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**HEARTWATER IN ANGOLA**EMERGENCY REPORT

*Translation of a fax received on 25 June 1999 from Dr Filipe Vissesse, Director of the National Directorate for Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Luanda:*

**Report date:** 23 June 1999.

An outbreak of heartwater has been reported in the province of Kwanza-Sul, 300 km from the capital, Luanda.

The outbreak was observed on a private farm in the municipality of Porto-Amboim (on the seaboard). The farm, which was set up in the area two years ago, has 800 head of cattle of exotic breeds (Brahmans and Simmentals) imported from South Africa.

According to the initial information supplied to the National Directorate for Livestock by the farm's veterinary assistant, the first cases were observed at the beginning of May 1999 when the animals returned from their first transhumance since the herd was established in the locality. During transhumance, the herd was divided into several groups and it was only in one of the groups, consisting of 150 head of Brahmans, that the first cases were observed and 39 animals died.

As soon as the first cases were reported, the affected farm imported long action oxytetracycline, and the suspected herd was treated with antibiotics.

A team from the National Directorate for Livestock visited the site and duly noted the existence of an outbreak and the presence of *Amblyomma* ticks.

Samples were taken (brain, lymph nodes, blood and ticks) for laboratory identification and confirmation of the diagnosis.

The region in which the outbreak was observed is one of the zones where *Amblyomma pomposum* ticks are present and where heartwater was reported well before 1975. Native breeds of cattle are probably resistant, but there have been no epidemiological studies since Independence.

Since the disease control programme supported by the Angolan government does not include heartwater, the National Directorate for Livestock has authorised the farm to import vaccines from South Africa.

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\* \*

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN TAIPEI CHINA Virus isolation in cattle (follow-up report)

### FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

*Text of a fax received on 28 June 1999 from Dr Watson H.T. Sung, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture, Taipei:*

**End of previous report period:** 11 June 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [23], 84, dated 18 June 1999).

**End of this report period:** 25 June 1999.

#### **New outbreaks:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
Kinmen prefecture	3 cattle farms
Tainan prefecture (on Taiwan island)	3 cattle farms

#### **Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:**

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	416	0*	0	416	0

\* no cattle showed clinical signs of FMD.

**Diagnosis:** tests on paired sera gave positive results.

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Taiwan Animal Health Research Institute.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation, virus neutralisation test and ELISA.

**C. Causal agent:** virus type O. According to the result of the DNA sequence analysis, the strain, of bovine origin, is different from O<sub>Taiwan</sub> (pig adapted strain). The points of similarity of the DNA sequence of the FMD virus from two of the affected farms in Tainan were 99.6% and 98.8%, respectively, compared with the previous isolate from Kinmen.

**Mode of spread:** cattle from Kinmen had been shipped to Taiwan island and slaughtered for sale in the local markets before the FMD virus was detected in cattle in Kinmen.

#### **Control measures during reporting period:**

- stamping out: all cattle in the affected farms were destroyed;
- ban on the transportation of livestock and related products from Kinmen to Taiwan and other islands;
- the meat market in Tainan was closed temporarily, and all cattle, goats, deer and pigs were re-vaccinated within a 6-km radius of the three affected farms in Tainan;
- the surveillance programme remains in force.

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