

GLOBAL STRATEGY TO FIGHT GLOBAL RUMINANT PEST

E-Magazine

EDITORIAL.....	2
FARMELLANEOUS.....	6
BEST PRACTICES.....	13
FARMATORY.....	16
NEWS & EVENTS	20

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CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF THE PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL FARMERS WORLDWIDE

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PARIS

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) affects the lives of

some 300 million of the world's poorest population whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. Due to the availability of a reliable and high quality vaccine, and thanks to the rinderpest global eradication experience, the FAO and OIE, their Membership and most of international experts are convinced that the global control and eradication of PPR is technically achievable. PPR eradication will foster the economic empowerment of rural families worldwide as sheep and goats are a means of capitalising savings and an economic safety net. Hence, the OIE has joined forces with FAO to overcome the burden of PPR and call for stakeholder engagement to ensure that this disease is successfully eradicated.

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), or sheep and goat plague, is a devastating and fast spreading viral disease that kills sheep and goats. It has spread to over 70 countries and affects livelihoods throughout most of Africa, the Middle East, West, Central and South Asia, and most recently East Asia. The PPR situation is dynamic and threatening. Nowadays, over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat population is at risk of becoming infected by the disease, which can kill over 90 percent of the animals exposed.



Dr Monique Eloit was elected Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 26 May 2015 by the World Assembly, which brings together the national Delegates of all OIE Member Countries. She began her five-year term of office on 1 January 2016, as the 7th Director General of the OIE, after having served as Deputy Director General of the OIE for six years.

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Nowadays, over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat population is at risk of becoming infected by the disease, which can kill over 90 percent of the animals exposed



Based on the experience of the successful global eradication of Rinderpest achieved in 2011, through a massive global effort spearheaded by FAO and OIE, it is clear that the global eradication of PPR can be accomplished provided that there is sufficient political, financial and technical investment to this cause. Like Rinderpest, PPR is readily diagnosed and there is a reliable, inexpensive vaccine available that confers life-long immunity in vaccinated animals.

Just as Rinderpest eradication will confer massive benefits to generations of the world's cattle and buffalo farmers, PPR eradication will similarly benefit sheep and goat farmers for generations; thus also supporting the attainment of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Year after year, PPR deeply affects the lives of some 300 million of the world's poorest rural families, whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. Small ruminants are a source of regular income, a means to capitalise savings, and a safety net to face hardships. Moreover, they are an essential part of the daily diet of many people and selling animals or their

products provides resources to enable access additional food, as well as educational and social services for their families. The control and eradication of PPR will contribute significantly to fighting rural poverty and to ensuring food security and nutrition.

Overall, PPR causes annual global losses are estimated to be between USD 1.4 and 2.1 billion. Controlling and eradicating PPR will increase agricultural GDP in many low- and middle-income countries, thus strengthening resilience and national economies, by stabilising productivity and ensuring the safe international trade of these animals and their by-products. Indeed, there is massive economic potential for farmers and other participants engaged in the value chains of sheep and goat meat, milk, wool, skins and fibre. PPR control and eradication will moreover foster the economic empowerment of women in parts of the world where empowering women is game-changing.

In addition, sheep and goats are moveable assets that can be relocated in times of climatic stress or volatile security situations. Eradicating PPR will therefore sustainably improve the resilience of poor farmers and their communities, and enable them to better manage other shocks and threats, particularly in crises-prone and fragile environments, mitigating further migratory trends.

Considering of these solid arguments, PPR has been identified as the most technically achievable animal disease for global eradication. The OIE and the FAO are spearheading efforts to control and eradicate PPR in accordance with their respective mandates as well as the demands from their Member Countries.

In April 2015, the FAO-OIE international conference on PPR endorsed [a global strategy targeting the control and eradication of the disease](#). To ensure its success and longstanding positive impacts, the strategy covers three components: a technical step-

wise approach to control and eradicate the disease; strengthening of Veterinary Services to carry out the technical components of the eradication campaign; and, and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases together to expand the impact of the control efforts.

The FAO and OIE governing bodies have endorsed this strategy based on a broad international consensus, and have formed a joint global secretariat

to guide the eradication of PPR.

[An initial programme for 2017-2021](#) has been developed, which will control the disease and be a first step towards eradication – entitled “Global Eradication Programme for addressing PPR (PPR GEP)”. This effort is framed as a 15 year process running through to 2030, divided into three five year phases. The first five years of activities are important catalysts to support and target the control and eradica-

THE PPR GEP OBJECTIVES for the first five year phase are to:

Lay the foundation for and commence the eradication of PPR by reducing its prevalence in currently infected countries.

Strengthen national Veterinary Services and their systems as the key players in the successful implementation of the PPR GEP.

Develop capacity for non-infected countries to demonstrate the absence of PPR virus as a basis for official recognition of PPR free status by the OIE.

Where appropriate, support activities to reduce the prevalence of other priority small ruminant diseases.



tion achievements set forth in the global strategy, particularly in affected and at risk countries.

The PPR GEP approach comprises a multi-country, multi-stage process involving assessment, control, eradication and maintenance (of PPR virus freedom) stages. Regardless of the stage in which a country initially places itself, it will be supported to achieve the capacity it needs for the five key elements of PPR prevention and control: diagnostic system; surveillance system; prevention and control system; legal framework; and stakeholders' involvement.

The cost of this initial five-year programme is estimated at USD 996 million. The PPR GEP aims to work with partners at national, regional and global levels, to strengthen implementation models and to revitalize and further elaborate on the partnerships that drove the successful Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme. As of September 2016, there are 62 countries that have reported infection with PPR to the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and 14 countries have

been suspected of being infected or at risk: these countries are the major focus of the PPR GEP (Total of 76 countries).

Engagement of communities in the implementation of the PPR GEP will also result in professional and income generating opportunities in poor and rural areas, namely through training and capacity building of veterinary paraprofessionals and community animal health workers, including women and youth.

By improving the livelihoods and increasing the resilience of hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people, PPR eradication is a key contributor to sustainable development and peace building process, through better security in some of the most vulnerable and unstable regions worldwide. To this end and considering the international consensus and political support gained for the eradication of PPR, the technical feasibility of this endeavour as well as the high rates of return on investment that will span generations, it is clear that the PPR GEP can be a success.



TARGETING RUMINANT PESTS IN RURAL ETHIOPIA

Kidanie Dessalegn

TEAM LEADER, SELF HELP AFRICA LIVESTOCK MARKET DEVELOPMENT (LMD), DUBLIN



Yederawork De-far makes her way through the gap in the wooden fence, and comes face to face with her next target. It sounds like it could be sinister but it is far from it.

Yederawork's "targets" are the goats, cattle and other livestock that reside on this smallholder farm in the Malga district of southern Ethiopia's SNNR Province. They are about to be administered an albendazole injection, a medication to treat them for, and immunise them from, various pests to which livestock in Ethiopia are commonly a host.

Yederawork's job as an animal health assistant is to keep farm livestock healthy, productive and free from pests. And in rural, remote Ethiopia, keeping farm animals healthy and alive is vital – because of the nation's overall reliance on agriculture.

Indeed, livestock is critical to this sector, as live animals and their products account for 40 per cent of the agricultural economy, in the country that has the largest livestock population in Africa. Current estimates put the number of cattle in Ethiopia at over 43 million, sheep at 24 million, goats at 19 million and donkeys at 4.5million.

The fortunes of a high proportion of the Ethiopian economy effectively starts and ends, rises and falls, in line with the health of the agricultural sector. More than 70 per cent of low income families here are employed through agriculture, and it contributes up to 60 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation.

The Ethiopian Government knows this, and more than six years ago

created the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) as a catalyst to modernize and drive positive, transformational, and sustainable change of the sector.

For more than three decades, Self Help Africa has been working to improve agricultural productivity and performance to reduce poverty and increase food security in Ethiopia.

In my role with Self Help Africa, I am Team Leader for a five-year Livestock Market Development (LMD) project, backed by the US Government's Feed the Future initiative as part of its commitment to Ethiopia's agricultural growth. This scheme recognises the importance of livestock to the growth of agriculture, and the protection of animals against pests and disease is a critical part of its work.

We're implementing the program together with quite a few partners and stakeholders, but we're all pulling in the same direction – ending poverty, and enhancing growth and incomes in Ethiopia.

Last week, I joined Yederawork as she visited smallholder farmers in Manicho village, about an hour's drive from Hawassa, the regional capital on the shores of Lake Awasa in Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley. Manicho is one of seven villages covered by Yederawork in the local district.

A 38-year-old widow and mother-of-three who comes from the local area, Yederawork is one of more than 300 animal health assistants involved with the project – and importantly, she’s one of 80 women who fill the role of frontline veterinary health workers.

Gender is important here – a strong representation of women on our team is helping to address a long-standing challenge facing Ethiopia’s farming sector – the diminished role that women have traditionally played on farms.

Yederawork says that no farmers she works with have an issue dealing with a woman animal health assistant. Rather, they are grateful for the visit and the attention given to their livestock – it makes no difference to them whether their animals are being seen by a man or a woman.

Yederawork, who visits between 150-200 households every month, says she enjoys a positive relationship with the farm families with whom she works. “Farmers have a positive attitude towards me. They respect me and give me their support, and some even say that they are grateful, because I show up on their farms at the time that I say that I will!” she said.

Treating ruminant pests is part of her everyday routine, with both endo and exo parasites, particularly tick and flea infestations,

the most common problems.

Yederawork provides ivermectine injections for external parasites, or the aforementioned albendazole for internal ones. Sometimes, if the necessary equipment is available, extopore spray on barns will also be used in an attempt to eradicate external parasites.

The work she is doing is vital, as farmers in her locality have traditionally had little access to veterinary support at local level, and as a result, tick and pest-borne viruses and viral diseases have had a devastating impact on domestic livestock.

The level of care she and her colleagues can provide at village level has improved as a result of additional technical training they have received through the programme. They have also strengthened their skills, and can more easily identify diseases and diagnose appropriate treatments in a timely fashion.

“Through the programme, I also got the opportunity to visit and gain experience with private

drug stores and veterinary clinics in the town, where I learned about vet equipment and treatments that I wasn’t aware of before. This has helped me in my role,” Yederawork said.

As I joined Yederawork on her rounds, we agreed that part of the effectiveness of the programme was down to how it provided farmers with training so that they too can play a role in intervening and treating their animals for pests.

“There are biological resources available locally that can help, and indigenous pesticides that can help,” she said. “They are inexpensive and, while sometimes not as effective as conventional pharmaceuticals, they can help support farmers to tackle a problem in the first instance.”

It is this approach - incorporating both farmer and animal health professionals - that has Yederawork and I confident that the programme will continue to improve and maintain the long-term health of Ethiopia’s rural livestock population in the years ahead.

“ Self Help Africa’s LMD Project began in 2013, and is working with 5,000 beneficiary farming families in Ethiopia’s Great Rift Valley.

PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS GLOBAL ERADICATION:
**CONTRIBUTING TO
FOOD SECURITY,
POVERTY ALLEVIATION
AND RESILIENCE**

Bouna Diop

SECRETARY TO THE FAO/OIE PPR
GLOBAL SECRETARIAT, ROME



**Peste des petits ruminants
(PPR) or Sheep and goat plague**

PPR is a destructive, fast spreading, contagious viral disease of domestic and wild small ruminants. Since it was first identified in Côte d'Ivoire in 1942, PPR has spread to some 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goats are found in these regions, where many families rely heavily on products like goat milk, mutton and wool for their nutrition and livelihoods. FAO estimates some 300 million small-scale farming families worldwide depend on small ruminants for food and income. In September 2016, Mongolia – a 50 million small ruminants country – reported its first-ever case of PPR.

PPR affects livelihoods, food and nutritional security, women and youth employment. It increases poverty and malnutrition. Loss of livestock due to PPR causes pastoralists and rural farmers to migrate away

Small ruminants (sheep and goats) -2.1 billion heads worldwide - are the primary livestock of many low-income food-deficit households. They are reared within a variety of production systems where they add value to land, labour, and assets. They produce milk, meat, wool, fibre, skins, and support livelihoods of traders, processors, wholesalers, and retailers involved in local, national, regional and international trade of live animals, sheep and goat meat and goat milk. Sheep and goats are a source of regular income, a means to capitalize savings and a safety net to face hard times. Selling animals or their products provides resources required to access food, as well as educational and social services for their families. Sheep and goat milk and meat are of high nutritional value, particularly for children, as they provide high quality protein and essential micronutrients, critical for growth and cognitive development. Animal source food from sheep and goats is an essential part of the daily diet of many people and contributes to overcoming malnutrition. Sheep and goats are moveable assets that can be relocated in times of climatic stress or volatile security situations.

With the world population set to rise to over 9.7 billion by 2050, small ruminant production is expected to rise with growing demand for meat and milk, growth that is generating new opportunities for producers, processors, and sellers. With that comes stronger interest from governments and industry to make supply chains more reliable the movement of animals safer. However, the ability of livestock value chain actors to exploit these opportunities is limited due to numerous challenges, including prevalence of high impact animal diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants.

from their lands and cultures in search of alternative livelihoods. It also induces social and economic instability and conflict. The annual global losses due to PPR have been estimated at between USD1.4 billion to USD2.1 billion.

While the disease is highly lethal to small ruminants – killing up to 90 percent of infected animals – it is easily preventable with inexpensive vaccines that can be administered for as little as 25 cents and will protect the animal for its entire life. The virus also has a relatively short infectious phase and does not survive for long outside a host, making it an ideal candidate for a concerted eradication effort.

In a benefit-cost analysis of global PPR eradication, ratio is estimated at 33.8. Investing in PPR eradication will significantly contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and resilience improvement, in the world's most vulnerable pastoral and

rural communities.

On 3 June 2016, in Xi'An (China), G20 Agriculture Ministers adopted a declaration underlining that smallholder farmers' resilience and productivity are key for food security, nutrition, sustainable agricultural growth

and rural development worldwide, in an innovative and inclusive world economy.

The control and eventual eradication of the disease will contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, in parti-

cular the elimination of poverty (SDG1) and the end of hunger and malnutrition (SDG2). Both processes have the same target, the year 2030.

Global consensus

The 39th Session of the FAO Conference (2015), endorsed the establishment of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) with the vision

for global freedom by 2030 to be implemented by FAO and the OIE in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy, adopted during the PPR International conference held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (March - April 2015). With the same

spirit, the 84th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE delegates (May 2016), adopted a Resolution supporting Global Control and Eradication of PPR.

On 24 April 2016, the G7 Ministers for Agriculture adopted the Niigata Declaration stating: «We encourage OIE and FAO efforts to eradicate major diseases such as the PPR».





Replicating the success of the rinderpest strategy

It is not the first time FAO and OIE join forces to rid the world of a costly plague. The PPR initiative is modelled on the successful effort to eradicate rinderpest, a similar disease affecting cattle, buffalo and wildlife, with global declaration of freedom in 2011. It was the first time an animal disease had been eradicated worldwide.

The agencies' work on rinderpest not only showed that eradication of a major animal disease was possible and cost effective but also increased interest globally in how such efforts could be replicated to address other high impact diseases.

In early 2016, FAO and OIE established a Joint PPR Global Secretariat to design the PPR-GEP and coordinate its implementation. The programme was developed through a consultative process involving key stakeholders – technical specialists and regional or national beneficiaries.

PPR GEP Objectives

The PPR GEP effort is framed as a 15 year process running through 2030. The plan for the first five-year phase of that effort is now ready to be put into action and consists of a global strategy backed by nine regional road maps.

The initial portion of the campaign is focused on countries where PPR is known to exist or where its status has never been assessed. It will involve activities to raise awareness among farmers, build their capacity to prevent and contain the disease, strengthen national veterinary health services and systems for control of PPR and other diseases, and implement targeted vaccination campaigns.

But the plan goes beyond disease eradication alone– it also aims to improve national production models and help herders build the strongest, most resilient livelihoods with their animal resources.

What the PPR GEP will do

Programme Approach

The approach comprises a multi-stage, multi-country process involving assessment, control, eradication and maintenance of PPRV free stages. The four stages described in the PPR GCES correspond to a combination of decreasing levels of epidemiological risk and increasing levels of prevention and control.

Areas of Work

Promotion of enabling environment and reinforcement of veterinary capacities

Building an enabling environment for PPR GEP implemen-

tation requires a logical and structured framework, full support and involvement of farmers, the adaptation of the legal framework, and strengthening of VS. All these elements are brought together in this component.

Support to the diagnostic and surveillance systems

Support efforts to better understand the presence (or possibly the absence) of PPR in a country or region, its distribution among the different farming systems and, ultimately, its impact on the systems. This requires both an assessment of the epidemiological situation and establishment of a functional surveillance system. Regular coordination meetings and exchange of information between stakeholders from different countries will be facilitated through the regional networks.

Implement measures toward PPR eradication

Different measures will be combined namely vaccination (one single injection protects the animal all its life), improved biosecurity, animal identification, movement control, quarantine and stamping out. Depending on the assessment and surveillance data, the total number of animals to be vaccinated during the programme is estimated to 1.5 billion. Around 79 countries

historically free from PPR will be assisted to prepare their dossiers to apply for OIE PPR free status on a historical basis.

Coordination and Management

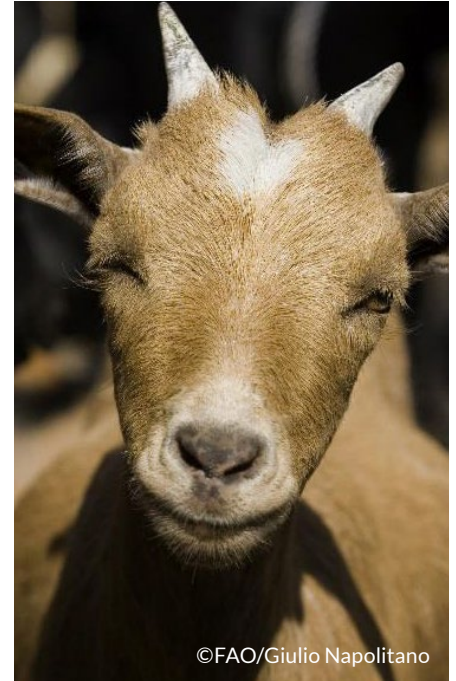
Together, FAO and OIE will coordinate the global efforts of governments, regional organizations, research institutions, funding partners and livestock owners through their Joint PPR Global Secretariat, based in Rome. Functional coordination mechanisms established at global regional and country levels will ensure successful implementation of the programme.

The estimated budget for the five year programme is: USD996.4 Million. A pledging conference to secure financial support for the first five-year plan is expected to be organized by end of 2017.

In collaboration with regional economic organisations, the PPR Secretariat organized the first round of roadmap meetings in the nine target regions in Africa, Middle East, and Asia. The meetings provided the opportunity to carry out a first assessment of countries' situation regarding PPR and to develop the PPR Roadmap for each region. A validated PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP) is expected to be develo-



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ped in each of the target countries by end of 2018.

By increasing livelihoods and resilience capacities of hundreds

of millions of the poorest people, PPR eradication is key for achieving their sustainable development and building a lasting peace. In this regard, the broad inter-

national consensus and political support, the high rates of return of investment in disease control and the FAO-OIE partnership, are strong guarantees of success.



STRATEGY FOR THE CONTROL OF SMALL RUMINANT PEST IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Romain Kyalire

ADVOCACY OFFICER, CONAPAC, KINSHASA



After more than 30 years, we notice a recrudescence of many animal ills formerly eradicated including the small ruminant pest, as well as the appearance of new pathologies.

The small ruminant pest is endemic in the old equatorial province and it is signaled every year in the old provinces of Bandundu, the Eastern Province, the 2 Kasai, Katanga, Maniema, with focuses in the provinces of Central Congo and the Kinshasa's suburbs.

Every year between 80,000 and 150,000 cases are signaled in those provinces, with a mortality rate reaching 86%. Goat-

ts and muttoms constitute the bank of the farmer to solve socio-economic problems together with dowry, traditional property royalties, children's education, medical care, festivities.

The factors that favor the spreading of the disease are:

- Deterioration of the general socio-economic situation of the country
- Lack of financing of veterinary services
- National boundaries' porosity
- Lack of regular organization of vaccination campaigns
- Lack of surveillance of animal ills
- Absence of a national program to control animal ills

In order to avoid the spread of the ill, there is an urgent need to avoid risky attitudes like:

- Moving animals from an infect to a healthy one
- Vending infect or suspect animals
- Mixing recently bought animals with the old ones

Preventive measures consist in:

- Signaling all the suspect cases to the veterinary service
- Controlling animals' movement and the organization of the animal quarantine
- Eliminating ill animals
- Systematizing vaccination campaigns
- Reinforcing epidemiologic surveillance

THE LYNCHPIN OF THE ERADICATION STRATEGY FOR RUMINANT PEST IS AN EFFECTIVE VACCINE

Carel du Marchie Sarvaas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEALTHFORANIMALS, BRUSSELS

When it comes to eradicating animal diseases globally, we have little precedent to guide us. Only once and only recently have we achieved such a feat, with the deadly cattle plague, rinderpest, officially wiped out in 2011.

But in that single victory, which has saved an estimated US\$111 million a year in 10 African countries alone, lay many important lessons in how to develop, implement and execute a global eradication strategy.

Among them were the crucial partnerships necessary between international agencies - such as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) - governments, veterinary scientists and extension services.

We also learned the essential role of community animal health workers, disease surveillance systems and frameworks such as the OIE's "free status recognition" for each country rid of the disease.

But the lynchpin of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) was the successful delivery of an effective vaccine for mass use.

This meant an inoculation not only capable of providing animals with immunity from the disease, but one that could be delivered in all and every circumstance – including some of the most challenging conditions.

In the case of rinderpest, that breakthrough came with the development of a "thermostable" vaccine that could survive in high temperatures, which meant it could be deployed in sub-tropical countries

such as Kenya without the need for a costly cold chain.

It was this scientific innovation that meant the vaccine could reach livestock in remote rural parts of the Horn of Africa – the last stronghold of the disease.

Thanks to these lessons, we are making strides towards eradicating peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Scientists at the International Livestock Research Institute have used similar techniques to develop a thermostable PPR vaccine that remains viable for up to a month without refrigeration.

This important development overcomes a major obstacle in the effort to eradicate PPR, which the FAO and OIE aim to achieve by 2030.

But, to be effective, the research must be to make the leap from laboratory to field use. Manufacturing facilities and reliable supply chains are necessary to generate the vaccination in quantities required for eradication. ILRI is partnering with private sector companies to scale up production and supply the eradication campaigns.

Moreover, scientists are also developing marker vaccines, which allow veterinarians to distinguish between infected and vaccinated animals. This is essential in the ongoing mo-

monitoring of a mass vaccination program.

With scientific viability comes commercial viability, and when it comes to PPR, the economic case is clear. By ending the blight of ruminant pest, which affects 30 million sheep, goats and other small livestock every year, global eradication would save farmers an estimated US\$76.5 billion. This is ten times the annual agricultural production of South Africa and is income that farmers can invest in their future.

So while a global strategy to eradicate PPR will require cross-border cooperation, creative delivery solutions and a robust strategic control and surveillance framework, the scientific foundations have already been laid.

With a feasible vaccine at hand, we now need clear and competent leadership to unite multiple organisations and agencies, governments and private sector donors to facilitate the delivery of these innovations. It is only

when partnerships have clear-eyed, long-term strategies that the private sector can plan vaccine production schedules, which can require over a year of preparation, to meet demand in critical regions.

The end of ruminant pest is squarely within our sights. The last mile in disease eradication may often be the hardest but the journey this far has given us everything we need to save millions of animals, and millions more livelihoods.

Why Does Animal Health Matter?

Animal health is an engine of growth for the world's most vulnerable communities

The health of animals is utterly crucial for the 1 billion people across the world who are entirely dependent on livestock to live.

Around 70% of income in the world's poorest countries comes from livestock production.

Feeding a growing population relies on healthy animals

Everyday, we ask livestock farmers to provide us with the milk, meat and eggs that are so essential to our health and wellbeing. This job can only become more difficult as our population grows.

The global population is expected to rise from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050 – it's like adding the entire population of Africa to our world twice over – and our food supply needs to keep up.

Human lives and livelihoods across the world are dependent on healthy animals

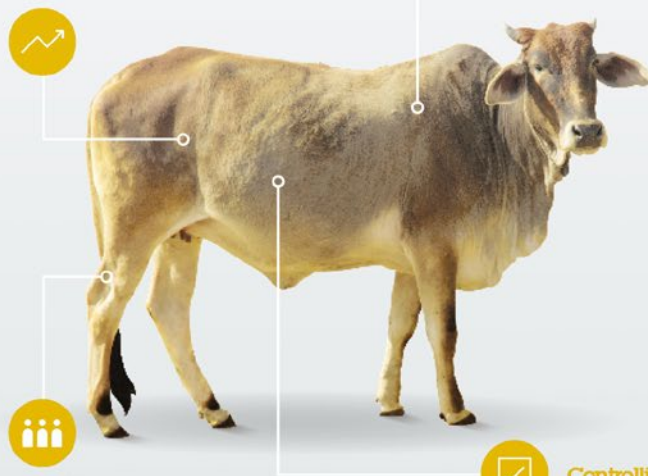
The impact of disease can be catastrophic, impacting animal welfare, food supply and trade.

Over 12 years at the start of the millennium, six international incidents of animal disease caused economic losses of \$US 60 billion – more than the entire gross domestic product of countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana and Uganda.

Controlling animal disease protects our health

Each year, zoonosis – diseases transmitted from animals to humans – sickens 1 in 3 people around the world. Keeping animals healthy controls zoonosis and safeguards our wellbeing.

60% of the infectious diseases we face in our lives originate in animals – only by safeguarding their health can we protect our own.



UGANDA JOINS REGIONAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT RUMINANT PESTS

Rose Akaki
SMALLHOLDER FARMER,
MEMBER OF UGANDA
NATIONAL FARMERS
FEDERATION, KAMPALA

Animal disease outbreaks in Uganda are a common occurrence for as long as farmers have been keeping large and small ruminants. These diseases include among others; East Coast Fever, trypanosomiasis, lumpy skin disease, foot and mouth disease.

In Western Uganda, rearing cattle in large numbers is a norm and a sense of pride. This practice is however being threatened by a new type of drug resistant ticks which are a vector of the deadly east coast fever. For close to a year now, cattle owners have lost between 18-20 heads of cattle in a month due to this disease. Figures from the Kiruhura district, one of the districts in this region show that the farmers in the district have lost over 3,000 heads of cattle in the six months!

When the first outbreak of ticks was announced in 2012, farmers resorted to using several drugs at the same time to protect their animals and reduce on the enormous number of deaths. Little did they know that this would have negative effects because they made the ticks more resistant to drugs.

The veterinary officers however cited several farm practices that caused the resistance:

- Use of several drugs at the same time;
- Fake drugs circulating in the markets
- Use of local concoctions by the farmers. Due to the increasing deaths, most farmers resorted to more desperate measures to save their animals. They made a concoction of drugs. They argued that the concoctions reduced on the number of deaths in their farms. The veterinary officers however cautioned against the concoctions; arguing that they may have long term effects which may be passed on to humans through meat and dairy products.
- Irregular spraying/no spraying of animals;
- Treating an outbreak instead of prevention of an outbreak through vaccination;
- Use of amateurs instead of involving veterinary experts.





In a bid to combat and control the disease outbreak in animals, the government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture issued the following measures for farmers to follow:

- Abide by the quarantine placed in areas where there are outbreaks in order to confine the sick animals and treat them
 - Keep animals vaccinated and sprayed according to schedules of the vaccines/acarisides. For instance, the experts advised that cattle should be vaccinated against foot and mouth disease twice a year because the vaccine lasts for six months only. On the contrary, farmers wait until there is an outbreak then they struggle to treat. Secondly, some farmers do no spray regularly while others do not spray at all. Others spray cattle only and leave out the goats. Because most farmers have communal grazing grounds, the efforts of those who spray are always in vain as they still carry the ticks from the grazing grounds.
 - Treat signs with recommended antibiotics not concoctions.
- The veterinary experts observed that farmers would call them to recommend the treatment to give instead of inviting them to the farm to see for themselves what the animals are suffering from before treating.
- Observe appropriate animal movements;
 - Seek veterinary advice when purchasing animals from open markets

GLOBAL STRATEGY TO FIGHT GLOBAL RUMINANT PEST WHERE THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED ARE?

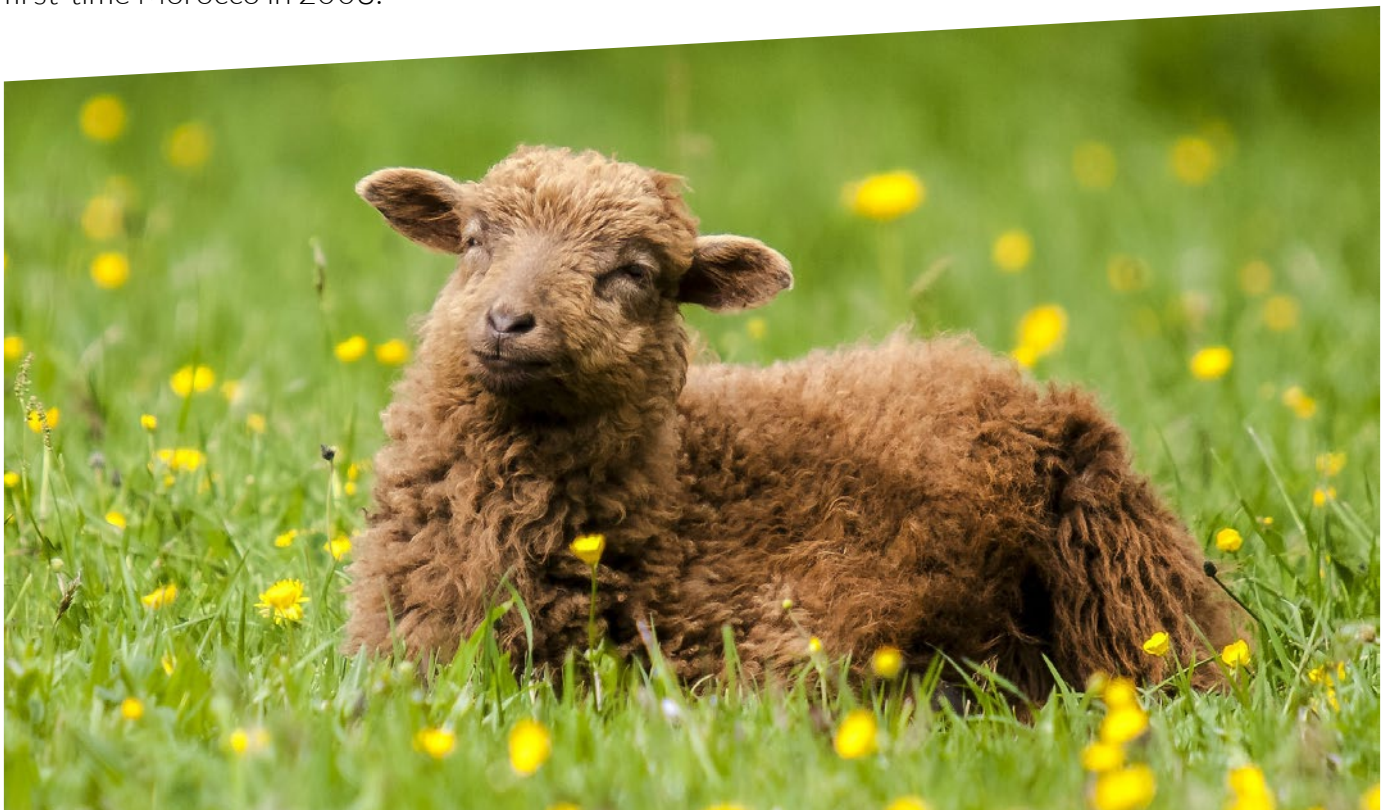
Virginia Cravero

YPARD ITALY REPRESENTATIVE,
ROME

One of the most damaging livestock diseases is commonly known as Peste des petits ruminants or Pest of little ruminants. It also described as “goat plague” since goat and sheep are the usual targets. Yet, the disease has been reported also in cattle and several wild ruminants.

PPR is a viral disease caused by a morbillivirus in the family of paramyxoviruses associated to rinderpest, measles and canine distemper. It was first reported in the Ivory Coast in 1942, where it was called Kata (Pidgin for Catarrh). The virus then spreads across Africa through the Arabian Peninsula, the Middle East, south-west Asia and India. China first reported it in 2007 reaching for the first-time Morocco in 2008.

Since the contact between animals is inevitable, the disease spreads straightforwardly. Indeed, the virus secreted in tears, nasal discharge, secretions from coughing and in the faeces, easily reaches the whole livestock that inhales fine droplets coming from coughs and sneezes of affected animals. Although the virus does not survive for a long time outside the body of a host animal, secretion can also contaminate water, feed troughs and bedding becoming an additional source of infection. Once introduced, the virus can infect up to 90 % of an animal head, and the disease kills from 30 to 70 % of infected animals. Yet, the PPR virus does not infect humans. Due to its importance, countries are obliged to report the disease to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) being listed in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.





The Food Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has long supported governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society, the private sector, research institutions and academia to improve capacities in livestock management, from disease preparedness to animal husbandry, sustainable production and animal welfare. During the International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in 2015, FAO and OIE decided to address current challenges and solidify strategies for containment and eradication activities by launching a global campaign to eradicate PPR by 2030. The campaign called Global Control and Eradication Strategy aimed to guide and manage the global efforts of governments, regional organisations, research institutions, funding partners and livestock owners to rid the world of this destructive animal disease. For that, both organisations established a Joint PPR Global Secretariat to coordinate the preparation, overall management and implementation of the PPR GCEP.

Fortunately, the PPR virus is vulnerable to most disinfectants. To prevent it standard disease control measures consisting of quarantine, movement control, sanitary slaughter, and cleaning and disinfection are applied. No medications are available, but where the disease is well established, it is possible to use a vaccine providing good immunity. In a first attempt, the vaccine derived from a live, less virulent version of the rinderpest virus, due to the close association with PPR virus. Although it's incisiveness, this solution has been discarded due to the continuous efforts to remove rinderpest worldwide.

In 2011, rinderpest has been successfully eradicated thanks to nuclear techniques that are nowadays considered as the most effective solution for the elimination of the major small ruminant disease. Though the diseases are different, their shared characteristics and behaviour allowing to considerate these techniques as a very effective starting point for the Global Strategy. The latter, thus, adopted key components of the rinderpest programme to addressing PPR, including the nuclear-related diagnostic and monitoring techniques, the technical and scientific laboratory networks and services for monitoring and diagnosing animal diseases and for developing control tools, as well as national, regional and international coordination mechanisms.

Together with the vaccine, early and rapid diagnosis of PPR is essential to eradicate the disease. For that, a crucial component of the Strategy called "VETLAB" network of animal health laboratories is the technical support and reference laboratory of choice that, together with the world PPR reference laboratories, offers a valid way to cope promptly with the virus. So far, the laboratories have already established a new cell line to proliferate and characterise the PPR virus and diagnostic tests related to PPR are now being used commercially.

In the countries where the disease spread the most, sheep and goat are considerate one of the major livestock species for young and non-young farmers: They are reared as sources of milk and meat for family consumption, but they also represent a source of income that could be easily mobilized for paying some of the household expenditures, particularly in lean times. In addition to this important economic role, sheep and goats are significant in socio-cultural activities such as funerals, dowries, festivities and holidays.

Since the lessons learned from the positive global eradication of rinderpest, the eradication of PPR seems appealing, both eliminating an important disease and improving the livelihoods of the poor in developing countries.

With the generous help from Coldiretti, who helped organize the visits, the WFO took Ms. Al Siyabi and her Italian friend Ms. Graziella, to learn more about beekeeping. Our first stop was with beekeeper Mr. Alberto Angelini, (farmer and member of Coldiretti) who showed us his beehives and told us how he started producing honey as a hobby with her wife with only three beehives, today he owns more than fifty, which he builds from scratch. He explained the entire process, from him building the beehives, to feeding the bees, to removing the honey, and selling the already packed honey at local markets. He even let us try the honey straight from the beehive, which was delightful, especially since the honey was made from eucalyptus trees, making the flavor richer and the smell stronger. Ms. Al Siyabi took the advantage to ask as many questions as she could, with the purpose of learning about the beekeeping practice in Italy so that she could take this knowledge back to Oman. By doing so Ms. Al Siyabi will promote a successful exchange of information and best practices between two very different countries and cultures. She learned how rainfall and seasons affect the selection of the honey production, with a shortage of rainfall, beekeepers opt for honey derived from trees, making her realize that therefore the honey production she is trying to develop in Oman will be probably derived from trees, since Oman is a country with an average annual rainfall of 80-100 mm[1].

The beekeeper Mr. Angelini offered her to get a closer look at the bees in the beehive which she enthusiastically agreed. After getting enough information and clearing out any doubts she had about honey production, we thanked the generous beekeeper Mr. Angelini and left for our next stop, an agritourism.

We continued our visit to a nearby agritourism called “Agriturismo Casale del Catellaccio”, a beautiful organic zootechnical farm that has been going for five family generations and extends over 200 hectares in the area of Fuimicino, in the outskirts of Rome. In the agritourism, Mr. Claudio Lauteri, one of the family owners (member of Coldiretti) showed us around and explained about their meat production, mainly the requirements and procedures the government sets to maintain the standards of an organic farm. The animals were clean, had spacious areas to be in, and more importantly, were highly nourished. After seeing around the zootechnical farm, the Lauteri family invited us for a pleasant lunch, and the best part being that everything was organic and locally produced.

After visiting the beekeeper and learning about honey production, and later visiting the agritourism and understanding the practices of a zootechnical organic farm, we can successfully say our visitor received enough information to take back home. We hope Ms. Al Siyabi makes good use of the knowledge learned in Italy and we wish her the best of luck in her endeavors to create an NGO based in apiculture. The World Farmers’ Organisation is pleased to keep on promoting exchanges on best practices, knowledge, visions and experiences in order to promote a richer and more knowledgeable community and promote awareness for more fruitful agricultural exchanges.



Credit:
World Farmers's Organisation

Young Farmers as a Priority, the World Forum 2018

WFO has received in its headquarter in Rome the visit of H.R.H. Princess Viktória de Bourbon de Parme and H.E. Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Netherlands.

The meeting was aimed in analyse the crucial role of young famers in future of Agriculture and of the Planet: food security, climate change, generation renewal, access to education, access to land, access to credit were some of the items that have animated the discussion.

Moreover, the need to make agriculture more attractive for young people and how to incentivize young farmers' start up were discussed.

The exchange was aimed at discussing the preparatory works of the world Forum on youth and agriculture taking place in the second half of 2018.

Keep calm and support young farmers!

EVENTS



Credit: UN

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

18th June

For the first time, the UN General Assembly dedicated a day to Sustainable Gastronomy Day. The decision remarks the importance of gastronomy, also emphasizing the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play.



Credit: UNHCR.org

World Refugee Day

18th June

For the first time, the UN General Assembly dedicated a day to Sustainable Gastronomy Day. The decision remarks the importance of gastronomy, also emphasizing the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play.



Credit: :
International
Co-operative Alliance

International Day of Cooperatives

1st July

Co-operatives around the world celebrate the day and each year the organising institutions agree on a theme for the celebrations. 2017 theme was "co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind".



Credit: : bsas.org

The 11th European Conference on Precision Agriculture (ECPA)

16th to 20th July

This year's theme was "Innovating through Research". The conference featured a strong academic programme combined with practical input from industry and commercial representatives to discuss a wide range of precision agriculture topics.



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