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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN MOROCCO
Diagnosis confirmed

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 1

Translation of a fax received on 9 March 1999 from Dr Abdelhaq Tber, Director of Animal Production and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Sea Fisheries, Rabat:

End of previous report period: 1 March 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [8], 23, dated 5 March 1999).

End of this report period: 8 March 1999.

New outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Oujda (in the eastern part of the country)	4

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: beef cattle herds. Except for one cow and one heifer, the affected animals are young bulls aged 18 to 24 months. The outbreaks are currently restricted to the Oujda municipality.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
bov	16	5	0	5	11

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was confirmed:** OIE World Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease (Pirbright, United Kingdom).
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation carried out at the national level.
- C. Causal agent:** virus type O.

Source of agent / origin of infection: smuggling of infected animals.

Control measures during reporting period:

- stamping out;
- quarantine of the affected farms;
- ring vaccination around the infected area;
- vaccination against foot and mouth disease virus type O in the border provinces, and in the buffer zone;
- screening throughout the national territory.

Additional information on control measures as of 5 March 1999

Extracts from a report from Dr Abdelhaq Tber received on 5 March 1999 at the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations):

The measures provided for within the framework of the emergency foot and mouth disease control campaign have been implemented. These include:

- slaughter of sick young bulls and the other young bulls in the herd, with disinfection and incineration of manure from the buildings in which they had been housed;
- immediate destruction, in collaboration with the local authorities and the Royal Gendarmerie, and in situ burial of any susceptible animals intercepted near the borders suspected of having been smuggled;
- strengthening of the epidemiological surveillance system for the disease throughout the national territory;
- launching of a serological survey in regions with a high concentration of cattle in order to evaluate and monitor the level of immunity of cattle to virus type O.

In view of the fact that the cattle were vaccinated against foot and mouth disease virus type O annually from 1992 to December 1997, the following prophylactic measures have been taken:

- Launching of a vaccination campaign in the provinces bordering Algeria (Oujda, Berkane, Figuig, Jerrada, Er Rachidia and Ouarzazate) to consolidate the immunity of around 600,000 cattle in the zones at risk. Vaccination has been extended to include the buffer zone, consisting of the provinces adjoining those mentioned above (Taza, Taounate, Fès, Al Hoceima, Boulemane and Nador). To date, approximately 20,000 cattle have been vaccinated.
- Maintenance of a reserve stock of 150,000 vaccine doses for emergency distribution in the event of the disease occurring outside the vaccination and buffer zones.
- Compulsory vaccination of imported animals on arrival in Morocco, and at least 15 days' quarantine after vaccination.

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RINDERPEST IN TURKEY

The Delegate declares the country "provisionally free" from this disease

Text of an e-mail received on 9 March 1999 from Dr Celal Özcan, General Director of Protection and Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ankara:

In October 1998, the Thrace region of Turkey was declared "provisionally free" from rinderpest. This was published in *Disease Information*, **11** (44), 155, dated 6 November 1998. In Thrace, there had been no outbreaks of rinderpest during the epizootic in Turkey in 1991 and vaccination against rinderpest ceased on 1 October 1998. There is an ongoing animal disease surveillance and reporting system in livestock, which is capable of detecting any presence of rinderpest.

Turkey was free from rinderpest from 1969 to 1991. A rinderpest epidemic spread to the south-eastern part of Turkey in October 1991. It was effectively eliminated by emergency vaccination campaigns. The disease recurred in 1994 in Ardahan province and in 1996 in Diyarbakir province, which are located in the Anatolian part of Turkey. The disease was controlled by the appropriate control measures, such as destroying sick and in-contact animals with compensation for producers, animal movement controls, vaccination and surveillance.

Vaccination campaigns have been conducted every year for the protection of the bovine population in the whole country since rinderpest was seen in Turkey in 1991. After each round of vaccination, serological evaluation through rinderpest antibody assay was carried out in the whole country.

The last outbreak of rinderpest in Turkey was recorded in Diyarbakir in January 1996. No outbreaks have been reported from 1996 up to now.

All rinderpest vaccination has been stopped in Anatolia region, with effect from 1 January 1999.

Considering the above, Turkey declares Anatolia "provisionally free" from rinderpest, with effect from March 1999, so the whole of Turkey is now entering the OIE "pathway", having fulfilled the OIE specified conditions stipulated in the recommended standards for epidemiological surveillance systems for rinderpest.

In order to guard against all eventualities, the following conservatory measures have been taken:

- Both clinical surveillance and disease reporting systems for rinderpest in use in Turkey are adequate to detect clinical disease if present. Any clinical evidence suggestive of rinderpest within the country is investigated by field and laboratory methods. Any doubtful cases— clinical/subclinical rinderpest-like diseases— are notified and investigated, and laboratory examinations are carried out.
- Effective methods are in force to prevent the reintroduction of the disease into Turkey from neighbouring countries. Increased attention is being maintained at the import gates and quarantine stations for livestock, in particular at eastern and south-eastern borders. Illegal movements across the borders have been controlled as far as possible. Respective strategies have been planned together with the relevant security forces.

A cordon of transport checkpoints for livestock transport on main roads has been established so as to be able to control movements from east to west at any time (24-hour service). This cordon consists of a belt established in the provinces of Giresun, Sivas, Tokat, Malatya, K. Maraş, Gaziantep and Hatay.

- If any outbreaks of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) should occur, vaccination of sheep and goats against PPR with a rinderpest vaccine produced at Etlik Veterinary Control and Research Institutes, Ankara, would be practised.

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