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**RECOMMENDATIONS
OF
THE CONFERENCES OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS
ORGANISED SINCE 1st JUNE 2019**

**31st Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Sendai, Japan, 2 to 6 September 2019

Recommendation No. 1: Zoonosis and food safety - improving collaboration between animal and public health professionals to achieve a better outcome

Recommendation No. 2: Strengthening the cooperation on African Swine Fever prevention and control in the Asia-Pacific region

Recommendation No. 1

Zoonosis and food safety - improving collaboration between animal and public health professionals to achieve a better outcome

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Health issues at the human-animal-environmental interface including zoonosis and food safety events have increased in recent decades due to socio-economic and scientific factors, including globalisation, climate change and changes in human behaviour;
2. Zoonotic and foodborne disease cannot effectively be controlled by only one sector, thus requiring coordination and collaboration between the Veterinary Services (VS), the Public Health Services (PHS) and other relevant authorities such as those involved in environmental health, as a key aspect of good governance and a prerequisite for sustainable improvement in disease control;
3. The Tripartite partners (OIE, FAO and WHO) actively promote an intersectoral collaborative approach among institutions and systems for the prevention, detection and control of zoonotic and foodborne diseases; the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO International Health Regulations Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (IHR MEF) being useful tools helping OIE Members to assess the competencies and capacities of their animal and human health sectors;
4. The Tripartite partners (OIE, FAO and WHO) have been leading several programmes and activities at the global and regional level to address zoonosis and food safety issues including the development of the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (TZG), and tools supporting multisectoral collaboration such as IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and the WHO Guide for Multisectoral Partnership Coordination for Preparedness;
5. Tripartite partners have been working with Members to establish and improve national Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms (MCMs), as these play a pivotal role to sustainably ensure effective control of zoonosis and management of food safety issues;
6. Two questionnaire studies have been conducted in the region recently, one at the 8th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multisectoral Collaboration at the Animal-Human-Ecosystem Interface to collect information relevant to a current multisectoral One Health mechanism (April 2019), and a second one for the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to obtain comprehensive information about current MCMs in the region (September 2019);
7. Both questionnaire surveys, while highlighting the establishment of an MCM at national level in over 80% of OIE Members, identified difficulties in terms of government support, availability of resources and technical capacity, hampering the creation of new MCMs in other Members; and

8. Based on responses to the September 2019 questionnaire study, OIE Members still require further support for MCMs in terms of governance improvement, full resource mobilisation under strategic prioritisation, equal responsibility-sharing between sectors for MCM funding, as well as greater use of resource mapping analysis and monitoring and evaluation systems.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. OIE Members establish or sustain an MCM for zoonotic and/or relevant food safety issues, at national and subnational levels (if applicable), in consultation and agreement with relevant partners and stakeholders, and with identification of reliable functions, mechanisms, infrastructure and resources, under a clear governance;
2. OIE Members regularly review and update the MCM to implement technical activities with efficacy and sustainability;
3. OIE Members perform resource mapping analysis to identify available infrastructure, human and financial resources for use by MCMs to support their activities;
4. OIE Members endeavour to provide appropriate resources and fund allocation with strategic priorities and promote equitable sharing of responsibilities between relevant sectors within MCMs to facilitate activities;
5. OIE Members develop a self-monitoring and evaluation system for MCMs and their activities to assess effectiveness;
6. OIE Members be fully involved in the implementation of the OIE standards and WHO IHR by taking advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway and the WHO IHR MEF, when relevant;
7. The OIE, in collaboration with other Tripartite partners, continue to advocate at the highest level strong collaboration between the VS, the PHS and other relevant authorities such as those involved in environmental health, while OIE Members advocate for a high level of commitment by the VS and PHS in MCMs, as a prerequisite for improving the capacities of involved sectors in managing zoonosis and food safety risks;
8. The OIE, in collaboration with other Tripartite partners, assist its Members in identifying gaps in their MCMs and other One Health collaboration initiatives, using the OIE PVS Pathway, the WHO IHR MEF, and other recent One Health Tools such as the TZG, IHR/PVS NBWs, and the WHO Guide for Multisectoral Partnership Coordination for Preparedness;
9. The OIE, in collaboration with other Tripartite partners, continue to strengthen connections between the PVS Pathway and the IHR MEF, to better align support to OIE Members and ensure that Veterinary Services are systematically considered as key actors of multisectoral initiatives and MCMs; and

10. The OIE, in collaboration with other Tripartite partners, identify relevant experts who can assist Members with establishment or improvement of MCMs.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
on 6 September 2019)

Recommendation No. 2

**Strengthening the cooperation on African Swine Fever
prevention and control in the Asia-Pacific region**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. African swine fever virus has been progressively spreading globally, affecting areas in Asia where there is a very high density of pigs, and where pig production and consumption are highly integrated in the culture. The socio-economic impact of ASF is now being seen with increases to pig and pig product prices and spill-over effects to other commodities in parts of Asia;
2. The epidemiology of African swine fever is complex and unique: the virus is very resistant and able to persist in pig products and survive in the environment for long periods. The spread of ASF is mainly driven by human activities;
3. Pig value chains in Asia are complex with many production systems and stakeholders involved along the production chain;
4. Transborder movements linked to specific ethnic groups and communities, transborder workers and traders as well as tourism are constant;
5. Early detection of ASF through an adequate surveillance and diagnostic system is important to efficiently contain the disease and limit its spread. It is also essential to ensure timely reporting via OIE-WAHIS immediate notification;
6. Currently, there is no vaccine available for ASF; and the disease can be controlled only through biosecurity measures applied in a timely and efficient manner;
7. Cooperation between OIE Members and partnerships between the public and the private sectors can provide mechanisms to better address ASF prevention, preparedness and control;
8. It is urgent to take concrete and coordinated actions among OIE Members; and
9. GF-TADs is the most appropriate mechanism to address ASF at global and regional levels, and as such, a Standing Group of Experts on ASF has been established in Europe and Asia and a global initiative is now being developed, all under the GF-TADs' umbrella.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Veterinary Authorities conduct thorough analyses of the pig value chains and identify all the stakeholders involved in these value chains to fully understand the risk pathways for entry and spread of ASF;
2. The Veterinary Authorities investigate and monitor the socio-economic impact of ASF to highlight the importance of the disease and advocate for political support and resource allocation;
3. The Veterinary Authorities engage with stakeholders in prevention and control strategies across sectors involved with pig production and distribution such as agriculture, food and feed processing, producers, transport and utilise media to increase understanding and awareness of ASF and take necessary actions to implement measures to prevent further spread and contain the disease;
4. The Veterinary Authorities engage with other relevant authorities such as those responsible for law enforcement, border control, transportation, wildlife/environment that may assist to enforce implementation of prevention and control measures;
5. The Veterinary Authorities embark on public-private partnerships (PPP), guided by the OIE PPP Handbook (Guidelines for public-private partnerships in the veterinary domain), to improve trust between the sectors and ensure effective implementation and compliance with disease control measures recognising the shared responsibility for the ASF-related burden;
6. The Veterinary Authorities ensure a strong surveillance system is in place to enable early detection in both domestic and wild pigs, rapid outbreak containment and timely notification to the OIE-WAHIS;
7. The Veterinary Authorities actively engage in the regional and global initiatives to share their knowledge, challenges and lessons learnt to understand the evolving epidemiology of the disease in Asia;
8. The OIE Members actively contribute to the activities of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on ASF for Asia, by ensuring appropriate participation and utilising agreed recommendations in their local settings;
9. FAO and OIE launch the global initiative for the control of ASF under the GF-TADs umbrella to harmonise and coordinate national, regional and global efforts as recommended at the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in May 2019;
10. The OIE and FAO continue working together with other regional and international organisations to ensure a coordinated approach at all levels to address the many challenges faced in controlling ASF, including the priority areas identified under the SGE-ASF for Asia;
11. The OIE and FAO encourage and support its Members to implement relevant standards and guidelines to prevent, detect and control ASF;

12. The OIE encourage and support its Members to share information on the current ASF situation in their countries/territories and ensure transparency of disease situation globally through the OIE-WAHIS notification system in a timely manner;
13. The OIE ensure up to date scientific information on ASF virus is available by engaging with scientific experts from around the world and revise OIE *Terrestrial Code* and *Manual* relevant chapters if indicated;
14. The OIE continue to share scientific information and develop communication and awareness materials further targeting specific groups and topics as identified in the region; and
15. The OIE organise workshops in the region to disseminate best practices in developing successful and sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (or PPPs) to strengthen Veterinary Services.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
on 6 September 2019)

**15th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10 to 14 November 2019

Recommendation No. 1: Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Efficient Sustainable Animal Health Systems and Veterinary Services in Middle East Member Countries

Recommendation No. 1

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Efficient Sustainable Animal Health Systems
and Veterinary Services in Middle East Member Countries**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The Veterinary Authorities (commonly referred as Official Veterinary Services) provide the fundamental management system for animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in OIE Member Countries;
2. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has a proven record of supporting the strengthening of Veterinary Services and, since the establishment of its flagship programme, the OIE PVS Pathway, it has continued to affirm that, for the Veterinary Services to fulfil their mission, they require sustainable investment;
3. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-resourced in many countries, leading to sub-optimal organisation and staffing of Veterinary Services, thereby jeopardising animal health and welfare nationally, regionally and globally, with impact on public health and the economy, among others;
4. The OIE has long recognised the important role of the private sector in the delivery of high quality and efficient services in the veterinary domain; and PPPs are consequently also recognised as important means of optimising animal health systems and Veterinary Services (VS) worldwide;
5. It is also widely recognised that strengthening partnership with the private sector is essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG n°17) by 2030 and this is also fully aligned with recent calls from the United Nations Secretary-General to engage business leaders in the challenges of financing the SDGs;
6. The Middle East region faces several challenges in building efficient and sustainable animal health systems and Veterinary Services;
7. Several successfully implemented and sustainable PPPs applied to the veterinary domain have been reported; but the full potential of such mechanism has yet to be exploited in many countries of the Middle East region; and
8. OIE Member Countries are interested in collaboration between the public and private sectors, as demonstrated by the adoption of Resolution no. 39 related to Public-Private Partnerships by the OIE Member Countries at the 85th General Session in May 2017.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Facilitate the establishment of legal and administrative frameworks allowing Veterinary Services to develop effective, efficient and sustainable PPPs as a mechanism to address challenges in animal health and welfare, therefore contributing to the attainment of the SDGs by 2030;
2. Provide substantial efforts and investments in facilitating appropriate high-quality training and support the establishment and strengthening of effective Veterinary Statutory Bodies;
3. Consider developing a code of ethics to avoid conflicts of interest, and thus, helping Veterinary Services in establishing partnerships based on honesty, integrity and transparency;

THAT THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Create strong legislation and enforcement mechanisms for proper delegation of authority under PPPs enabling an environment that provides guarantees and commitments for the public sector to support the private sector in the long term while ensuring the ultimate responsibility of the services remain within their legal mandate;
2. Establish active dialogue, and preferably through a national and/or sectoral level PPP forum, to initiate or maintain permanent communications between the public sector and animal sectors' private stakeholders, to better identify the needs and potential solutions;
3. Support the evaluation, initiation, development and maintenance of successful PPPs in the veterinary domain, based on the guidelines for PPPs developed by the OIE in 2019;
4. Facilitate the establishment of targeted PPPs, as a means to achieve some of their key animal health and welfare priorities, in both terrestrial and aquatic animal health sectors, for the effective delivery of Veterinary Services to end users;
5. Consider design and implementation of collaborative and transformative PPPs in addition to the commonly applied sanitary mandate contracts (or transactional PPPs) by active engagement with producers' associations and national/international private and non-profit organisations;

AND THAT THE OIE:

1. Lead practical training programmes for its Member Countries for the development and implementation of sustainable PPPs, through the use of the **OIE PPP: Guidelines for the Public-Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain** (https://www.oie.int/publicprivatepartnerships/ppp/en/Handbook_en.html) as well as update these Guidelines, as needs be, according to the experience of OIE Member Countries in the implementation of sustainable PPPs;
2. Support, together with the Veterinary Authorities, partnerships between the public and private sector to use and improve, existing technologies as well as develop and implement new ones;

3. Continue developing advocacy material to help Delegates, sensitise decision makers to establish active dialogue on the value of sustainable Veterinary Services and the potential benefits of collaborating with the private sector to improve the quality and sustainability of their activities; and
 4. Continue to provide PVS Pathway-related activities to strengthen the capacity of its Member Countries including in relation to PPPs.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 14 November 2019)

**25th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

22 to 23 September 2020
(by videoconference)

Due to the adaptation of the Conference to a virtual format (reduced agenda), the two traditional technical items presented and discussed for the elaboration of recommendations, to be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement, were not included in the agenda. Thus, no recommendations were developed.

**29th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

9 to 10 November 2020
(by videoconference)

Due to the adaptation of the Conference to a virtual format (reduced agenda), the two traditional technical items presented and discussed for the elaboration of recommendations, to be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement, were not included in the agenda. Thus, no recommendations were developed.

**24th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

9 to 11 February 2021
(by videoconference)

Due to the adaptation of the Conference to a virtual format (reduced agenda), the two traditional technical items presented and discussed for the elaboration of recommendations, to be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement, were not included in the agenda. Thus, no recommendations were developed.