



## Recommendations

### Considering that

- Livestock are an important component in nutrition and food security, income generation, agriculture production and soil fertilisation, the livelihoods of pastoralists and smallholders and in the alleviation of hunger and poverty. In subsistence livestock production systems and their associated value chains, millions of people, especially women and their families, depend on small ruminants to generate nutrition for their families and revenue for their daily life;
- Infectious diseases of small ruminants can severely affect and disrupt community livelihoods and regional and international trade in live animals and their products, causing significant financial damage. In developing countries, these diseases undermine access to quality nutritional products, food security and economic development at the level of village smallholders and the entire production chain;
- Following its first identification in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) has spread to around 70 countries today in Africa, the Near and Middle East and Asia that are home to over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goats, and to more than 330 million of the world's poorest people who depend on them for their livelihoods. The economic losses caused by PPR, and the ever-increasing threat of its spread to non-infected areas, further cripple already vulnerable livelihoods as well as national and regional livestock production opportunities;
- The globalisation of trade, with rapid and long-distance movements of animals and animal products, increases the risk of major pathogens spreading from one country or region to another;
- Controlling transboundary animal diseases (TADs), such as PPR, at their source is a shared interest between infected and uninfected countries and should be considered as a 'global public good';
- In response to a resolution passed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE and recommendations of FAO's Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Council of FAO, the GF-TADs Working Group on PPR has developed a PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES), which was presented at the FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015;
- The control of PPR and other TADs cannot be sustained if good governance of animal health systems, including effective Veterinary Services complying with OIE standards on quality and the required and updated appropriate legislation, is not in place in many countries and further supported by efficient public-private partnerships;

- The Global Strategy is not presented as a ‘stand-alone’ activity but rather as a combination of three interrelated components, namely the control and eradication of PPR, the strengthening of Veterinary Services and the parallel prevention and control of other major diseases of small ruminants. The overall aim of the PPR Global Strategy is to eradicate PPR and this should be used as an entry point to achieve sustainable progress in the performance of Veterinary Services which, in turn, will improve animal health status in regard to other small ruminant diseases. The organisation and governance required to implement the Global Strategy is through the PPR Global Control and Eradication Programme (GCEP) which will follow the FAO/OIE GF-TADs principles and practices;
- Many countries in Africa, the Near and Middle East and parts of Asia are committed to the prevention and control of PPR, but more support and investment are needed;
- FAO and OIE worked on new agreements for a joint fundraising mechanism to support the PPR Control and Eradication Programme in the improvement of small ruminant production, the health of these animals and the communities that rely on them;
- Additional socio-economic studies, including cost–benefit analyses, are needed to justify investment in the eradication of PPR and other high-impact animal diseases in national animal health systems, including Veterinary Services and those services provided by other Competent Authorities, professional education, extension services, and access to animal health goods and services;
- The key principles of control strategies, and lessons learned from the rinderpest eradication campaign, such as international and regional cooperation and coordination (particularly in Africa under AU–IBAR leadership), will be adapted in the PPR Control and Eradication Programme; as demonstrated during the rinderpest eradication programme, in which regional and sub-regional organisations had a pivotal role, with technical support from the OIE and FAO;
- Note should be taken of the lessons learned from country projects, such as those implemented by FAO and OIE;
- PPR situations and socio-economic contexts can be different in each region and country and control and eradication programmes have to reflect these differences;
- The eradication of PPR is achievable since there are several favourable factors, such as the fact that the disease is caused by only one serotype, that there is neither a carrier state nor a sustainable reservoir outside domestic small ruminants, and that effective diagnostic tools and vaccines are available;
- Vaccines must be quality certified in compliance with OIE standards and independent regional certification bodies should be encouraged (such as the African Union–Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, AU–PANVAC, for Africa);
- Diagnostic laboratories and epidemiology teams are major tools for the prevention, detection, control and eradication of PPR and national/regional collaboration between them is crucial. However, several gaps and challenges have been highlighted with regard to quality assurance in diagnostic laboratories and their proficiencies, or epidemiological understanding of seasonal movement patterns or climatic influences for potential disease spread, which have to be addressed;

- There is a need to develop animal health delivery systems, particularly for the delivery of quality-assured, safe vaccines that can, in amplitude and frequency, reach all production systems, including those in remote and insecure areas, to create effective flock immunity;
- A specific PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) and a Post-Vaccination Evaluation (PVE) tool have been developed for this Global Strategy and a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN) is being established;
- The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* articles adopted in 2013 establish PPR as a disease with official status recognition and the possibility of official national control programmes being endorsed by the OIE World Assembly as important steps and incentives that encourage countries to engage in PPR control and eradication programmes;
- Despite country specificities with regard to PPR and other small ruminant diseases, regional approaches are needed in order to harmonise and coordinate national programmes and to share experience and information on the PPR situation and the implementation of prevention and control programmes; these approaches must be aligned with the Global Strategy;
- There is value in having national and regional vaccine banks to respond to vaccination and control programmes as well as to emergencies, to ensure the availability of quality-assured vaccines that comply with OIE standards and have been selected by a panel including independent experts from OIE and FAO Reference Laboratories/Centres. Their demographic and strategic positioning should be a regional or global decision;
- Regional epidemiology and diagnostic laboratory networks are needed to harmonise surveillance and diagnostic methods, to undertake quality assurance, to support regional/national laboratory proficiency and training programmes, and to share and transfer technologies and expertise;
- Capacity-building at the technical (both at the laboratory and field levels) and managerial levels as well as regular and effective communication to build public–private partnerships and to gain the support of animal owners and private-sector veterinarians are crucial for any control strategy;
- Additional research is important to understand the possible role of wildlife in PPR dynamics, to develop new vaccines that allow us to differentiate infected animals from vaccinated animals (DIVA: *differentiation between infected and vaccinated animals*) when used with a companion test, to find such companion diagnostic assays that can differentiate serologically infected animals from vaccinated animals, and to investigate the possible use of multivalent vaccines, value chains in connexion with socio-economic analyses.

**The Conference and in particular the Honourable Ministers, donors and national and international high level participants declare that:**

- the control and eradication of PPR worldwide is officially and solemnly launched during the ‘Abidjan Conference’ with the vision of a world free of PPR by 2030. PPR is expected to be the second animal disease eradicated from the globe after the success of rinderpest eradication in 2011;

- as a consequence, they officially endorse the FAO/OIE GCES with its three components and encourage all national Competent Authorities, the international community, the veterinary profession and all stakeholders as a whole to commit to its implementation and thereby take the necessary political, technical and financial steps to ensure that this vision is accomplished in a timely manner;

**and recommend:**

**A. To the countries, that:**

1. PPR be considered as a top-priority disease in the next two decades in the global context of improving nutrition and food security, income generation and smallholders' livelihoods, and in the alleviation of poverty and hunger; and that agricultural development programmes, both at the regional and national level, systematically include a component on PPR (and other small ruminant diseases, whenever feasible) prevention, diagnosis, control and eradication in line with the GCES and tailored to the local context and needs;
2. National Veterinary Services – including their public and private components and by extension the Veterinary Statutory Bodies – and their good governance be concomitantly strengthened so that PPR-specific activities are properly and sustainably implemented; in doing so, that the countries take steps to improve compliance with OIE standards, notably those related to surveillance, early detection, animal disease notification to the OIE, and the quality of their Veterinary Services, including updated veterinary legislation;
3. Key principles, based on rinderpest eradication lessons and PPR country experiences, such as national control programmes adapted to local situations and regional and international cooperation and coordination of control methods and protocols, be respected;
4. The countries use vaccines compliant with OIE international standards and comply with the guidance provided in the GCES, including in terms of PVE; and that combined vaccinations with other small ruminant diseases be encouraged, provided the vaccination protocols are compatible;
5. Delivery systems be adapted to local conditions and situations to be able to reach all susceptible animals in national herds. These systems should aim at delivering a safe vaccine to create effective flock immunity, particularly in regard to the cold chain;
6. Countries strengthen their national diagnostic laboratory systems, quality assurance (ring trials/proficiency testing), transfer of technologies, capacity-building and staff training, and address any gaps that may have been identified in their capacity to support the implementation of the GCES;
7. Countries design and implement robust surveillance plans to ensure that the global surveillance system for PPR in all susceptible species, and for other small ruminant diseases, obtains a good understanding of PPR variants circulating (or the lack thereof) and their worldwide distribution;

8. Countries promote the development of public–private partnerships between official Veterinary Services, livestock owners, private veterinarians and other partners to ensure the acceptance and effective implementation of the GCES, particularly for the delivery of vaccination campaigns and other animal health goods and services; and that special attention be paid to women whose role in small ruminant husbandry is crucial;
9. Countries regularly attend the regional PPR road map meetings under the GF-TADs umbrella, to ensure continuous evaluation and monitoring of the PPR situation and the implementation of the GCES worldwide; that countries use the PMAT and PVE specifically developed for this purpose;
10. The establishment or strengthening of regional epidemiology, laboratory and socio-economic networks is supported to provide relevant technical assistance to countries in the region;
11. Communication strategies are developed at both the national and regional level;
12. Countries put in place robust data management systems to collect PPR data with a view to conducting cost–benefit analyses. Countries are also encouraged to carry out a small ruminant population census;

**B. To FAO and OIE and other international and regional organisations, that:**

13. The FAO and OIE put in place the proper GF-TADs governance for the implementation of the GCES and the subsequent GCEP, including a joint FAO–OIE PPR Global Secretariat and joint fundraising agreements, as well as strong collaborations with regional and sub-regional organisations;
14. The OIE and FAO develop a fully fledged GCEP aligned with the GCES, to learn from the experiences of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and the Pan African Control of Epizootics (PACE) programme, these last under AU-IBAR leadership, using North-South and South-South cooperation and OIE and FAO multilateral trust funds to implement the Global Strategy;
15. The establishment of regional vaccine quality-certifying bodies should be encouraged where possible or advisable, and that AU-PANVAC be supported in Africa;
16. Appropriate mechanisms be established to reduce the unit cost of produced vaccines, or a mechanism implemented by which livestock owners' costs could be subsidised. In order to respond to emergencies, regional vaccine bank(s) could be established or strengthened. Regional PPR vaccine banks should be established, using the experience of the OIE to respond to emergencies and improve quality-controlled vaccine delivery in countries and employing a competitive basis in regard to quality and prices;
17. The FAO and OIE call for an expert meeting to discuss the cost of the Global Strategy, including the cost-effectiveness of Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards on quality and the prevention and control of other small ruminant diseases; that results from expert groups be made available urgently;

**18.** The FAO and OIE provide annual reports on the implementation of the GCES and GCEP to their Member Countries. A mid-term review should be conducted after the first five years of implementation of the GCES (2020), as well as examining whether the vision can be achieved by the proposed timelines, with ‘corrective action’, if needed. A second International PPR Conference should be organised after five years to maintain the mobilisation of Member Countries towards the eradication vision;

**19.** The FAO and OIE assist Member Countries in implementing the GCES and in strengthening their Veterinary Services and other Competent Authorities to promote good governance practices, including appropriate national legislation complying with intergovernmental standards and regulatory frameworks for PPR control and eradication, using, when pertinent and on a voluntary basis, the OIE PVS Pathway;

**20.** The FAO and OIE conduct additional socio-economic surveys and cost–benefit analyses on PPR (and other small ruminant diseases) for the purpose of additional advocacy and the preparation of national control and eradication strategies; that the impact of control measures on the environment and biodiversity be part of those cost–benefit analyses, as well as the benefits of increasing small ruminant meat availability to substitute for bushmeat;

**21.** All stakeholders are requested to support the PPR-GREN and that the FAO and OIE establish the PPR-GREN with a strong research component/expert group;

**22.** The OIE, FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and centres of excellence in scientific research, including those of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (International Livestock Institute ILRI, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas ICARDA, International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI) contribute to and support PPR research and technology-transfer through the PPR-GREN, with regard to, e.g. vaccines (DIVA vaccines and companion diagnostic tools, thermotolerant vaccines, combined vaccines against several diseases...), diagnostic assays, epidemiology (the role of other domestic animals and wild animals), value chains, socio-economics and other aspects that may contribute to the effective control and eradication of the disease by 2030.