FAO and OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)
Abidjan 31 March- 2 April 2015

PRESENTATION

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Director
Agriculture and Rural Development
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
South Asian Association for Regional Corporation (SAARC)

• Eight Member States
  ▪ Afghanistan
  ▪ Bangladesh
  ▪ Bhutan
  ▪ India
  ▪ Maldives
  ▪ Nepal
  ▪ Pakistan
  ▪ Sri Lanka
# Goat and Sheep population in South Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Bhutan</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goat Sheep</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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Goat and Sheep population in South Asia (millions)
Livestock scenario of South Asia at a glance

- Livestock accounts for 30% of South Asia’s agricultural GDP.
- Over 60% of livestock is owned by the smallholder farmers of the region.
- A vast proportion of the rural people depend on livestock for their everyday protein intake, micro-nutrients and their very livelihood.
SAARC priority TADs

- SAARC severely burdened by a number of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs), both of critical economic importance and of great public health concern.
- TADs are collectively responsible for jeopardising food security, trade and market opportunities in South Asia
  - Economic importance FMD, PPR
  - Public health concern HPAI and Rabies
- Cross cutting issues common to all TADs control
  - Strengthening of surveillance, diagnosis, reporting and preparedness for an early response to new outbreaks
- Prevention and control TADs and emerging diseases at their source should be mandatory
- These diseases also have the greatest negative impact on the livelihoods of the smallholder livestock farmers
Major SAARC activities

• Agriculture was always a priority. However, since its inception in 1985 the sectoral cooperation was predominantly confined within the crop sector.

• The region suffered an avian influenza outbreak in 2005. Though there is no officially confirmed estimate of the total loss across the region, most conservatively it was not less than US$ 2 billion.

• Following the havoc, SAARC has initiated some non-crop cooperation activities-
  - A Livestock specialist has been appointed in the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka;
  - SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers Forum has been established;
  - Seven Priority Food Security project proposals have been developed based on the SAARC Food Security Strategy and Programmes. Minimum three out of seven projects are related to TADs;
  - Laboratory Director's Forum has been created to support the CVOs Forum;
  - SAARC Epidemiology Networking Forum-in place under RSU, however, it has not been endorsed by the CVOs Forum;
  - Veterinary Service, Veterinary Education, Advocacy-CVOs Forum as well as the SAC is working on;
Major SAARC activities

- A number of Regional Workshop, seminar and capacity building activities have been organized;

- SAARC has been actively participating in the FAO-OIE programme ‘Global Framework for Containment of Priority Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)-South Asia’ and ‘HPED Steering Committee’ meetings since the Forums’ inception;

- A SAARC regional project under the GF-TADs roadmap, ‘Regional cooperation programme on highly pathogenic and emerging diseases (HPED) in South Asia’ funded by EU and technically supported by FAO, has been implemented from 2010-2014;

- ADB has been convinced to support a follow up SAARC project titled “Food Security though control of TADs” for two more years;

- The 18th SAARC Summit has directed to establish the SAARC Regional Vaccine Bank for the priority diseases including PPR.
• The EU-HPED project was signed between SAARC and FAO in June 2010.

• The project was implemented and supervised by the FAO regional ECTAD Unit. Under the project inter alia following mechanisms have been established:

  ▪ **Regional Support Unit (RSU): Kathmandu, Nepal**
    
    Develop and promote a mechanism for regional cooperation and collaboration and facilitate regional policies and technical activities under the framework of GF-TADs

  ▪ **Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC): Kathmandu, Nepal**
    
    Organize and coordinate Epidemiology networks of national epidemiology units including socio economic analysis
Strengthening Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories:

Three national Diagnostic Laboratories from three SAARC Member States, have been identified as Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories for three priority TADs (PPR, FMD & HPAI) including the regional lab *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) in Bangladesh.

Strengthening regional epidemiology activities

Emerging trends (Emerging Infectious Diseases-EIDs or other arising issues) such as H7N9

The PPR strategy for SAARC is updated and aligned with global strategy;

A regional Roadmap for Progressive control of *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) in South Asia was implemented during 2011-13.
• **Outline and Components**

  - Objective of the Control Plan, e.g., loss reduction, freedom from the disease, eradication
  - Plan of implementation: Disease surveillance, diagnosis, vaccination etc.
  - Defined Output, Outcome, Impact
  - Institutional set-up (appropriate legislation, technical capacity, diagnostics and vaccines, R&D, notification mechanism, implementing agencies and governance)
  - Resources (financial, human and infrastructure)
  - Stakeholders [Producers, GOs, Civil Societies, Financial Institutions (Banks and Insurance], Importers)
  - Communication and Advocacy
  - Specific requirements ( stamping out and compensation, market closure)
  - Time-lines, Milestones and M&E
  - Tuned to the Regional Control Policy
Collaboration and Coordination under RSU & REC

- An interactive and responsive website of RSU has been established: http://www.saarc-rsu-hped.org/

- Following information sharing mechanisms have been functioned-
  - Bi-monthly Information Bulletin
  - Weekly E-Information

- The project activities are also being hosted on following social medias-
  - Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/saarc.rsu.hped/info); and
  - LinkedIn (http://www.linkedin.com/company/regional-support-unit-for-hpeds/) for wider circulation and impact.
Follow up SAARC project - ‘Food Security through control of TADs’

• With support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) SAARC has undertaken a two year project - *Food Security through Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases*;

• On completion of the project, the RSU and REC mechanisms to be incorporated with the SAARC Agriculture Centre as part of SAARC’s long-term capacity building process in the Animal health sector.
Expected Outcome

Key targets of the project:

• improved regional animal health management framework for SAARC countries

• expanded regional animal health information system

• upgraded policy framework for animal health management in the region

• improved institutional capacity of public and private sector animal health management agencies to implement and monitor TAD-control mechanisms;

• Smooth incorporation of the RSU and REC within the SAARC mechanism.
Project implementation modalities

- The laboratory component would be coordinated through the designated officer based in RSU;

- A close collaboration and consultation will be maintained with the SAARC Secretariat for effective regional coordination among the member states.
Issues/Challenges encountered

- Inadequate laboratory capacity in most of the countries in the region;
- Weak epidemiology capacity in the region;
- Lack of continuity for resource persons and experts in various SAARC activities;
- Funding uncertainties;

  [e.g. Only US$ 2 million support from the Asian Development Bank whereas the original estimated cost to implement the project was US$ 14 million.]

- The proposed SAARC Vaccine Bank requires both resources and technical assistance which are either inadequate or unavailable in SAARC;
THANKS A LOT