

**Conclusions and Recommendations of
the OIE Regional Workshop on PRRS Control and Prevention**

(Hanoi, Vietnam, 15-17 September 2008)

Considering that;

- (1) Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) poses to the livestock sector such damages as a lowered farrowing rate, a marked increase in abortions, stillborn, weak live born piglets and severe respiratory disease which can result in high mortality in suckling and weaned pigs, particularly when other agents are present:
- (2) PRRS is caused by two antigenically and genetically distinguishable strains – genotype 1 (Europe) and genotype 2 (North America), occurrences of which are recognized globally, with the exception of a limited number of countries:
- (3) However, it is currently noted that variants of genotype 2 are associated with severe disease in some countries of Asia, such as in P. R. China and Viet Nam, where the high mortality has recently been reported:
- (4) Many cases of PRRS show co-infection with other diseases; e.g. Classical Swine Fever, *M. hyopneumoniae*, *P. multocida*, *S. suis*, Porcine Circovirus, etc. and differential diagnosis is essential:
- (5) The disease situation surrounding PRRSV is rather complicated, as mentioned above, however, there are success stories of control of the disease in some countries, by applying various control measures at the field level but not by a single method.
- (6) It is noted that different categories of the control measures could be applicable between the conventional and new variant type infections and between commercial farms and small scale village farms, taking into account the different epidemiological situation and application of prevention and control measures.
- (7) Diagnostic laboratory capabilities/resources vary across the Region:
- (8) Vaccines are commercially available for control of PRRS and their use may reduce clinical disease, when matching well with the vaccine strain. However, vaccination does not prevent PRRSV infection and the modified live vaccine virus can circulate within herds and transmit to non-vaccinated pigs. At this time, it is not possible to differentiate vaccinal antibody from that induced by field viruses:
- (9) Information and public awareness on the disease are still insufficient and they need to be improved:
- (10) There is a need for bi-lateral and international/regional cooperation to prevent the spread of PRRS.

The Regional Workshop recommends that:

1. National Veterinary Services should be further strengthened in terms of epidemiology, detection of and appropriate response to PRRS, in particular capacity building of diagnosis and surveillance to clarify the disease situation:
2. Partnerships should be strengthened among animal health, academic and private sectors and disaster committees:
3. PRRS should be a notifiable disease and a coordinated approach to the information exchange should include an effective notification of suspect disease by farmers to local government, which then reports to central government in a timely manner. Upon confirmation, notification should be sent to OIE:
4. Countries should develop a national disease control strategy for PRRS (conventional and variant) and other swine diseases, and simulation studies should also be considered for disease preparedness:
5. Biosecurity should form the basis of disease control. These measures should include procedures to eliminate virus and prevent the introduction into and spread to other farms.
6. Vaccination may form part of a strategy for control of the disease. Vaccine safety and efficacy should be monitored:
7. The contribution of FAO, OIE and other international/regional organizations to respond to PRRS outbreaks should be acknowledged. The Workshop requests that these organizations further engage in regional activities, such as Regional meetings/workshops on diagnosis and surveillance:
8. Where appropriate, bilateral meetings should be established in order to better understand the national and regional situation of the disease as well as diversity of the PRRSV in the Region:
9. A national programme of animal movement management should be developed to prevent the introduction or spread of PRRSV between herds and borders including ports and airports with application of an appropriate quarantine period and monitoring system.
10. A forum should be established to facilitate regional linkages, especially in line with trade frequency of pigs and their products, involving all stakeholders:
11. OIE, FAO and other international agencies should continue to develop and publish scientific information on PRRS, including biosecurity and other control measures and also to develop surveillance guidelines. A standardized approach should be developed with other development partners, for within-herd, between-herds, and at a national level, to reduce the risk of PRRS spread in both non-infected herds and countries with a variant strain of PRRSV:

12. The Workshop requests that OIE reviews and updates the Terrestrial Manual, taking into account progress in research and the current situation of PRRS including a definition of the new variant of genotype 2 of the virus in Asia:
13. Research activities should be encouraged and include basis of pathogenicity and immunity, co-infection, epidemiology, improvement of vaccines, development of a diagnostic marker to accurately predict the virulence of an isolate, and a DIVA method to differentiate vaccine strains and field viruses:
14. Nomination of a laboratory as Regional Lead Laboratory for PRRS and other associated pig diseases should be considered.
15. Suitable laboratories should consider applying under the OIE Twinning Programme:
16. That support should be given to a programme of proficiency testing (PT) in the region and to the supply of reference reagents:
17. PRRS is recognized as a major animal disease problem in the Region with serious implications for economic welfare and rural livelihoods affecting women and men. Bilateral and multilateral donors should prioritize and direct more resources to assist with research, control, prevention and impact reduction in affected countries.
18. The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop should be submitted to relevant ASEAN bodies for consideration and support.