



In June 2011, rinderpest became the first animal disease to be eradicated, thanks to human efforts and only the second disease of any kind, after smallpox in humans.

Freedom from the World No. 1 cattle plague : Rinderpest

The FAO CONFERENCE at its Thirty-seventh Session held in Rome from 25 June - 2 July 2011 adopted the resolution on declaring global freedom from rinderpest.

Declaration of Global Freedom from Rinderpest and implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest (Draft Resolution)

Resolution ___/2011

Declaration of Global Freedom from Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest

THE CONFERENCE,

Mindful of the devastation caused by rinderpest, a viral disease of cattle, buffalo and many wildlife species that led to famines, demise of livelihoods in Africa, Asia and Europe, and loss of animal genetic resources over centuries and of the crucial importance that its global eradication is widely acknowledged and the world protected from its re-occurrence;

Acknowledging the successful collaboration of FAO with many Governments, international and regional organizations, the veterinary profession and the scientific community to achieve



this ambitious goal, recalling its vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where the food and agriculture sectors contribute to improving the living standards of all in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and reiterating the global goals set out by the FAO Members to foster the achievement of this vision as formulated in the Organization's Strategic Framework 2010-19;

Recalling the establishment of the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) in 1994, in particular its Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme, including a goal for worldwide eradication by 2010;

Considering the announcement of the Director-General in October 2010 that the Organization had ended all its field operations after having obtained reliable and conclusive evidence that all countries were free from rinderpest and that the disease had been eradicated in its natural setting;

Noting the conclusions reached by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication and the adoption of Resolution 18/2011 by the 79th General Session of May 2011 of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE);

Noting further the technical findings of FAO, OIE and IAEA concerning the evidence of rinderpest eradication;

Acknowledging the responsibility of Governments to reduce the number of existing rinderpest virus stocks through their safe destruction, or through their transfer to internationally recognized reference institutions;

- 1) Declares solemnly that the world has achieved freedom from rinderpest in its natural setting;
- 2) Expresses its deep gratitude to all nations, organizations

Contents

Contents	Page No
● Freedom from the World No. 1 cattle plague : Rinderpest	1
● Major Diseases situation in the sub-region	2
● Foot and Mouth Disease Laboratory Training at SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory on FMD, Mukteswar, India, May and June 2011	2
● ECTAD Team Leaders Planning Meeting to discuss process towards institutionalization of One Health approach, 9-11 May, Rome	3
● EU-HPED Mid-term Evaluation, May 2011	3
● FAO Regional Workshop: The World after Rinderpest	3
● Workshop on developing Strategy for FMD-Progressive Control Pathway for Bangladesh, June 2011	4
● New Team Members of Regional Support Unit	5
● Upcoming Events	5
● Programme Leaflet	6

and individuals who contributed to the fight against rinderpest and the successful eradication of the disease;

- 3) Calls upon FAO to assume its responsibility for undertaking the measures to maintain worldwide freedom from rinderpest, as recommended by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication;
- 4) Encourages FAO to take full advantage of the rinderpest eradication achievement and apply the lessons learned to prevent and control other diseases impacting food security, public health, the sustainability of agriculture systems and rural development; and,
- 5) Urges all Members of FAO:
 - i) to maintain, in accordance with the relevant provisions of OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code, appropriate surveillance systems for rinderpest and immediately notify the OIE and the FAO/OIE/WHO Global Early Warning System of suspect or confirmed cases of rinderpest;
 - ii) to put in place and update national contingency plans consistent with FAO and OIE global guidance;
 - iii) to destroy, under the supervision of the Veterinary Authority, rinderpest virus containing materials or assure the storage of these materials in a biosecure facility in their country or, where applicable, assure their safe transfer to an approved laboratory in another country in agreement with the Veterinary Authority;
 - iv) to ensure that rinderpest occupies an appropriate place in veterinary education curricula and training programmes to maintain professional knowledge and adequate diagnostic capabilities at national levels; and,
 - v) to support all technical measures required to minimize the risk of rinderpest reemergence, or its synthetic manufacture.

Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

Bangladesh

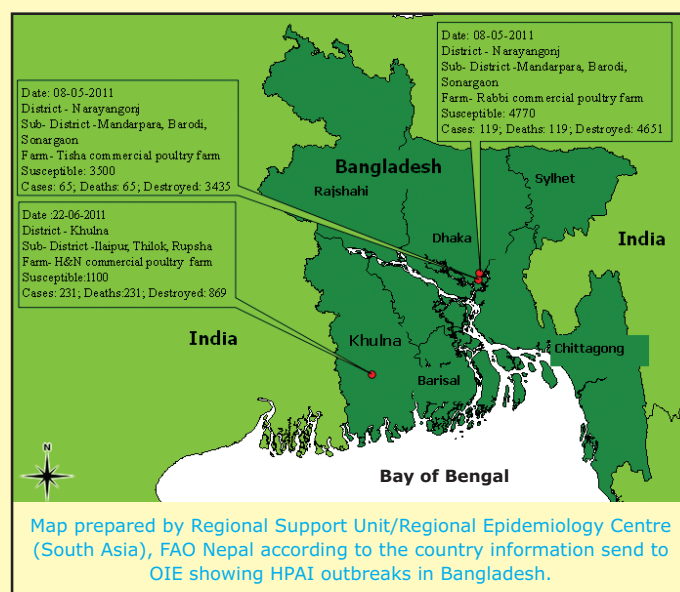
Highly pathogenic avian influenza

During the month of May 2011, HPAI outbreaks were reported in two commercial poultry farms of Sonargaon Upazila of Narayngonj District, Dhaka Division.

In June 2011, only one H5N1 HPAI outbreak was reported in a commercial chicken farm in Rupsa Upazila, Khulna District, Khulna Division. Out of 1 100 susceptible birds, 231 died and 869 were destroyed. Samples tested positive for H5N1 with reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). ([Source: www.aitubd.org](http://www.aitubd.org))

Anthrax

Cases of human cutaneous anthrax have been reported by Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka in Shathia upazila of Pabna district during this period. ([Source : www.iedcr.org](http://www.iedcr.org))



India

Highly pathogenic avian influenza

After two HPAI outbreaks in Tripura state in February and March 2011, no new outbreaks were reported. As per the follow up report sent to OIE, disinfection and sanitation of the infected zone has been completed. The post-operation surveillance is continuing in the affected area.

([Source: www.dahd.nic.in](http://www.dahd.nic.in))

Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

National Institute of Virology, Pune has confirmed CCHF virus aetiology in 8 patients till 27th May 2011.

([Source: www.niv.co.in](http://www.niv.co.in))

Foot and Mouth Disease Laboratory Training at SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory on FMD, Mukteswar, India, 2-7 May and 20-25 June 2011

SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory on FMD located at the Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Disease (PD-FMD), Mukteswar, India organized two rounds of "Laboratory Training on Foot and Mouth Disease Diagnosis" from 2-7 May and 20-25 June 2011. The purpose of the hands-on laboratory training was to harmonise the testing protocols across the national FMD laboratories in



Participants engaged in hands-on laboratory training on FMD at Mukteswar, India

SAARC member countries. The trainings were organized under FAO's EU-funded HPED project. SAARC Participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the six days hands on training. The training consisted of use of FMD virus, serotyping ELISA, liquid phase blocking (LPB) ELISA and DIVA ELISA for FMD diagnosis and surveillance.

The participants were provided with;

1. Laboratory Manual,
2. Typing ELISA reagent for testing 500 clinical samples,
3. LPB ELISA reagent for testing 3000 serum samples,
4. DIVA ELISA reagent for testing 900 serum samples,
5. Coating and substrate buffer tablets, and
6. Test Plates and micro pipettes.

ECTAD Team Leaders Planning Meeting to discuss process towards institutionalisation of One Health approach, 9-11 May, Rome

Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager, ECTAD and Coordinator of Regional Support Unit participated in the meeting at FAO HQ, Rome. The FAO action plan was presented to the participants and its importance as a core activity of FAO discussed. The process of institutionalization of the One Health approach including the outcomes of the internal FAO consultation, communication and visibility strategy and plans for mobilizing support was discussed. The current status and analysis of the ECTAD regional and country programmes including the preliminary outcome of the regional contingency planning exercise were discussed. The country scenarios were presented by the country team leaders summarising the financial and project analysis that has already been completed.

EU-HPED Mid-term Evaluation, May 2011

A three member team, comprising of EU Mid term review mission visited India and Nepal during their mission and interacted with FAO and Government departments related to animal health. In Nepal the mission members also visited



EU Mid-term Team members visiting RSU; (L-R) Mr Maurice Coenegrachts (Public Health Expert), Mr Ingo Neu, (Team Leader), Ms Dubravka Selenic Minet (Animal Health expert).

SAARC Secretariat for discussion and interaction. The mission members were informed about various programmes being handled by the FAO country offices as well as the activities being undertaken by the two governments. In India and Nepal the officials referred to the high level meeting held in Bangkok where decisions were made for regional cooperation and collaboration. The mission was informed that India is moving ahead with several control programmes including FMD, brucellosis and PPR. The FAO supported regional HPED programme and USAID funded HPAI projects were helping in capacity building in India. The team expressed their satisfaction with the working of HPED project in Nepal and the establishment of RSU within FAO Nepal.

FAO Regional Workshops: The World after Rinderpest and Maintaining Vigilance for Diseases caused by Morbilliviruses, 7-10 June, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr Venkatasubbarao Mandava, Laboratory Coordinator participated in two regional workshops viz; "The World after Rinderpest" and "Maintaining vigilance for diseases caused by morbilliviruses" organized by FAO in Bangkok from 7-10 June 2011. The main objective of the workshops were to deliberate and prepare for a post eradication strategy

for rinderpest that would ensure the success achieved through the collective global efforts which will lead to lasting benefits; to deliberate and make recommendations on the maintenance of the vigilance on the morbillivirus diseases on the post eradication era and the strategies for the risks of re-emergence of rinderpest. The consultation tried to focus on the steps to be taken for virus sequestration, requirement of vaccine banks, emergency preparedness in case of re-emergence of disease etc. in the rinderpest post eradication era.



The World after Rinderpest: Maintaining Vigilance for Diseases caused by Morbilliviruses, 7-10 June, Bangkok, Thailand

The meetings included presentations and facilitated structured discussions with leading questions. Dr Mandava presented the SAARC regional cooperation Programme on HPEDs including the PPR control strategy in the region in the workshop on "maintaining vigilance for diseases caused by morbilliviruses".

Some of the recommendations made at the workshops include the following:

- Rinderpest post eradication strategy with clear guidelines and SOPs is needed. This strategy will cover surveillance, risk analysis, regional diagnosis, virus sequestration to few labs, regional vaccine bank etc.
- Most countries wish to destroy all stocks of Rinderpest virus including vaccine strains provided there is rapid access to vaccine.
- The rinderpest virus retained should be fully characterized including the gene sequences and recorded in public domain
- Every effort should be made to reduce the number of countries and laboratories holding rinderpest virus. The countries wishing to retain the virus must do so for vaccine bank and seed (within the existing guidelines of the FAO/OIE).
- Effective disease surveillance in order to detect early

evidence of outbreaks and supportive zoo-sanitary procedures are stressed as important components of emergency preparedness.

- The chapter on OIE terrestrial code needs to be comprehensively reviewed by all countries to ensure that they meet the needs of all the countries.
- The movement of rinderpest virus and the virus containing material between countries needs to be regulated and subject to agreed guidelines and principles concerning ownership of the viruses.

Workshop on Developing Strategy for FMD-Progressive Control Pathway in Bangladesh, 17-18 June 2011

At the request of Government of Bangladesh the RSU/REC staff visited Bangladesh to facilitate a workshop on developing strategy for FMD-Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for Bangladesh. In all 23 participants from Department of Livestock Services (including the CVO), Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Chittagong Veterinary University, Milkvita and officials from FAO Bangladesh and RSU/REC, Nepal participated in the workshop. The participants were apprised on the important components of FMD-PCP, and how to proceed with drafting the national strategy for stage 1. The participants discussed various inputs for the strategy



Workshop on developing Strategy for FMD-Progressive Control Pathway in Bangladesh, 17-18 June 2011

which were presented for discussion. At the end, a set of recommendations were drafted on the way forward by forming a core group to write the document to be reviewed by a group of seven experts from DLS and FAO to prepare a final draft for submission to the CVO by end July 2011.

New Team Members of Regional Support Unit

Dr. Venkata Subba Rao Mandava joined as Laboratory Coordinator in May, 2011. He is a veterinarian by training



RSU Team Members : (L to R) Mr. Prakash Nayak, Dr. Mohinder S. Oberoi, Dr. Venkata Subba Rao Mandava, Dr. Muhammad Akram, Dr. Ravi Dissanayeke, Dr. Pasang Tshering and Mr. Nafis Khan.

with more than 40 years of experience including as Dean, Registrar, Director of Research (Animal Science) in Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad. He has been working in Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations as National Project Coordinator (Avian Influenza), New Delhi.

Dr. Pasang Tshering joined as REC Coordinator in May, 2011. A citizen of Bhutan, he has Bachelor's degree in Veterinary and Animal Husbandry (BVSc & AH) from India and Masters degree in Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics from VEERU, University of Reading, the United Kingdom. He worked in the Royal Government of Bhutan as Programme Director for National Centre for Animal Health, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

Dr. Muhammad Akram is a veterinarian from Pakistan with Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He has submitted his PhD thesis in epidemiology in the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore-Pakistan. He has joined FAO as Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC)- Assistant Coordinator in May,

2011. Before joining this position, he was Assistant Animal Husbandry Commissioner in the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Prakash Nayak joined RSU as Communication Expert in May, 2011. Prior to joining FAO, he has worked with CARE-India Country Office as Technical Specialist-Behaviour Change Communication of nutrition and health in various high burden Indian states in close partnership with Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Dr. Ravi Dissanayeke joined RSU as Disease Information Data Expert and before joining RSU, he was associated with FAO, Sri Lanka as national veterinary specialist. Dr. Ravi obtained BVSc degree and MVSc in Veterinary Public health from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. He worked as a veterinary epidemiologist in the Department of Animal Production and Health. He has extensive experience in GIS, TADinfo, database management and animal health policies. He is also a Lawyer of the supreme court of Sri Lanka since 2002.

Upcoming Events

- a) 2nd Meeting of Steering Committee of the Highly Pathogenic Emerging and Re-emerging (HPED) Programme, 20 July, 2011, Tokyo, Japan.
- b) 5th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, 21-22 July, 2011, Tokyo, Japan.
- c) Consultative workshop on Regional Epidemiology and Laboratory Networking in the SAARC Region, 27-29 July, 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- d) Training on Pests des petits ruminants (PPR) Laboratory Techniques for Diagnosis and Surveillance, September 2011.
- e) Wrap-up Meeting of South Asia Cross Border Project on 16 September 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- f) Workshop to Develop Regional roadmaps for the Progressive Control of FMD and PPR in SAARC countries, November, 2011.

FAO of the UN is an institutional partner of World Veterinary Year (Vet 2011) and has recently adopted a resolution declaring Global Freedom from Rinderpest.



Eliminating Animal Health Risks

Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPEDs) in South Asia

► Goals

Contribute to the strengthening and empowerment of SAARC in its ability to prevent, control and eradicate HPEDs, including HPAI, through improved veterinary and public health services and inter-sectoral collaboration on a regional basis.

► Objective

Capacities and capabilities of SAARC to prevent, control and eradicate HPEDs, including HPAI, at regional level are enhanced.

► Outputs

- ④ **Regional Support Unit (RSU)** established with mechanism for Regional Cooperation and collaboration to facilitate regional policies and technical activities under Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).
- ④ **Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC)** established with networks of national epidemiology units including socio economic analysis organized and coordinated.
- ④ **Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories** strengthened with the networks of national laboratories in order to provide technical support to improve the laboratory diagnosis of the priority HPEDs and backstop epidemiological studies to develop rational disease control strategies.



► Expected Impact

- ④ An early warning network established contributing to improve strategies for control of HPAI and HPEDs in the region.
- ④ A network of regional diagnostic laboratories and epidemiological teams established to facilitate exchange of disease information and maintain uniform standards through regular quality assurance.
- ④ Animal health services become more central to the business of governments in the region as part of core capacity to deal with zoonotic public health emergencies.
- ④ A mechanism established for information sharing between animal and human health agencies.



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

Regional Support Unit and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases for South Asia
FAO, Kathmandu, Nepal

For further information, contact: Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager ECTAD and Co-ordinator Regional Support Unit (South Asia) at mohinder.oberoi@fao.org, Tel: +977-1-5010209, Fax: +977-1-5010312