



Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to Cyprus

SCOPE of the mission: Lumpy skin disease in
cattle in Cyprus

(21 – 23 January 2015)

Terms of Reference

- To provide scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance for the development of the most suitable eradication, preventive and control measures for lumpy skin disease (LSD) under local conditions
- To provide targeted support based on the Council Directive 92/119/EEC, the EFSA report on LSD and the recommendations of the previous mission in Dec 2014

CVET experts and DG SANTE officials

- Dr Eeva Tuppurainen - UK
- Dr Joseph Domenech - FR
- Dr Francesco Berlingieri (DG SANTE)

LSD outbreaks in Cyprus

- First 6 outbreaks occurred in November-December 2014 in the north-east peninsula
- On Jan 12th 2015 new cases were detected approximately 47-52 km distance from the original location
- The laboratory confirmation of the disease by the Pendik Veterinary Institute, Turkey
- High cattle density area, comprising nearly half of the total cattle population
- Dairy cattle



Clinical observations

- Skin lesions had clearly developed scabs on top of the nodule, indicating that they were at least 2 to 3 weeks old
- Cattle showing clinical signs of LSD were immediately killed
- No total stamping-out yet on this latest outbreak



Origin of new infection

- Inconclusive – no reported direct connections between this outbreak and previous ones in the peninsula
- Introduction of infected vectors by the wind or with imported hay or straw from outbreak regions
- Unauthorised introduction of infected cattle
- Movement of people, such as temporary farm workers with previous contact with infected cattle



Current control and eradication measures in place

- Clinical inspections of cattle and sample collection
- Killing of infected and suspected animals
- Animal movement restrictions and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection of the premises
- Vector control
- Epidemiological investigations
- No vaccination are allowed so far



Regional laboratory capacity

- Due to restricted resources available, the diagnostic laboratory responsible for testing samples at the outbreak area has not yet been able to set up the real-time PCR assay for LSDV
- The other lab has the assays up and running

Decisions made locally

- The aim is not only control but eradication of the disease
- In the affected part of Cyprus a large scale vaccinations will be started, using LSDV vaccine and including the entire cattle population
- Decision is based on existing legal texts
- Veterinary capacity is sufficient to carry out a massive vaccination campaign
- Negotiations are on-going with farmers' association

Recommendations for the affected area (1/2)

Early detection and reporting

- **Enforcement of local diagnostic capacity:**
 - Kits, reagents and consumables required for the real-time PCR have been listed - support could be needed for setting up the assay
 - Proficiency testing for diagnostic assays should be organized with the OIE reference laboratory for LSD
- **Awareness campaigns for field veterinarians, farmers and animal care staff**
- **Compensation for farmers**

Recommendations for the affected area (2/2)

Large scale, subsidized vaccination campaign should be carried out in combination with

- Culling of infected and in-contact cattle with compensation to farmers
- Cleaning and disinfection of the premises combined with vector control
- Strict movement restrictions of live cattle
- Enforced biosecurity measures at the farm level for persons and vehicles on entry and exit
- Intensive active and passive surveillance
- Recommended homologous vaccines:
 - **Lumpy Skin Disease Vaccine for Cattle™ by Onderstepoort Biological Products, South Africa**
 - **Lumpyvax™ MSD Animal Health, Intervet, South Africa**

In order to avoid reintroduction

- Surveillance systems need to remain fully operational
- Health rules for animal movements
- Border control (OIE Code)
- Risk analysis for imported animals, animal products, hay and straw
- Exchange of information, harmonisation of strategies and coordination of control programmes to be strengthened across the island on veterinary issues
- Regular direct communication on technical level is advisable

Thank you for your attention!

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