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## THE GLOBAL CONTROL OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE – CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GLOBAL RINDERPEST CAMPAIGN

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Many lessons can be drawn from the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP), which are relevant in developing a global initiative against FMD. These include the needs for a globally agreed pathway and of regional co-ordinated programs. Strengthening surveillance systems are also of key importance as well as the establishment or re enforcement of laboratory networks for improving the quality of diagnostics and vaccines. The Global Secretariat to coordinate at the international level and monitor and promote progress was essential.

Compared to Rinderpest the global approach to FMD needs to address some major differences: a single vaccine cannot be used across the globe, and vaccine is short lived and comparatively expensive. In particular, each of the seven major regional FMD virus pools contains regionally specific FMD viruses that require tailored vaccines. This provides a strong argument for developing regional, or subregional programmes, to harmonise and optimise control efforts for the control the strains present in a region. An important lesson from GREP is that such programs need to provide quick gains and be driven by existing regional economic and animal health co-ordination bodies.

Recognising the above, the FAO proposed approach is that global FMD control should be the outcome of a set of regional long term actions (Regional Roadmaps), which must address the seven regional virus pools, in line with recommendations of the FAO/EuFMD global scientific meeting on FMD held in Sicily (October 2008) and of several Regional meetings (Nairobi, Kenya, Shiraz, Iran, Beirut, Lebanon...)

FAO, together with OIE, has made progress to develop regional vision statements and to identify Regional Roadmaps for FMD control to the year 2020, in West Eurasia, Africa and the Middle-East; the development of these Regional Roadmaps are reported at the Paraguay meeting and they should complement the existing Regional or subregional Roadmaps that have been implemented in South America and South-East Asia (SEAFMD). Within the African and Asian endemic regions, routine mass vaccination is often not an option for economic reasons, or has been adopted but success in FMD control is only partial because of incursions from neighboring countries, or insufficient vaccine coverage to break transmission.

FAO has developed an approach based on HACCP principles with achievable steps (Progressive Control Pathway -PCP), to create attainable progress through risk identification and management actions that lead, step by step, towards FMD freedom, and to based Regional Roadmaps based on national progress along the PCP.

The FAO proposal is that Global Progress in FMD control, through the Regional Roadmaps and application of the PCP approach at country-regional level, should be monitored at both (sub) regional and at global scale. Global monitoring and annual progress reporting, and promotion of actions to address gaps, requires an overall FAO/OIE co-ordination mechanism answerable to the Global GF-TADS Steering Committee, and thereby to members of both OIE and FAO.

