



**Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Program for the Progressive Control of  
Animal Transboundary Diseases  
(GF-TADs)  
American Continent**

**Panamá, July 1st 2011**

**INTRODUCTION**

- In April 2005, the FAO and the OIE launched the GF-TADs for the Americas, which was made up by the PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), PANAFTOSA, OIRSA (Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health), CAN (Andean Community of Nations), CARICOM (Caribbean Community), CaribVET (Caribbean Animal Health Network), CVP (Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone), IICA, NAAHC (North American Animal Health Committee), COMEXA (Mexican American Commission for the Eradication of the Screw Worm, ALA (Avian Latin American Association) and the FARM (Federation of Rural Associations of the Mercosur)
- The main goal of the GF-TADs is to provide assistance, at a continental and regional level, in the coordination of actions against animal transboundary diseases which are defined as a priority in the American Continent, i.e.: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Screw Worm, Highly Pathogen Avian Influenza (HPAI), Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and Rabies, and pursuant to the development of the global and regional sanitary situation, specific actions will be added in the field of emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- The GF-TADs is not a mechanism of implementation, but a mechanism for the coordination of actions among International Global and Regional Organizations. Furthermore, it is aimed at stimulating the synergies and the rapprochement for the coordination of actions in the field of relevant transboundary diseases with the purpose of avoiding any overlapping, duplication or contradiction in the policies and sanitary actions within the region.
- Since its creation, the GF-TADs for the Americas has promoted and contributed with an important coordination and joint work task.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is a significant member of the GF-TADs and together with the FAO and the OIE, it takes part in the development and implementation of the concept “One Health”.
- In the Americas, the animal food production is of great importance in the social economical arena, and it plays an important role in food security of the countries of the region and in the world food market.



- Within the framework of the GF-TADs, the OIE and the FAO have developed a set of tools and platforms such as GLEWS, OFFLU, CMC-AH which provide support for the prevention, animal diseases progressive control and assistance in the event of sanitary emergencies at global regional and local level.

During the meeting, Dr. Hugo Idoyaga, Vice President of the Executive Board of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, was appointed President, and Dr. Igor Romero Sosa, Representative of the NAAHC (North American Animal Health Committee) and Dr. Ottorino Cosivi, Director of the PAHO-PANAFTOSA were both appointed Vice Presidents.

#### **WHEREAS:**

- Public health, animal health, and food safety are considered Global Public Goods and are of great importance for the economy of the countries, the food security of the communities and general public welfare,
- The Americas count with International Regional Organizations, and Public and Private Organizations that work with the Veterinary Services in the several links of the animal food production chain.
- For the purpose of improving the prevention, control and eradication of transboundary diseases at a global and regional level, the isolated efforts of each country need further coordination and synergies.
- Interaction and coordination among global, regional and sub regional organizations, private organizations and Veterinary Authorities of the Region is of paramount importance to achieve the goals of the GF -TADs.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED:**

- That the Regional Steering Committee of the Program for the Progressive Control of Animal Transboundary Diseases (GF-TADs) in the American Continent continues acting as a mechanism of coordination and consultation tool in sanitary priorities and regional programs.
- That Public and Private Global and Regional International Organizations such as: FAO, OIE, IICA, PAHO/PANAFTOSA, OIRSA, CaribVET, CIRAD, CAN, CVP, COMEXA, COPEG, ALA, FARM, OIPORC, Inter American Development Bank, and the World Bank, continue working jointly within the GF-TADs framework, according to its goals and specific missions.
- That that the members of the GF-TADs foster the evaluation of the performance of the national veterinary services using the OIE's PVS, Gap Analysis, and Legislation Missions tools and the organizations which are part of GF-TADs



support the implementation of the strengthening activities recommended by the OIE.

- That the members of the GF-TADs promote in Venezuela and Ecuador the OIE's mechanisms for validation of programs for the control and eradication of FMD.
- That the members of the GF-TADs continue supporting a sub regional program for the strengthening of the Veterinary Services of the Andean Region for FMD with funds of Spain and Italy coordinated by the FAO.
- That the OIE Reference Laboratories for Foot and Mouth Disease: PAHO-PANAFTOSA in Brazil and SENASA Argentina, work in coordination following the OIE's Mandate supporting the countries of the Region.
- That the members of the GF-TADs continue supporting the Action Plan 2011-2020 of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease-PHEFA approved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of FMD (COHEFA) in December 14-15<sup>th</sup> 2010, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The members of the GF-TADs to follow the recommendations of the OIE-FAO Global Conference on FMD held in Asuncion, Paraguay (June 2009) and work together in the outline of a master plan and roadmap for the prevention, progressive control and eradication of FMD in the American Continent. Furthermore, to foster the PHEFA within the framework of the OIE's Global Plan for the Control and Eradication of FMD.
- That the OIE and FAO, in collaboration with other GF TADs' members, study the possibility of holding, during 2012, a high level regional forum so as to show the impact of priority transboundary diseases on the economies, the markets and food security, with the purpose of fostering higher levels of public and private investment in the veterinary authorities.
- That the OIE and FAO, in coordination with the GF-TADs' members, continue leading and promoting the cost/benefit works and other social economic aspects of animal health.
- That the OIE and FAO, in coordination with the GF-TADs' members, continue leading the project of the Laboratories Network of the Veterinary Services of the Americas.



- To request the OIE Collaborating Center for the Training of the Veterinary Services of Argentina-CEBASEV to carry out an inventory on the training material on priority transboundary diseases in stock and on the logistic platform available for the virtual training in the Americas.
- The members of the GF-TADs contribute with their ideas on the concept “One Health” taking into consideration the tripartite document issued by the FAO/OIE/WHO.
- To request the members of the GF-TADs to submit the list of activities programmed for the 2012/2013 period for its latter publication in the OIE’s and the members of the GF-TADs’ web site; the information provided will include date, venue and description of the event and contact information; this will aim at achieving an inter institutional schedule and avoiding duplications.
- That the International Organizations acting within the sphere of Central America continue holding their coordination meetings under the structure of the GF TADs for the Americas.
- The members of the GF – TADs to hold a specific meeting aimed at improving the whole procedures for the shipment of biologic samples in the countries of the American Continent. Said event should be organized by the OIE.
- The members of the GF – TADs will manage to speed up the submission of commnets from the countries on the FAO’s Roadmap for the eradication of the Screw Worm in the endemic areas of the American Continent.
- It is suggested that COMEXA and COPEG should submit a joint request to become an OIE Collaborating Centre in Screw Worm.
- To schedule a meeting with the organizations that make up the GF – TADs, as soon as possible, with the purpose of laying down a strategy to improve the steps forwards in the progressive control of the classical swine fever in the countries of the Caribbean. The event will be coordinated by the FAO and OIPORC.
- To promote the participation of the regional academic and union sectors (Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences- PANVET) by inviting them to take part in the GF TADs of the Americas.

### **List of Acronyms**

ALA: Avian Latin American Association

APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



IDB: Inter American Development Bank

WB: World Bank

CAN: Andean Community of Nations

CARICOM: Caribbean Community Secretariat

CARIVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

CIRAD: Agricultural research for Development

COMEXA: Mexican American Commission for the Eradication of the Screw Worm

COPEG: Commission for the eradication and Prevention of the screw Worm

COTASA: Animal Health Trans-Andean Committee

IICA: Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases.

NAAHC: North American Animal Health Committee.

OIE: World Organization for Animal Health

OIPORC: Latin American Organization of Pig Farmers.

OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health

PAHO-PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization.

PVS: OIE Tool for the Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture.

WAHIS: OIE's World Animal Health Information System.