

## THE IMPACT AND COST BENEFIT OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

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For the purpose of this study, the concept of ‘food security’ relates to the supply, both in quantity and quality, of animal protein and does not include safety issues. Food security is of great importance for economic development and welfare. In spite of the increases in agricultural produce seen in the past three decades, there are still large areas of the globe where the quality and quantity of the food consumed are insufficient. The pressure exerted by the demand, together with the consistent high price of food in countries where income is low, mean that a large part of household expenses are allocated to food, thus reducing the money left for other important goods and services.

The aim of this study is therefore to establish the relation between food security, on one hand, and the progress with foot and mouth disease (FMD) control and eradication, on the other hand. The study assesses the current situation regarding food security in the world, and raises an important matter: how can this be influenced by minor or major progress in FMD control. The study emphasises the fact that, during the past three decades, an increasing part of the calories and proteins in the diets of people in developing countries is derived from animal production. This major presence of animal products in the daily diet of populations in developing countries suggests that increasing attention must be paid to all aspects of the animal population from which these products are extracted. The key role of the Veterinary Services must also be strengthened to ensure quality and continuity of the food supply.

The study found that FMD control not only benefits the traditional exporting countries, but also, through better market financing, benefits importing countries or even those countries that play a small or even insignificant part in world trade.

