



**MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA STATUS OF MEMBERS¹**

Paris, 19 – 20 November 2019

A meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members (hereafter the Group) was held at the OIE Headquarters from 19 to 20 November 2019.

1. Opening

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General for International Standards and Sciences of the OIE, welcomed the Group. He thanked the experts for their availability and contribution to the work of the OIE and extended his appreciation to their institutes and national governments for allowing their participation in this meeting. He also thanked the Group for its commitment and its support towards the OIE in fulfilling the mandates given by Members. He acknowledged the amount of work before, during and after the *ad hoc* Group meeting in reviewing the dossiers and documenting the Group's assessment in the report.

Dr Stone highlighted the importance of the quality of the report to be scrutinised by Members before adopting the proposed list of countries free from CBPP. He also encouraged the Group to continue providing detailed feedback to countries with a negative outcome to support them in identifying the main gaps and points for improvement, as well as providing informative recommendations to those countries with positive outcomes for further improvement in maintenance of their CBPP free status.

Dr Stone introduced Dr Zengren Zheng who represented the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) in the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur

The Group was chaired by Dr François Thiaucourt and Dr Flavio Sacchini acted as rapporteur, with the support of the OIE Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The terms of reference, agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I, II and III, respectively.

3. Evaluation of requests from Members for the status recognition of CBPP free countries

a) Bolivia

In September 2019, Bolivia submitted a dossier for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications from Bolivia.

¹ Note: This *ad hoc* Group report reflects the views of its members and may not necessarily reflect the views of the OIE. This report should be read in conjunction with the February 2020 report of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/scientific-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

i) *Animal disease reporting*

The Group acknowledged that Bolivia had a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP has been a notifiable disease during the past 10 years in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

ii) *Veterinary Services*

The Group noted that the relevant legislation was in place. The Group acknowledged that the Veterinary Services were structured with three official animal health bodies, namely (1) the National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, (2) agricultural services at departments level and (3) veterinarians at municipalities level. In addition, the Veterinary Services had a network of private veterinarians acting as sentinel veterinarians that were involved in the disease notification system and sampling campaigns all over the country.

The Group noted that the animal identification was mandatory in Bolivia. The Group also noted that there was a national farms' registry. This register comprised the data on producers and animals kept on the farm and it was updated upon any visit by the veterinary authorities (e.g. during vaccination campaigns, investigations of suspect cases, routine on-farm control, etc.). The Group took note of management of illegal movements that were detected and acknowledged that there was a traceability system in place.

The Group was informed that four PVS missions (Evaluation, Follow-up, Gap Analysis and Veterinary Legislation) were conducted in Bolivia between 2008 and 2016 and appreciated Bolivia's sharing of the mission reports. The Group encouraged Bolivia to continue with its efforts of continuous improvement of national Veterinary Services by following the recommendations made during the aforementioned missions.

The Group appreciated the comprehensive information provided on demographics of livestock and susceptible wildlife species. The Group agreed that the Veterinary Services had current knowledge of and authority over the livestock and susceptible wildlife population in the country.

iii) *Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months*

The Group acknowledged that CBPP has never been reported in the country and therefore, Bolivia was eligible for historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

iv) *Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months*

The Group noted that the importation of CBPP vaccine was prohibited and vaccination against CBPP had never been carried out in Bolivia.

v) *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group acknowledged that passive surveillance was in place. Passive surveillance in Bolivia was based on clinical surveillance and ante- and post-mortem inspection. The Group noted that while there were 117 reports due to the respiratory syndrome, follow up investigations were undertaken and no CBPP suspected cases had been reported.

Whilst there was no active surveillance in place, the Group acknowledged that pathogen-specific surveillance was not mandatory according to Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Bolivia reported that the epidemiological surveillance was supported by an information system modelled on a data collection. On a weekly basis, newsletters are produced on the occurrence of diseases for that reporting period. The Group noted that the training and awareness activities had been conducted for the quarantine diseases and veterinary epidemiology, and not specifically for CBPP. These activities were attended by veterinarians.

The Group noted that there was no laboratory in the country that could carry out CBPP laboratory diagnosis. From the additional information provided by Bolivia, the Group was informed that there were no formal agreements with an OIE Reference Laboratories for CBPP or other regional

laboratories. Therefore, the Group recommended that Bolivia develop a written protocol indicating clearly the responsibilities, tasks, sampling procedures, sample management, storage, shipping and timelines as well as to organise specific trainings for all laboratories supporting the Veterinary Service to ensure awareness of the protocol to be followed in case of CBPP suspicions. Moreover, the Group recommended to Bolivia to establish an agreement with an OIE reference laboratory for CBPP or regional laboratory for CBPP confirmation.

The Group acknowledged that there was a veterinarian responsible for each slaughterhouse where ante- and post-mortem inspection were conducted. Any suspicious clinical sign or pathological lesion detected would be immediately reported to the Veterinary Services and sampled for laboratory testing. Whilst details were not given on the number of lung samples taken specifically for laboratory testing for mycoplasma isolation or for other differentials for pneumonia in cattle, the Group acknowledged that the risk of introduction was negligible and that the described measures in place were sufficient. The Group was of opinion that organisation of more frequent training and awareness activities focusing on exotic diseases, including CBPP, could improve the reporting of suspect cases.

vi) *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The Group was of the opinion that regulatory measures to prevent and control foreign animal diseases in general, including CBPP were in place. The Group took note of Bolivia's membership in the Andean Community of Nations that had common regulations in relation to importation, movement and transit of domestic cattle and their products, including genetic material.

The Group noted that Bolivia imported susceptible animals from countries not officially recognised free from CBPP by the OIE. Bolivia considered that the risk from neighbouring countries was low as none of them had ever reported CBPP. Nevertheless, the Group underlined that the import conditions should comply with the recommendations of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Group took note of the general measures to be applied in case of CBPP outbreak. However, the Group noted that there was no specific emergency plan for CBPP and recommended to develop one with clear instructions and indications of management of a CBPP outbreak. The Group pointed out that there were examples of contingency plans and guidelines specific for CBPP available in the public domain² that could be considered by Bolivia.

The Group had some concerns about the lack of a sustainable system for compensation for disease control purposes and that this could have a possible negative impact on CBPP notification by owners. However, Bolivia reported that there was a possibility to occasionally create an animal health emergency fund in case of the occurrence of an outbreak.

vii) *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group found that the content of Bolivia's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.

Conclusion

The Group commended Bolivia for the well-structured dossier and comprehensive information addressing clearly the questions. Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Bolivia to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6. and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Bolivia be recognised as a country free from CBPP.

The Group recommended that information on the following be submitted to the OIE when Bolivia reconfirms its CBPP status (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

² Preparation of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Contingency Plans, W. A. Geering, W. Amanfu, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/Y4143E/Y4143E00.HTM>

- Adjusted contingency plan including the chain of actions specifically targeted to CBPP, from the point of detection of a clinical suspicion, immediate diagnosis for agent isolation and confirmation using molecular techniques (e.g. PCR), to the point of implementation of control measures;
- Protocol on sampling and shipment of the samples to a competent laboratory;
- Evidence of awareness programmes and trainings including CBPP and their effectiveness.

b) Russia

In September 2019, Russia submitted a dossier for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications from Russia.

i) Animal disease reporting

The Group acknowledged that Russia had a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP has been a notifiable disease for at least 10 years in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

ii) Veterinary Services

The Group noted that the CBPP related activities were implemented through several federal agencies that were responsible for the surveillance and control of CBPP as well as for other areas such as veterinary regulatory system, national protection, security and defence. In response to a question raised by the Group, Russia provided information on geographical distribution and number of veterinarians by subjects/oblasts in the country. The Group took note that the private veterinarians had a role in passive surveillance activities.

The Group acknowledged that the registration of all farms was mandatory as well as the identification and registration of livestock at individual or group level by ear tag, tattoo or microchip. All animal movements have to be notified to the Veterinary Services and accompanied by the relevant documents issued through the federal information system.

From the information provided in the dossier, the Group was informed that susceptible wildlife species comprised yaks (*Poephagus grunniens*) and that they were present in the wildlife sanctuaries and natural parks. The Group noted that the several procedures such as obligatory quarantine during the translocation of wild animals, control points dedicated to feed and treat wild animals, and compulsory reporting of dead animals were in place to prevent contact and potential spread of diseases between domestic and susceptible wildlife populations.

iii) Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months

The Group acknowledged that the last CBPP outbreak was recorded in 1928. Therefore, Russia was eligible to claim historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

iv) Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months

From the information provided in the dossier, the Group was informed that the vaccination was legally prohibited in Russia by the Ministry of Agriculture. In the additional information provided, Russia reported that vaccination against CBPP has never been carried out in the country. In addition, the Group sought further clarifications on CBPP vaccine production based on the information available in public domain³. Upon receipt of the clarification, the Group noted that this vaccine was not used as it had not been registered in the country.

³ <https://ficvim.ru/en/> (accessed on 19 November 2019)

v) *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group noted that a passive surveillance was in place.

Whilst pathogen-specific surveillance was not mandatory in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Group commended efforts made through a serological survey conducted for two consecutive years to demonstrate that CBPP was not prevalent in Russia. The Group noted that only serology was used for CBPP diagnosis. The Group suggested to Russia to adopt risk-based serological surveillance to increase its sensitivity and to include other testing methods (e.g. PCR) for CBPP diagnosis.

The Group acknowledged the information provided in the Sampling guide as well as in the additional information provided and recommended to Russia to revise the document as certain points in relation to sampling and treating sera were not adequately addressed. In addition, the Group recommended to Russia to strengthen its surveillance by establishing the isolation and characterisation of *Mmm* in its national laboratory system as prescribed in Article 11.5.15. point 5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Group acknowledged that surveillance was in place at the slaughterhouses. Nevertheless, the Group was of opinion that focusing on *ante-mortem* inspection was not specific enough to raise CBPP suspicion as respiratory signs could lead to many other diseases with the similar clinical signs. The Group recommended to adjust the surveillance protocol at the slaughterhouses in particular with regard to *post-mortem* inspection targeting more chronic lesions suggestive of CBPP.

The Group noted that there were annual arrangements in place since 2016 for training and awareness activities on diseases of cloven-hooved mammals. These activities targeted veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. In addition, the veterinarians, producers and farmers were sensitised through the posters and leaflets on CBPP distributed to the regional disease control stations, slaughterhouses, farmers' markets, medium- and large-scale farms.

The Group noted that further investigation of suspect cases was performed by using ELISA and PCR diagnostic methods. The national laboratory in charge of CBPP diagnosis has a quality management system certified in accordance with the International Standard GOST ISO/IEC 17025-2009 and the scope of this certification included CBPP. The Group recommended to Russia to upgrade the quality management system to the new version of the aforementioned standard. However, the absence of any arrangement to use isolation and identification of *Mmm* had raised some concerns.

The Group acknowledged that Russia was in process of making arrangements for conducting a proficiency test with an OIE Reference Laboratory and recommended to Russia to participate systematically in this testing.

vi) *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The list of countries from which Russia imported susceptible animals and their products included some which were not officially recognised free from CBPP by the OIE. From the additional information provided, the Group noted that the importation conditions from such countries were compliant with the provisions stipulated in Articles 11.5.7 to 11.5.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Group acknowledged that Russia was part of the sub-regional commission with regard to prevention, diagnosis and eradication of animal diseases.

A contingency plan with regard to detection, control and eradication of CBPP was provided by the country. The Group noted that certain parts were not addressed in the presented contingency plan. Therefore, the Group recommended to Russia to adjust the contingency plan for CBPP and highlighted

that there were examples of contingency plans and guidelines specific for CBPP available in the public domain⁴ that could be considered by Russia.

The Group took note of compensation system in place for disease control or eradication purposes.

vii) *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group agreed that Russia's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Russia to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6. and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Russia be recognised as a country free from CBPP.

c) Other request

The Group assessed one additional request from a Member for the official recognition of CBPP free country status. The Group concluded that the application did not meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and the dossier was referred back to the applicant Member.

4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of national official control programme for CBPP

The Group assessed a request from a Member for the endorsement of its national official control programme for CBPP and concluded that the application did not meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. The dossier was referred back to the applicant Member.

5. Adoption of report

The Group reviewed the draft report and agreed to circulate it electronically for comments before the final adoption. Upon circulation, the Group agreed that the report captured the discussions.

.../Appendices

⁴ Preparation of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Contingency Plans, W. A. Geering, W. Amanfu, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/Y4143E/Y4143E00.HTM>

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Terms of Reference

The OIE *ad hoc* group on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status of Members (the Group) is expected to evaluate the applications for official recognition of CBPP free status and for endorsement of their official control programme of CBPP received from Members in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of national official control programmes.

This implies that the experts, members of this Group are expected to:

1. Sign off the OIE Undertaking on Confidentiality of information, if not done before.
 2. Complete the Declaration of Interests Form in advance of the meeting of the Group and forward it to the OIE at the earliest convenience and at least two weeks before the meeting.
 3. Evaluate the applications from Members for official recognition of CBPP free status and for endorsement of their official control programmes for CBPP.
 - a) Before the meeting:
 - read and study in detail all dossiers provided by the OIE;
 - take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of dossiers;
 - summarise the dossiers according to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* requirements, using the form provided by the OIE;
 - draft the questions whenever the analysis of the dossier raises questions which need to be clarified or completed with additional details by the applicant Member;
 - send the completed form and the possible questions to the OIE, at least one week before the meeting.
 - b) During the meeting:
 - contribute to the discussion with their expertise;
 - withdraw from the discussions and decision making in case of a possible conflict of interest;
 - provide a detailed report in order to recommend, to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, i) the country(ies) or zone(s) to be recognised (or not) as CBPP free ii) country(ies) to have (or not) the OIE endorsement of national official control programme for CBPP, and to indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the applicant Member.
 - c) After the meeting:
 - contribute electronically to the finalisation of the report if not achieved during the meeting.
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Agenda

1. Opening
 2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur
 3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) free status
 - Bolivia
 - Russia
 4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of national official control programme for CBPP
 5. Adoption of report
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List of participants

MEMBERS

Dr Ahmed el Idrissi

Imb. Bouarfa 9
Residence Assabah
CYM 10050 Rabat
MOROCCO

Dr Alec Bishi

Senior Lecturer & Head of Department (Population Health)
Neudamm Campus
University of Namibia
Private bag 13301
340 Mandume
Ndemufayo Avenue, Pionierspark
Windhoek
NAMIBIA

Dr Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe

Head of Lab (Deputy Director)
Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe (Bvetmed, MSc Vet
Microbiology)
Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory
Private Bag 0035
Gaborone
BOTSWANA

Dr Flavio Sacchini

Immunology and Serology Department
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
Via Campo Boario
64100 Teramo
ITALY

Dr François Thiaucourt

UMR15 CIRAD-INRA
Control of exotic and emerging animal diseases
Campus International de Baillarguet, TA A-15/G
34398 Montpellier cedex 5
FRANCE

Dr William Amanfu (*invited but could not attend*)

P. O. Box AC 201
Arts Center
Accra
GHANA

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

Dr Zengren Zheng

Chief Scientist & Deputy Director of China Animal
Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC)
No.369 Nan Jing Road
Qingdao 266032
P.R. China

OIE HEADQUARTERS

Dr Matthew Stone

Deputy Director General
oi@oie.int

Dr Neo Mapitse

Head of Status Department
disease.status@oie.int

Dr Marija Popovic

Chargée de mission
Status Department
disease.status@oie.int

Dr Wael Sakhraoui

Chargé de mission
Status Department
disease.status@oie.int
