



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Thirty-fifth Session

Thimphu, Bhutan, 17-20 February 2020

Report on the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)

Executive Summary

The FAO Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) was initiated by Asian nations at the 5th FAO Regional Conference on Animal Production and Health in 1971. APHCA's mission is to enhance levels of nutrition and standards of living of livestock keepers, livestock producers and livestock value-chain actors through equitable, sustainable and safe livestock-sector development. Furthermore, APHCA supports sustainable improvement in rural livestock agriculture and resource use through information sharing and capacity development for Members.

Some of the most important areas addressed by APHCA relate to the development of climate smart livestock, dairy production, animal feeding, transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. APHCA has also been instrumental in the establishment of Dairy Asia.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) is invited to consider this information item and provide comment under "Any other matters". In particular, APRC:

- may wish to note that APHCA continues to be a regional body with a mandate to convene the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Community (SPC) countries in addition to Iran on animal production and health-related issues;
- may note that the outbreak of African swine fever across large parts of Asia highlights the need to collaborate, coordinate and communicate among countries regarding cross-border issues and to establish linkages between regional secretariats and countries; and
- may wish to invite additional countries to become members of APHCA. Further, APHCA members may choose to use APRC as a forum to renew their commitment and ongoing participation in APHCA.

This document may be printed on demand following an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications. This and other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

APRC Secretariat

APRC@fao.org

Introduction

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) was initiated by Asian nations at the 5th FAO Regional Conference on Animal Production and Health in 1971. APHCA became operational in December 1975, and its membership currently comprises 18 countries, namely Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
2. The mission of APHCA is to enhance the level of nutrition and standard of living of livestock keepers, livestock producers and livestock value-chain actors through equitable, sustainable and safe livestock sector development. APHCA generates and promotes exchange of information, provides normative guidance, and facilitates joint action among member countries and other stakeholders. APHCA supports sustainable improvement in rural livestock agriculture and resource use through information sharing and capacity development in the areas of disease control, enhanced organizational efficiency, farm production diversification and value-chain development, among others. APHCA works on the principle of collective self-reliance and mutual assistance among developing countries.
3. APHCA is an Article XIV FAO Regional Body, established by FAO at the request of its members. The APHCA Secretariat is provided and supported by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Senior Animal Production and Health Officer has the function of APHCA secretary. The member countries pay yearly contributions; there are three different levels of contributions, determined by the gross domestic product of the member country.
4. The executive committee of APHCA meets annually and is composed of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, three additional members and an ex-officio member, all of whom are elected for one-year terms. The executive committee discusses the work plan and budget, which are presented to all APHCA members for their endorsement.
5. APHCA business meetings are organized regularly and are open to all APHCA members. These meetings are normally scheduled back-to-back with APHCA workshops or relevant international/regional events. Usually the emphasis of an APHCA workshop will be on an animal production-related topic one year and on an animal health-related topic the next year.

Discussion

6. Some of the most important areas that are being addressed by APHCA are climate-smart livestock (CSL), dairy, transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases, and antimicrobial resistance.
7. CSL: Climate change manifests in the form of extreme weather events which negatively affect yields from crop production, livestock-rearing and fisheries, particularly in low- and middle-income APHCA member countries. Furthermore, livestock, and especially ruminants, play an important role in the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). This has led FAO and APHCA to further develop the concept of CSL, recognizing that livestock can make a significant contribution to climate-smart food supply systems. Mitigation options exist along the entire supply chain to reduce GHG emissions, including in feed production, enteric fermentation and manure management. Furthermore, practices are

being developed to ensure the adaptation of livestock to climate change through, for example, animal husbandry interventions and breeding.

8. **Dairy and Dairy Asia:** The growing demand for meat and dairy products continues to strain existing food production systems and requires sound policies and improvements along the whole food value chain, including ensuring the availability of sufficient quantities of quality and safe feed and other inputs for sustainable livestock sector development. Asia and the Pacific region has emerged as a major player in global dairy production. Consumption and market conditions provide an attractive opportunity for developing Asian nations to further consolidate the gains by investing in measures to enhance productivity, product and process quality, and market access. The region is home to nearly 60 percent of the world's undernourished people, and because milk is a good source of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals, a daily glass of milk for Asian children can significantly boost their nutritional levels. Furthermore, over 80 percent of dairy animals in the region are raised by small-scale farmers, who need to be included in dairy development initiatives. However, the agriculture sector in general is under pressure to increase its efficient use of natural resources to meet society's growing food and environmental needs. The dairy subsector and the entire dairy value chain must adopt technologies to improve milk production efficiency and reduce post-harvest losses, as well as management practices that facilitate integration of environmental health, economic profitability and social and economic equity goals. To discuss the various issues and promote collaboration and knowledge exchange among relevant national and international agencies, FAO and APHCA have been key in supporting the development of Dairy Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to visioning and building a sustainable dairy sector in Asia and the Pacific region. Dairy Asia is part of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)¹ that was established in 2011. It provides a platform to share experiences, debate issues of concern, and provide guidance for countries' required responses and growth scenarios. Furthermore, it has established strong partnerships among relevant actors in the dairy sector in Asia.

9. **Transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases:** Since the initial report in China in August 2018 of African swine fever, a high-impact infectious disease of pigs, the disease has spread to most ASEAN countries, causing severe negative effects on the economies and the livelihoods of farmers. Outbreaks of African swine fever are a reminder that countries need to be prepared to respond timely to emerging and re-emerging diseases in order to mitigate their impacts. In addition, continued attention needs to be paid to other endemic diseases with important economic impacts, such as foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza, peste des petits ruminants and classical swine fever. Zoonotic diseases (e.g. zoonotic influenza, rabies, brucellosis, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and nipah) require special attention because of their public health impact. In 2004, FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) established the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), a facilitating mechanism which endeavours to empower regional alliances in the fight against transboundary animal diseases, provides for capacity-building and assists in establishing programmes for the control of certain transboundary animal diseases based on regional priorities. APHCA participates in GF-TADs and in the meetings of the regional and subregional committees of GF-TADs.

10. **Antimicrobial resistance:** Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) refers to the natural ability of bacteria and other microbes to develop resistance to the medicines used to treat them. AMR is accelerated by inappropriate or excessive use of pharmaceutical products designed to treat diseases of humans, animals and crops. Asia and the Pacific region is particularly at risk due to the rapid expansion of animal production and the lack of regulatory frameworks and implementation mechanisms related to sales and use of antimicrobials in humans and animals. FAO assists countries in the region to develop integrated national action plans against AMR following a One Health approach. FAO also develops guidelines on surveillance of AMR in the food production sector. FAO, OIE and the World Health Organization work closely together as a tripartite consortium on AMR issues. They established the Multipartner Trust Fund on AMR to fund collective AMR tripartite activities at global, regional and country levels.

¹ <http://www.livestockdialogue.org/multimedia/multimedia/vinodahuja/en/>

11. At the APHCA meeting in November 2019, its members decided on future areas to be considered which include:

1. **Animal Production and feed/biosecurity/waste management/ alternative feed source (including insect, algae etc)/breeding and genetics (native breeds & cross breeds)/**
2. **Production diseases (ex –internal parasites, metabolic disorders etc) and trade of feed**
3. **Climate smart livestock (including natural disaster responses, water management, etc)**
4. Livestock trade and trade restriction – reliable certification and inspection system to ensure quality of products and safe trade of livestock and livestock products
5. Transboundary disease and cross-border issues (Foot and mouth disease, African Swine fever, HPAI, PPR, rabies, LSD, et)
6. One Health: neglected zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance
7. **Training platforms including e-learning (eg in collaboration with EU-FMD, SAARC-agric, ASEAN, Australia, NZ, APEC)**
8. **Resource mobilization, Website and information sharing**