

## **Regional Workshop on PPR control in the Maghreb**

**Rabat, Morocco, 13-14 November 2008**

### **CONCLUSIONS: ACTION PLAN**

Following the outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), diagnosed for the first time in Morocco in July 2008, CIRAD, FAO and OIE, with the financial support of the French Ministry of the Foreign and European affairs, organised on 13 and 14 November 2008 at Rabat, Morocco, a regional workshop on the control of this disease in the Maghreb. The participants appreciated the great mobilization and the effectiveness of the Moroccan veterinary services which, in order to control the PPR epizootic in their country, succeeded in vaccinating in two months 70% of the small ruminants population, by bringing back the weekly number of outbreaks from 23 to 1 to 3.

In conclusion, the participants expressed the need for continuing effort on PPR eradication in Morocco in order to protect livestock, to preserve the interests of Moroccan stockbreeders and national economy, and to prevent the PPR extension to other countries of the area. For this purpose, they proposed the following action plan:

- **For FAO:**
  - Finalisation of the PPR TCP “Emergency support for the control of PPR in Morocco” before mid-December 2008,
  - In December 2008 - January 2009, elaboration and preparation of the request for a regional PPR TCP project for Maghreb countries: “Monitoring and prevention of the risk of PPR introduction and/or extension in the area of the Maghreb”,
  - Organisation of the network of the Maghreb veterinary laboratories in collaboration with CIRAD.
  
- **For Morocco**
  - To finalise vaccination of all the ovine/caprine livestock before the end of December 2008,
  - To renew the mass vaccination campaign against PPR during the year 2009.
  - From January 2009, to initiate evaluation studies of the immunizing cover of small ruminants of the country with respect to PPR; to continue and reinforce PPR passive surveillance, and carry out PPR active surveillance in the country.
  
- **For the other Maghreb countries**
  - To carry out an information campaign for veterinarians and stockbreeders on PPR, for a better adhesion to policies of sanitary crisis management (slaughter followed by compensation, limitation or stop of animal movements, etc.).
  - To nominate a laboratory responsible for PPR diagnosis in the country and train its staff accordingly,
  - To carry out passive and active epidemiological investigations allowing to check the absence of PPR,

- To ensure a fast and reliable flow of sanitary information issued from veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories of the country concerned, in order to allow their validation by the OIE national Delegate and the immediate notification to OIE of possible PPR outbreaks, even before the diagnostic confirmation by an OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory.
- **For CIRAD, FAO/OIE reference laboratory for PPR**
  - To assist Maghreb countries in the elaboration and implementation of their plans of PPR epidemiological surveillance,
  - To assist Maghreb countries in PPR diagnosis (staff training, councils, etc.),
  - In collaboration with FAO, to organize interlaboratory trials of PPR diagnostic tests, of which the first should be carried out before end of September 2009,
  - To lead a risk analysis of PPR extension to Maghreb and Europe in collaboration with the veterinary services of the concerned countries.
- **For OIE and the EPIREG Project of the French Ministry of Foreign and European affairs**
  - In collaboration with FAO and CIRAD, to organise if possible another workshop at the end of 2009 to make a progress report on PPR situation and control (and on emergent transboundary animal diseases in Maghreb),
  - To give support for the implementation of North-South twinning between the OIE reference laboratory of CIRAD and the Biopharma laboratory.