. 2

PRRS control in the Region

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The human and animal population of Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region, in 2013, represents the major part of the overall world human and animal population;
2. The consumption of pork in this Region will augment with the constant increase and access of the human population to middle class;
3. HP-PRRS outbreaks have continuously occurred for many years and that infection with this virus now appears to be spreading even more quickly, through, among others, a lack of proper biosecurity and management practices;
4. The increase in cross-boundary movement of people, pigs and pig products represents a high risk of spread of HP-PRRS and other infectious animal diseases;
5. Phylogenetic analysis of HP-PRRS virus isolates in some Member Countries of the Region suggests that HP-PRRS outbreaks are closely linked;
6. There is a lack of understanding regarding the epidemiology and other aspects of infection with PRRS viruses;
7. PRRS is part of OIE listed diseases ;
8. In many cases, there are no suitable vaccines available against HP-PRRS viruses; and
9. The OIE has an active *ad hoc* Group on PRRS reporting to the Code Commission and that soon, a *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on infection with PRRS virus, including standards on the conditions for trade of pigs and pig products, will be proposed for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates.

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

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Member Countries establish more effective measures to strengthen border controls through mutual collaboration with their neighbouring countries;
2. The OIE Member Countries systematically notify the occurrence of PRRS in a timely manner using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS);

3. The OIE Member Countries develop a national disease control strategy for PRRS and other infectious diseases of swine addressing, among others, animal movement management and control to prevent the spread of PRRS virus;
4. The OIE Member Countries conduct risk and impact assessments along the production chains to add to our understanding of PRRS;
5. The OIE Member Countries increase their surveillance for swine diseases as well as their capacities at all levels, including national laboratory networks;
6. The OIE Member Countries encourage the establishment and the improvement of biosecurity measures to limit and prevent the spread of PRRS viruses;
7. The OIE Member Countries promote the appropriate use of safe and efficient vaccines matching circulating strains as a tool to reduce clinical disease;
8. The OIE Member Countries of the Region collaborate and share information, using all appropriate mechanisms, including regional GF-TADs, in order to ensure a harmonised approach to PRRS control strategies;
9. The OIE Member Countries of the Region take better advantage of the expertise available in the OIE Reference Centres;
10. The OIE Member Countries of the region be actively engaged in commenting on the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on infection with PRRS virus to be circulated soon;
11. The OIE support the National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in building capacity in terms of epidemiology, early detection, and appropriate response to PRRS;
12. The OIE promote research activities regarding pathogenicity, immunity, epidemiology, improvement of vaccines, development of a diagnostic marker to accurately predict the virulence of an isolate, and a DIVA method to differentiate vaccine strains and field viruses;
13. The OIE develop, in the *Terrestrial Manual*, new standards on the quality of vaccines for PRRS; and
14. The OIE, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations, support the development and publication of scientific information on PRRS, including on biosecurity and surveillance.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 22 November 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2014)