

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs)



PERSPECTIVES

DOSSIER

AROUND THE WORLD

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have enjoyed a long-standing partnership over seven decades in terrestrial and aquatic animal disease risk management, more specifically a Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)⁽¹⁾ since 2004 and, since 2010, a 'Tripartite' agreement involving the World Health Organization (WHO) on 'One Health' relating to risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

These frameworks have played a significant role in developing global and regional strategies and coordinated efforts to promote and sustain national actions against global threats (foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, rinderpest, African swine fever), which have been prioritised because of their major impacts on the economy and livelihoods, and against additional diseases that have been prioritised by regional GF-TADS Committees. Regarding 'One Health', the Tripartite has led the international effort to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and priority zoonotic diseases including rabies, avian influenza and tuberculosis are addressed in both frameworks according to the extent of animal health service involvement in their management.

A key issue constraining investment in disease management is the paucity of data on the impact of animal disease upon efficiency of livestock production and food systems, and on associated outcomes of human nutrition, food security, livelihoods and human health (considering nutrition as well as zoonotic infections and AMR). The FAO collects data on production, inputs and outputs of agricultural systems from 245 territories which, together with the disease information collected by the OIE and the human health information provided by WHO, provide a level of evidence on disease distribution. The data have the potential to provide indicators of value, but progress with estimating burdens of disease, and returns on investment in control measures, could be transformative to improved priority setting by national public and private sectors as well as regional economic communities and financial institutions.

Priorities for FAO and the OIE under GF-TADS are to support improved decision-making on priorities for investments at regional and national levels, and to influence and leverage increased attention to animal disease based on better understanding of its role in economic and social development. Better understanding in this area will also assist understanding of how reduced disease could reduce livestock's environmental impact, and stimulate investment in animal health as part of the effort to mitigate global warming. Initiatives such as the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme could be instrumental in this.

(1) GF-TADS: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases is a joint initiative of the OIE and FAO that endeavours to empower global and regional alliances in the fight against Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs), to provide for capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on global and regional priorities.

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PERSPECTIVES

▶ JOINT ACTIONS

The strength of partnership working

KEYWORDS

#decision, #Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), #Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs), #Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GFPTADs), #partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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