Ad hoc Group on the evaluation of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members

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A virtual meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members (hereafter the Group) was held on 16 November 2022.

1. Opening

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for International Standards and Science of WOAH, welcomed the Group. She thanked the experts for their availability and contribution to this work and extended her appreciation to their institutes and national governments for allowing their participation in this meeting. Dr Arroyo acknowledged the amount of work before, during, and that would be done after the *ad hoc* Group meeting in reviewing the dossiers and writing the report. Dr Arroyo thanked the Group for its contribution to this important mandate of WOAH.

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

Dr Arroyo highlighted the sensitivity and confidentiality of the dossiers for official recognition and thanked the experts for having signed the forms for undertaking of confidentiality.

The experts and WOAH welcomed Dr Musa Mulongo as a new member of the Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of Chairperson and Rapporteur

Dr Flavio Sacchini chaired the Group. Dr Lucia Manso-Silvan acted as rapporteur, with the support from WOAH 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.

The Group was informed that declared interests were reviewed by WOAH and it was agreed that none represented a potential conflict in the evaluation of CBPP status of Members.

3. Evaluation of an application from a Member for official recognition of CBPP-free status

Colombia

In September 2022, Colombia submitted a dossier to apply for the official recognition of its CBPP-free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications during the evaluation of the dossier.

i. Animal disease reporting

The Group acknowledged that Colombia has a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP has been a notifiable disease for at least the past ten years according to the National Regulation No. 3714 of 20 October 2015 and the Andean Community of Nations Legislation No. 1204 of 19 December 2008 and in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*).

ii. Veterinary Services

The Group acknowledged that the relevant legislation was in place and that the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA) is the veterinary authority currently responsible for the country's agricultural health control by applying animal health and plant health measures, directing actions using epidemiological surveillance, evaluation, management and risk communication processes in primary production. The Group noted that the ICA has five sub-divisions: analysis and diagnosis, animal health and plant health regulation, plant protection, animal protection, and border protection.

The Group acknowledged that Colombia's veterinary services are supported by several information systems on animal identification, traceability, animal movements, disease notification and reporting, and import procedures.

The Group noted that the ICA established the Livestock Information and Epidemiological System created to timely detect diseases in primary production facilities and to aid the processes for defining strategies for disease prevention, control, and eradication programmes. This System counts on regional epidemiological coordination units, local offices, control posts, maritime and inland ports, airports, and border crossings. It is backed by an early warning system based on trained volunteer epidemiological sensors throughout the country.

The Group appreciated the comprehensive information provided on livestock demographics and noted that animal identification was mandatory; cattle were identified at group level in the country apart from the high surveillance zone (at the border with Venezuela) in which continuous progress was being made in individually identifying cattle and buffalo (estimation of 64% individual identification). Colombia explained that having these two methods of animal identification in place, together with the issuance of the "Internal Movement Health Guide" (GSMI), allows the traceability of such animals to a final destination, such as a congregation centre, farm, or slaughterhouse. The Group also noted that animal movements are not allowed in the Archipelago of San Andres and Providencia because the islands have a different FMD status compared to the majority of continental Colombia.

The Group noted that Colombia had established 95 control posts distributed across the country (continental Colombia), where the inspection and monitoring of shipments of animals and animal products are carried out to reduce the risk of entry of any pathogen.

The Group concluded that the Veterinary Services had current knowledge of and authority over the livestock population in the country.

Whilst the Group noted that an awareness programme was in place for veterinarians and other stakeholders for disease notification, it was not evident whether a regular and sustainable awareness programme targeting CBPP was in place. Therefore, the Group recommended that Colombia implement more specific awareness and training activities focusing on recognition of clinical signs and lesions suggestive of CBPP. The Group recommended Colombia to include CBPP-specific information containing images related to CBPP in the guide for the awareness and training of the epidemiological sensors.

iii. Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months

The Group acknowledged that CBPP has never been reported in the country, and therefore, Colombia 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

The Group noted that vaccination against CBPP has never been carried out in Colombia and that no CBPP vaccine is registered in the country. Furthermore, the Group noted that national regulations require that all imported biologics for veterinary use, including biological vaccines, must be authorised by central authorities.

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

The Group took note that Colombia uses passive surveillance and has an early warning system in place based on field notifications and post-mortem inspections at slaughterhouses. The early detection system based on clinical surveillance includes the participation of epidemiological sensors, who are people external to the ICA that have received training on clinical presentation compatible with notifiable diseases or diseases of national interest. The Group noted that post-mortem inspections are conducted in collaboration between

the personnel of ICA and the slaughterhouse employees of the Colombia National Food and Drug Surveillance Institute (INVIMA).

From the information in the dossier, the Group concluded that a CBPP-specific surveillance system was not in place since the disease had never been reported in the country. While acknowledging that pathogen-specific surveillance was not required in accordance with Article 1.4.6. Point 2. of the Terrestrial Code, the Group expressed concerns about the absence of reporting of CBPP-like lesions and the limited number of follow-up investigations of lung lesions reported at post-mortem inspections. The Group also noted that the additional information provided on laboratory investigations of pneumonia lesions did not cover other differential diagnoses (i.e., *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella spp,* etc.), and was limited to *Mycobacterium b*ovis. The Group was of the opinion that preliminary laboratory testing should be performed for differential diagnoses before submission of samples to WOAH Reference Laboratories. In this regard, the Group encouraged Colombia to strengthen the laboratory capacity for conducting preliminary exclusion tests for differential diagnoses on pneumonia lesions prior (or in parallel) to testing for CBPP.

The Group noted that CBPP laboratory diagnosis was not carried out in the country, but an informal agreement was in place with the WOAH Reference Laboratory for CBPP in France (CIRAD) for sending samples in case of strong CBPP suspicion. The Group recommended that Colombia formalise the agreement with the CIRAD or any WOAH Reference Laboratory for CBPP. The Group acknowledged that Colombia had established a procedure that describes responsibilities and tasks, for the collection, management, storage and shipping of samples from CBPP suspect cases, as well as the time frame for reporting results.

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, including CBPP, were in place. The Group took note of Colombia's membership in the Andean Community of Nations, which has common regulations in relation to reporting, importation, movement and transit of domestic cattle and their products, including genetic material.

The Group noted that Colombia imported genetic material from countries not officially recognised as free from CBPP by WOAH. Upon the Group's request, Colombia provided the information on the import conditions/requirements for such commodities. Nevertheless, the Group underlined that the import conditions should comply with the recommendations of Chapter 11.5. of the Terrestrial Code. According to the additional information, the Group acknowledged that Colombia has no specific system to trace the imported genetic material after entering the market to the final distribution at the farm level. However, Colombia explained that it is possible to trace them using the distributor/seller invoices. The Group considered this aspect relevant for disease prevention and control and recommended that Colombia verify the effectiveness of traceability of imported genetic material entering the national market to the final distribution at the farm level.

The Group acknowledged that the animal health import regulations include isolation or quarantine in the country of origin, diagnostic testing, treatment, vaccination and certification of epidemiological conditions, which must be certified by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country. The Group noted that all information on imports is registered in a System of Sanitary Information for Agriculture and Livestock Products Imports and Exports (SISPAP).

The Group noted that there was a CBPP contingency plan available together with a targeted procedure containing the specific actions for sample collection, management, and shipment to a WOAH Reference Laboratory. The Group also noted that there was no information on CBPP simulation exercises conducted in Colombia and encouraged the country to organise a simulation exercise to reinforce the CBPP outbreak preparedness and response plan.

vii. Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.

The Group agreed that the content of Colombia's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the Terrestrial Code.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Colombia to the requests for additional information, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6., and the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1., of the Terrestrial Code. The Group, therefore, recommended that Colombia be recognised as a country free from CBPP on historical grounds.

4. Evaluation of applications from Members for the endorsement of an official control programme for CBPP

No applications were received for evaluation during this cycle.

5. Adoption of the 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.

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…/Appendices

Appendix 1 Terms of reference

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

16 November 2022

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Terms of reference

Purpose

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status of Members (the Group) is to evaluate applications from Members for official recognition of CBPP free status and for endorsement of official control programmes for CBPP.

Background

In accordance with the procedure for official recognition of animal health status, Members can be officially recognised by WOAH as having a CBPP free status or an official CBPP control programme endorsed by WOAH through the adoption of a resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) in May every year. A Member wishing to apply for the official recognition of its CBPP free status or for the endorsement of its official CBPP control programme by WOAH should complete and submit the relevant questionnaire laid out in Chapter 1.10. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) and comply with all requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) is responsible for undertaking, on behalf of the Assembly, the assessment of Members' applications for their compliance with WOAH standards. The assessment carried out by the Scientific Commission is based on the recommendations formulated by a relevant *ad hoc* Group. *Ad hoc* groups are convened under the authority of and report to the Director General.

Specific issues to be addressed

The Group will evaluate Members' applications in detail on their compliance with the requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Code* for CBPP. Based on the evaluations, the Group will provide its conclusions and recommendations to the Scientific Commission.

Pre-requisites

Group members should:

- Sign the Undertaking on Confidentiality of information (if not done already);
- Complete the Declaration of Interest form.
- Understand that the membership of the Group may be retained between *ad hoc* Group meetings to ensure continuity of the work.

Actions to deliver

Before the meeting

Upon reception of an application from a Member, the Status Department (SD) conducts a preliminary screening to check the conformity of the dossier (structure of the dossier in accordance with the SOP and with the questionnaire under Chapter 1.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*, main sections of the questionnaire, regular notification to WOAH, payment of the fee, Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) report, etc.). If an information gap is identified, the SD requests additional information from the Member.

As the PVS reports are bound by the rules on confidentiality of information of the WOAH, the SD and experts will consider for the evaluation the available PVS report(s) if not obsolete (PVS reports from more than five years ago) or confidential.

The SD will send the working documents to the Group, including the dossiers received from applicant Members, at least one month before the Group meeting (i.e., **17 October 2022**).

The experts can request support from the SD at any time.

The SD suggests the nomination of a Chair and Rapporteur for the Group's consideration.

The SD can suggest a preparatory meeting with the Chair, the Rapporteur or all experts to address specific points in advance, if needed.

The experts are expected to:

- Be familiar with Chapters 1.10. and 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- Evaluate and study in detail all dossiers provided by WOAH;
- Take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of the dossiers;
- Summarise the dossiers according to the Terrestrial Code requirements by completing the summary tables provided by the SD (the summary tables will be provided at a later stage along with the working documents for the meeting). Experts are expected to capture and summarise in each corresponding section of the summary table the main gaps as well as strengths identified during the assessment of the dossiers, using extracted texts or reference to pages/annexes from the application;
- Draft questions to the applicant Members whenever the analysis of the dossiers identifies incomplete or unclear information;
- Submit to the SD the completed summary tables for each application together with possible questions for the applicant Members at least 10 days before the teleconference and preferably by **06 November 2022**;

The SD will compile the summary tables and the questions to be forwarded to the applicant Members before the teleconference. All subsequent information and material provided by a Member will be forwarded to the Group.

During the meeting

- Agree on the appointment of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting (the Chair will lead the discussion and the Rapporteur will ensure that the report reflects the discussion and captures the detailed assessment of the dossiers);
- Mention any potential conflict of interest and, if relevant, withdraw him/herself from the discussion;
- Contribute to the discussions;
- Provide a detailed report in order to recommend, to the Scientific Commission, the Member(s) and/or zone(s) to be recognised (or not) as free from CBPP and/or the official control programme of Member(s) to be endorsed by WOAH and to indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the applicant Members.

If during the teleconference the Group decides that additional information should be requested from an applicant Member before an informed conclusion can be drawn, the SD can request it and forward the additional information to the Group at a later date. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the finalisation of the assessment and for ensuring that the views of all members of the Group are taken into consideration.

Should the Group not be able to complete its Terms of Reference during this meeting, experts' contributions will be solicited after the meeting, including by teleconference if needed.

After the meeting

The SD will circulate the draft report after the teleconference is over. Experts are expected to contribute to the finalisation of the report within approximately one week.

The SD will circulate the final version of the report to the Group once endorsed by the Scientific Commission and is published online.

Deliverables

A detailed report to recommend to the Scientific Commission whether an applicant Member(s) should be (or not) recognised with an official CBPP free status or an official CBPP control programme endorsed by the WOAH. The report should indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the Members.

Reporting / Timeline

WOAH will circulate the draft report no more than seven days after the teleconference (no later than 23 November 2022) and the Group will finalise its report within ten days (indicative deadline: 03 December 2022).

Appendix 2 Agenda

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE EVALUATION

OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS

AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

16 November 2022

AGENDA

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

Appendix 3 List of Participants

***AD HOC* GROUP ON THE EVALUATION**

OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS

AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

16 November 2022

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List of Participants

MEMBERS

Dr Ahmed el Idrissi MOROCCO	Dr Flavio Sacchini Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise ITALY	Dr Musa Mulongo International Livestock Research Institute KENYA
Dr Lucía Manso-Silván CIRAD FRANCE	Dr Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory BOTSWANA	Dr Marcelo Fernandes Camargos Ministério da Agricultura Pecuária e Abastecimento BRAZIL

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

Dr Misheck Mulumba
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WOAH HEADQUARTERS

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