



**BLUETONGUE VIRUS OF
SEROTYPE 8
OCCURENCE IN CYPRUS**

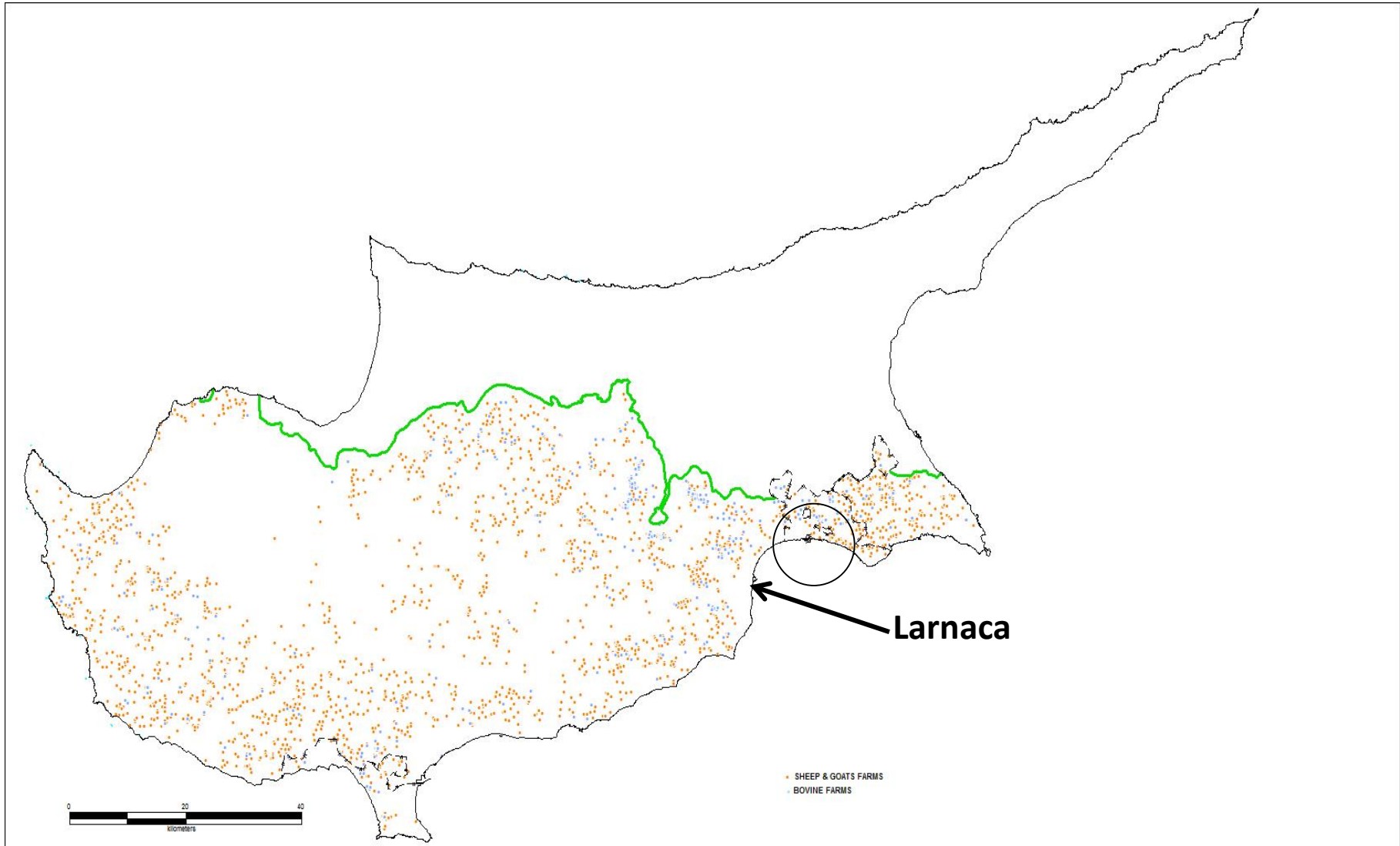
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The disease has been present since 1924
- Previous outbreaks: 2003, 2006, 2010, 2011 και 2014 (serotypes: 4, 16)
- The whole territory of Cyprus is classified as restricted for serotypes 4 and 16
- Considering the island's dimensions and combined with the biology of the BTV, the whole territory of Cyprus is considered as protection zone in case of an outbreak.

CURRENT SITUATION IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS OF CYPRUS

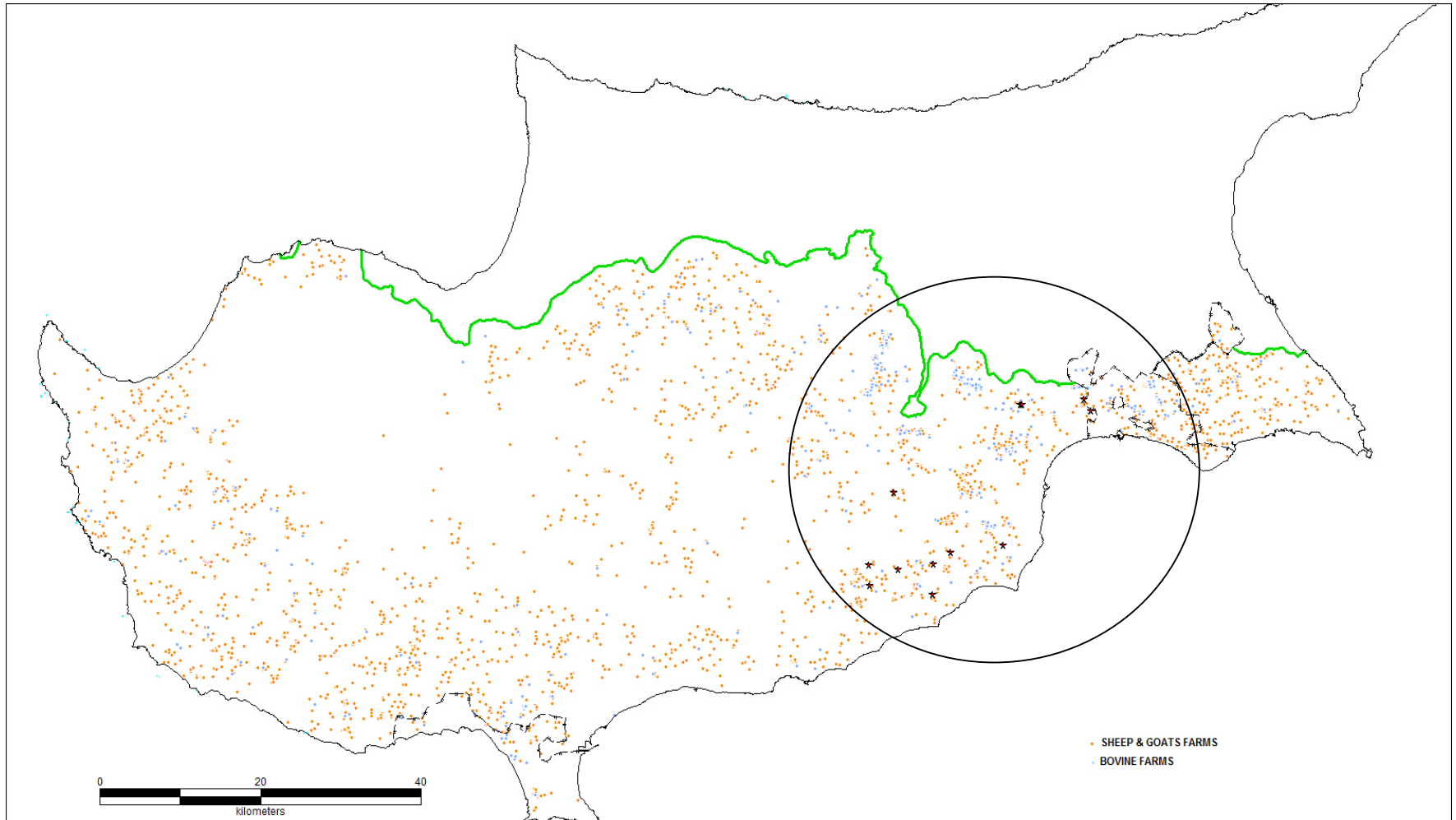
- Clinical symptoms in sheep were notified to the Veterinary Services on 19th September, 2016
- Symptoms observed:
 - Increased mortality, salivation, fever, Mouth and lips oedema (swelling), nasal discharge, lameness, abortions
- The NRL confirmed the presence of BTV on September 20th 2016 at Larnaca District by Real-Time PCR technique
- The EURL, Pirbright Institute confirmed on 30/09/2016 that the cases were attributed to BTV Serotype 8.
- By 30/09/2016 the disease was confirmed in 12 small ruminant holdings of the country

DISTRIBUTION OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOAT FARMS IN CYPRUS



LOCATION OF OUTBREAKS

(up to 30/09/2016 September 2016)



MEASURES IN PLACE

- The involved stakeholders have been respectively informed of the disease, the virus biology, the clinical symptoms attributed to BTV infection, the measures to be taken on their part.
- Movement restrictions of susceptible animals
- On the spot inspections of holdings with susceptible animals
- Sampling of animals with clinical signs
- Treatment of animals and application in premises, pastures, water reservoirs appropriate anti vector substances

CONCLUSIONS/ REMARKS 1

- Circulation of a new BTV serotype

Reservations as regards:

- Whether it is wise to apply vaccination in the middle of a progressing outbreak considering the existing temperatures and humidity levels which favor the propagation and circulation of Culicoides.
- Which would be the immunity response on the sick animals, the already infected and virus incubating animals as well as the naive animals part.

CONCLUSIONS/ REMARKS 2

- Will the possible vaccination with the inactivated BTV 8 vaccine result in effectively halting the occurrence of BTV 8 cases by inhibiting the progress of spreading the virus and the new outbreaks?

Thanks a lot