

Recommendation No. 1

How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Farm biosecurity represents a suitable measure for public–private partnerships (PPP) given its potentially valuable contribution to the prevention and control of all diseases of livestock, with private sector benefits at both the individual and commercial farming level, as well as public sector benefits at the wider community, national and international levels;
2. Despite this potential, research indicates that in most rural sectors, livestock farmers generally have a poor understanding of biosecurity, the exception being some intensive commercial operations (mainly pigs, poultry and ruminant feed lots);
3. The implementation of biosecurity interventions suitable for livestock smallholders through to village-level practices, commercial operations, and via national or international programmes, is a complex process of education and behaviour change aimed at empowering people to make better personal and collective decisions that mitigate disease risks;
4. Biosecurity interventions need alignment with the motivations of all involved in the supply chain of livestock production, preferably offering clear short-term risk management benefits that elicit interest, investment and application;
5. As the practices of the commercial sector demonstrate, and public–private partnerships offer, the linking of biosecurity and disease control with improved livestock productivity and financial outcomes is important as it provides opportunities for sustainable improvements in livelihoods and economic development and more effective control and eradication strategies for foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other diseases;
6. Comprehensive farm biosecurity comprises a package of preventive measures and vaccination should not be a disincentive to engage in other necessary elements such as farm hygiene, quarantine, or feed and water safety given the general protection these measures provide;
7. Based on the response to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region for preparing this Technical Item, the use of systemic antibiotics for FMD cases appears common in the region and such practice is not recommended for viral diseases, unless there is evidence of secondary bacterial infection;
8. Based on the response to the questionnaire, livestock trader engagement is considered challenging, but an important area of work for achieving effective biosecurity in most Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
9. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the role of government in livestock farm biosecurity is variable in Member Countries of the Asia, the Far East, and Oceania region, presumably reflecting the variations in legislation, availability of resources, including field Veterinary Services, and priorities of livestock farming to the economies and social fabric of individual countries;

10. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the role of the private sector in livestock biosecurity is stronger in the developed Member Countries of the region and those with large intensive pig and/or poultry industries;
11. Based on the response to the questionnaire, public-private partnerships for on-farm biosecurity were reported by the majority of the Member Countries in the region; and
12. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the majority of the Member Countries in the region indicated they were satisfied with the current OIE involvement in on-farm biosecurity, but would be open to more support from the OIE.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Country Veterinary Authorities, in collaboration with interested parties including from the private sector, explore the further development of systems/activities/programmes/training aimed at aligning farm biosecurity interventions with the motivations of all involved in the supply chain of livestock production, preferably offering clear and simple risk management measures that offer immediate and sustained benefits and protect and increase productivity and improve livelihoods;
2. Member Country Veterinary Authorities develop promotional messages on such biosecurity measures that could include, among others: improved hygiene, routine quarantine of new introductions, isolation of sick animals, identifying and applying options for managing the high risks of communal grazing and sale of non-vaccinated animals, managing the risks of feeding uncooked food scraps to pigs, promoting the importance of keeping accurate records of animal health events, and ensuring wild birds do not have access to water or feed used for commercial poultry;
3. Member Country Veterinary Authorities discourage the use of systemic antibiotics for FMD cases since it is ineffective, and due to the concerns of emergence of antimicrobial resistance;
4. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Centre on biosecurity, with a focus on farm biosecurity, which could provide and coordinate capacity-building activities on biosecurity to Member Countries;
5. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities assess and share lessons learned and best practices on farm biosecurity, including the use of public-private partnership mechanisms, and including activities targeting aquatic animals and apiculture;
6. The OIE include references to farm biosecurity in the development of the competencies and model core curriculum for veterinary para-professionals;
7. The OIE develop further guidance on biosecurity at the farm level aligned with the relevant sections of both *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*, including for apiculture, and consider the development of templates for farm biosecurity planning in collaboration with relevant partners such as FAO; and
8. The OIE identify relevant experts that could be made available to Member Countries to work on developing resources and training capacity for farm biosecurity, such as through a train-the-trainer mechanism.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 24 November 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)