7th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
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Recommendation No. 1: Emergency preparedness: formulation and implementation of animal health contingency plans in the Middle East

Recommendation No. 2: Transmissible encephalopathies of animals with reference to public health and trade in the Middle East

Recommendation No. 3: The global rinderpest eradication programme
Recommendation No. 1

**Emergency preparedness: formulation and implementation of animal health contingency plans in the Middle East**

**CONSIDERING THAT**

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and other priority diseases are of significant economic, social and food security importance,

TADs and other priority diseases can spread very rapidly and their control requires advance planning,

Their eradication can be extremely difficult and costly,

Animal disease emergency preparedness and particularly contingency planning should be regarded as an essential tool for the control of emergency diseases,

Due to its geographical location, the Middle East is under continuous risk of high priority animal diseases from neighbouring regions,

**THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST RECOMMENDS THAT**

1. Each Member Country in the Regional Commission for the Middle East prepare its contingency plans according to the real situation and capabilities and renew them upon the results of specific risk analysis.

2. The OIE, mainly through the Regional Representation for the Middle East and in cooperation with the FAO and other relevant international and regional organisations, develop training courses for designing contingency plans, provide technical support and coordination to Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in this field of activities.

3. Contingency plan models be discussed, in particular by the Regional Emergency Veterinary Committee (REVC), and disseminated for consideration to Member Countries.

4. Member Countries update their legislations to facilitate the execution of contingency plans and cooperate with other interested authorities in the country.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003)
Recommendation No. 2

Transmissible encephalopathies of animals with reference to public health and trade in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) of animals are an international issue of concern due to their public and animal health importance,

Bovines, bovine products and by-products potentially carrying the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) agent have been traded world-wide, giving this risk a global dimension,

BSE has caused panic amongst the consumers and severe disruption of international trade in animals and animal products,

The original source and movement of animals and animal products, including meat and bone meal (MBM), can be masked by international trading patterns, which often include the processing and re-exportation of products,

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) encourage all countries to evaluate their potential exposure to TSEs through systematic assessment of trade data and possible other risk factors to protect public health and prevent further national and international dissemination of infection amongst susceptible species,

The OIE has developed standards and guidelines to help Member Countries to assess and evaluate the BSE status of countries and zones, and to avoid introduction of infected sources through international trade.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Additional resources be made available to the Veterinary Services of Member Countries to assess in depth their potential exposure to BSE risk according to the OIE standards and guidelines.

2. Member Countries consolidate their efforts to develop a regional programme for the surveillance and control of TSEs.

3. The proposed regional programme include the following items:
   a) The establishment of a Reference Laboratory for the diagnosis of BSE and other TSEs.
   b) Training of national veterinary laboratory personnel of Member Countries on the diagnostic techniques of TSEs and detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs.
   c) Training of veterinarians from Member Countries in conducting risk analysis, assessment and management.
   d) Formulation and implementation of a Regional Surveillance Plan and preparation of contingency plans for Member Countries to deal with any BSE risk problem that may arise.
   e) Developing more effective education programmes on TSEs for veterinarians, and paraprofessionals.
   f) Supporting regional research related to TSEs and BSE in particular.
   g) Establishment of a regional network for TSEs data and importation records.
   h) Development of a harmonised veterinary certificate for regional exchanges of relevant animals and animal products in compliance with international guidelines.
4. Member Countries effectively work for the establishment of a ‘Regionally-orientated Animal Identification System’ that is appropriate to the specific husbandry systems common in the region and economically feasible.

5. Regional consensus be reached on dealing with the rendering industry, mainly for labelling requirements and monitoring their use for non-ruminant animals.

6. Member Countries promote intersectoral collaboration between veterinary authorities and public health services. This collaboration will include the strict application of BSE control measures for food safety.

7. The OIE convince the international community, the relevant international organisations and donors to take the necessary steps to strengthen research programmes in clarifying and resolving issues associated with BSE, in particular the nature of the causative agent, the way and mechanism of transmission and the pathological effect in animals.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003)
Recommendation No. 3

The global rinderpest eradication programme

CONSIDERING THAT

Until recently, rinderpest seriously affected the lives of livestock farmers in the region and its legacy continues to disrupt trade in animals,

Very significant progress has been made in eradication of rinderpest through the concerted efforts of Member Countries,

Despite almost certainly being free from rinderpest many countries of the region have not entered on the OIE pathway by which accreditation of rinderpest freedom will be achieved,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries renew their commitment to the global eradication of rinderpest by the year 2010.

2. Each country enter into, and follow the OIE Pathway to achieve accreditation of rinderpest freedom as quickly as possible.

3. Member Countries view the persistence of a residual focus of rinderpest in Africa as a matter of grave concern and seize every opportunity to press for its final eradication.

4. The OIE in relation with FAO/GREP consider the review of the Animal Health Code Chapter for rinderpest to ensure that its conditions fully take into account the special case of mild rinderpest as currently experienced.

( Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003)