
12th MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (COHEFA 12)

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Global Initiative of OIE /FAO for the FMD Control

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Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is one the most feared of the contagious animal diseases. It impacts negatively on the livelihood of millions of farmers throughout the World, affects food security and disturbs the international trade of animals and products. Although the disease represents a global threat, its impacts are even more severe in developing countries.

The first OIE/FAO Global FMD Conference (2009), in Asunción, Paraguay, recommended that OIE and FAO prepare a Global FMD control strategy (GS), under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), in consultation with stakeholders from both the public and the private sector. The strategy acknowledges and aims to incorporate experiences from existing Regional Organisations or other coordination mechanisms. Although being largely directed to FMD non-free regions, the GS also benefits free countries by reducing the overall risk of reintroduction of FMD and maintaining efficient veterinary services and field surveillance.

The GS included three inter-related objectives over a 15-year period: i) Improving global FMD control; ii) Strengthening Veterinary Services; iii) Improving the control of other major livestock diseases.

The major tools of the GS to guide and assess national, regional and global progress are the “OIE Performance of the Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway”, the “OIE international standards” and the “FMD-Progressive Control Pathway” (PCP) when relevant. By ensuring good veterinary governance, the control of other major livestock diseases will be improved according to national or regional priorities.

The GS faces the challenge of a lack of long-term commitment and funding of political decision-makers, development partners and public-private partnerships. The importance of its overall goal, however, should be adequately convincing to bring these stakeholders together to strive towards a common objective which represents a global public goods.
