

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: SEAE

TA No., Country, and Name:			Amount Approved: \$1 million	
RETA 6192: Transboundary Animal Disease Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion			Revised Amount: N/A	
Executing Agencies: Ministries of Agriculture of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam		Source of Funding: ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund	Amount Undisbursed: \$0.00	Amount Utilized: \$1 million
TA Approval Date: 11 October 2004	TA Signing Date: N/A	Fielding of First Consultant: 8 April 2005	TA Completion Date: Original: 30 September 2006      Actual: 31 December 2007  Account Closing Date: Original: 31 December 2006      Actual: 28 April 2008	

### Description

Nearly 23 million people (70% of the poor population) in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) are smallholder farmers who depend on livestock for food security and income. Besides supporting crop production through draft power and producing manure to maintain soil fertility, livestock are an important, and often the only, source of cash income for poor farmers. They are an investment asset and serve as insurance against crop failure. Livestock are a particularly important source of income for ethnic minority farmers and for women, who account for over 50% of agriculture production. However, transboundary animal diseases (TADs) can have devastating impact on small-farmer economies as well as national economies, given their propensity for rapid spread, vast destruction of livestock, disruption of trade, and loss of vital economic resources. Policy and technological options that make the livelihoods of livestock-dependent poor farmers, especially ethnic minorities and women farmers, less vulnerable to the devastating effects of animal diseases and support their access to markets for economic growth are major priorities in the GMS. With demand for livestock products growing in Asia and presenting significant opportunities for small farmers to benefit from improved productivity of livestock, strong subregional cooperation and improved capacity to combat infectious livestock diseases, which travel across borders, have become critical. The technical assistance (TA) project was therefore designed to create a subregional framework for cooperation among the GMS countries to tackle the risk of TADs, and build better capacity at all levels to combat these diseases.

### Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs

The TA project was expected to help control TADs in the GMS and thus strengthen food security, food safety, and local, subregional, and international trade in livestock and livestock products. The intended outcome was to place subregional cooperation in the control of TADs on a firm basis, by improving the diagnostic ability of GMS and national laboratories, and strengthening staff capacity in the participating countries to control TADs. The main outputs expected from the TA project were: (i) a GMS cooperation framework under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); (ii) identified national and GMS policies for the control of classical swine fever (CSF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) among poor livestock communities in the GMS; (iii) installed GMS and national disease information systems and enhanced capacity for TAD control, as indicated by the number of trained veterinarians, technicians, extension workers, and farmers; (iv) upgraded GMS reference and diagnostic laboratories, and network of national diagnostic laboratories, supporting the control of CSF, FMD, and HPAI; and (v) strengthened staff capacity.

### Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities

The TA project was found to be well formulated by all stakeholders, and fully responsive to the needs of the developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It met its goal and expected outcomes. The terms of reference were well crafted, and the consultant, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, fully lived up to them. FAO set up a project management office, which was adequately staffed. The chief technical adviser (CTA), an international consultant who was an acknowledged authority in the field, performed exceptionally well with regard to the requirements of the DMCs under the TA project. The project steering committee (PSC) was fully representative of all stakeholders and met three times in the 2 years of project implementation. It fulfilled its responsibilities of guiding project implementation, work plan preparation, consultant

recruitment and performance review, output review, and coordination of the ongoing efforts of all development partners to combat livestock diseases in the GMS and worldwide. The communications specialist performed well. Under the CTA's guidance, he designed TADinfo, an information system and newsletter on transboundary animal disease, which all the DMCs have adopted to keep themselves fully informed about TADs. Regular review missions were fielded by ADB to the PSC meetings, and by FAO to the DMCs. In addition, the TA project made important contributions to working group meetings of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and activities supported by other donors like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and ASEAN, among others. It improved collaboration at the subregional level and among the DMCs in enhancing public awareness of the risks of TADs, conducting sero surveillance, and providing technical information critical to the development of disease control strategies for the GMS. Veterinary staff at different levels were trained in outbreak investigation and reporting as well as other aspects of TAD control and prevention. The training has been found to be particularly valuable by the DMCs. No changes in the terms of reference or implementation arrangements were required during implementation.

### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

The outputs, including the project reports, were of a high order and acknowledged as such by the DMCs. A GMS cooperation framework for the fight against TADs was successfully established. A ministerial-level GMS cooperation agreement was approved at the GMS Heads of State Summit in Kunming, People's Republic of China (PRC), in 2005 and is now operational. Further, the TA project led to the Kunming Declaration on HPAI control by all Asian countries and to collaborative activities with the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign and other bilaterally supported campaigns. The project supported bilateral memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between DMCs for the control of FMD and HPAI, and it generated newsletters and project information brochures for various stakeholders in the region. Subregional laboratories in Thailand and Viet Nam and national laboratories in the participating DMCs were strengthened through the upgrading of equipment and facilities and the training of their personnel in disease diagnostics and use of equipment. Training programs in TAD control were held regularly for different levels of national and local veterinary personnel, including trainers, laboratory staff, and farmers, who were also exposed to the latest information about TADs through TADinfo. District staff in all the selected DMCs were trained in sero surveillance and in the conduct of knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) surveys. The training was followed by detailed sero surveillance to determine the levels of infection in smallholder livestock at given points in time. The KAP and sero surveillance surveys contributed to a much better understanding among stakeholders of the risks and the nature of TADs, and the need to prevent and combat TADs at different levels. These surveys also helped in the practical establishment and implementation of the upper and lower Mekong disease control zones of the OIE. The KAP survey results were important in determining the communication and training needs of farmers, traders, and animal health workers.

The expected outcomes of the project, including a GMS cooperation agreement and improved subregional and national capacity to deal with TADs, were fully achieved. The Memorandum on Cooperation among GMS Countries to Control TAD, approved at the GMS Heads of State Summit in 2005, was the first and most significant step toward subregional cooperation in TAD control. It led to bilateral agreements among the DMCs to cooperate in TAD control and to the zoning of the GMS countries to allow the mapping and control of animal movements for disease control. It also contributed to the setting up of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund, and the development of the Asian component of the Global Strategy for the Control of HPAI. Bilateral MOUs on the control of animal movements and cooperation in TAD control between Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam have produced national strategies and resource commitments by the DMCs for the control of TADs. All of these steps have increased the safety of livestock products traded within the region. However, much more remains to be done in the second, ongoing, phase to secure the region against the risk of TADs and enable the GMS countries to gain access to larger markets in developed countries, where higher standards of food safety are demanded.

### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The TA project was highly successful.

### **Major Lessons**

There is a need for (i) subregional and national commitment to sustain cooperation and support for the fight against TADs; (ii) much greater investments in farmer training and the control and regulation of the informal livestock trade, (iii) resources for the protective vaccination of herds at risk, (iv) sustained and long-term support for TAD control, and (v) vigilance against the risk of relaxing surveillance and cooperation measures.

### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

The major recommendations relate to the need for (i) continued support for the poorer DMCs in upgrading their human resources and physical capacity, (ii) continued monitoring of subregional cooperation on TAD control, and (iii) continued international and subregional commitment of resources toward TAD control. Required follow-up actions in Phase II involve continued subregional cooperation in strengthening capacity through the further

upgrading of laboratories, the training of farmers and local veterinary health workers in effective prevention and control strategies, and the monitoring of staff performance and capacity. The tracking of disease levels and spread, through post-immunization surveys, and the institutionalization of these measures with national support are an important step toward developing lasting national capacity in this area.

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