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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

Fourth Session

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Global Partnership Programme for Transboundary Animal Diseases

Executive Summary

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) impose severe burdens on food security, livelihoods, public health and trade, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Following the request at the 44th Session of the FAO Conference to safeguard and strengthen the work on TADs, the Organization proposed the establishment of the Global Partnership Programme on Transboundary Animal Diseases (GPP-TAD).

GPP-TAD represents a fundamental shift in approach: from donor-driven, FAO-implemented projects to a country-driven, multi-stakeholder partnership model. Under the new four-year programme, countries will lead implementation with technical support from FAO and partners, with engagement from the private sector, producers and financial institutions. FAO will act as neutral facilitator, matchmaker and provider of normative guidance and last-resort technical and operational support at global, regional and national levels.

An extensive consultation process was conducted between January and May 2026, including briefings to regional groups at FAO headquarters, discussions at FAO Regional Conferences, and consultation with other international and regional organizations including, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and other stakeholders. The programme is on track for official launch in June 2026. The Sub-Committee is invited to take note of progress made and to provide guidance on the strategic direction and resource mobilization approach for GPP-TAD.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Suggested action by the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee is invited to recommend COAG to:

- welcome the progress made in developing GPP-TAD as a new, country-driven partnership model for the prevention, control and progressive elimination of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses;
- welcome the strategic approach of GPP-TAD, including FAO's role as neutral facilitator, convener, matchmaker and provider of normative technical guidance and last-resort support at global, regional and national levels;
- invite Members and partners to join GPP-TAD and accelerate its implementation; and
- recommend FAO to support Members in the financing and implementation of GPP-TAD, and provide regular updates.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. Introduction

1. Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses, including high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), African swine fever (ASF), peste des petits ruminants (PPR),[1] lumpy skin disease, New World screwworm, and Rift Valley fever, continue to pose major threats to global food security, agricultural livelihoods, trade and public health.[2,3] The geographic spread of priority TADs and zoonoses has shifted significantly in recent years, disrupting livelihoods, economies and trade across regions with a disproportionate burden falling on LMICs.

2. FAO has long supported Members in managing TADs and zoonoses through FAO's animal health programme over the past decades, including the FAO Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) for Animal Health, and its operationalization through the establishment of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)[4]. Over the last two decades, FAO's ECTAD projects have supported more than 50 LMICs to build capacities to prevent, detect and respond to TADs, zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance. For almost 20 years, over 90 percent of the costs of ECTAD program were generously borne by a single Member. Changes in policy and urgent domestic needs led to funding constraints and the termination of the ECTAD program in early 2025.

3. At the 44th Session of the FAO Ministerial Conference in July 2025, Members requested FAO *to fund the core work on transboundary animal diseases from assessed contributions, while exploring additional funding from voluntary contributions*[5]. In response, FAO is developing a renewed initiative to help countries mobilize financing, strengthen partnerships, and provide sustained long-term support.

4. A new model to address these gaps was initiated by FAO, and an informal briefing to Members on the development of GPP-TAD was held prior to the 179th Session of the Council in December 2025, with an accompanying information note[6]. The Council welcomed the initiative and encouraged continued engagement with Members, regional groups and key partners during the consultative process, leading to the programme's official launch.

5. GPP-TAD will leverage, strengthen and complement existing global coordination mechanisms, including the FAO-WOAH Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), while translating policy frameworks and standards for transboundary animal disease control into tangible operational impact on the ground at country level.

II. Process and roadmap for the GPP-TAD development

Consultation roadmap (January–June 2026)

6. Following the guidance from the 44th Session of the FAO Conference and the 179th Session of the Council, FAO embarked on an inclusive, six-month consultation process from January, expected to finish in June 2026, to refine and socialize the GPP-TAD design with FAO Members, partners and other stakeholders.

[1] COAG:LI/4/2026/INF/7, https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nu036en
[2] COAG:LI/4/2026/INF/6, https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nu059en
[3] COAG:LI/4/2026/INF/10, https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/nu030en
[4] FAO Director-General's bulletin, 2004. *EMPRES Emergency Centre For Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations* (ECTAD) https://unfao.sharepoint.com/sites/FAO-Intranet/inFAO/DG_Bulletins/dgb04_31.pdf
[5] Document C 2025/REP, subparagraph 61(f) https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c3bec0d2-dca2-4794-b8fa-5ab8566804b6/content#page=21
[6] Document CL 179/INF/3 WA4. Global Partnership Programme on Transboundary Animal Diseases https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/619c3481-cf3b-435d-8358-0e478e856007/content

7. In January 2026, GPP-TAD was discussed at a high-level meeting of the Directors-General of FAO and WOAH, and within joint GF-TADs Management Committee. A focal point from WOAH was also requested to engage in further consultations.

8. An Information Note on GPP-TAD was posted on the FAO Members Gateway on 26 February 2026, with details on the implementation architecture, financing models and the milestones to the final launch in June 2026 as summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: GPP-TAD Consultation Roadmap (January–June 2026)

Timeline	Activity
Jan – Mar 2026	Consultation with the Regional Groups including Latin America and the Caribbean (26 January), Europe (3 February), Africa (20 February), Asia (2 March), Latin American and the Caribbean (26 March). Consultation with the Group of 77 and China (27 February).
Jan – Mar 2026	Discussions with other international/regional organizations including AU-IBAR, WOAH
Mar – May 2026	Consultations at the FAO Regional Conferences, with item on One Health and Transboundary Animal Diseases including GPP-TAD.
May 2026	Update on GPP-TAD at the 142nd Session of the Programme Committee and 207th Session of the Finance Committee and incorporation of feedback.
June 2026	Discussion at the Fourth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock and the 181st Session of the Council.
June 2026	**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF GPP-TAD**

9. The consultation process has been characterized by constructive engagement. Regional Groups welcomed GPP-TAD as a timely shift to a country-driven, prevention-focused and more sustainable model, emphasizing the importance of One Health, regional cooperation, early warning systems, preparedness capacities and equitable access for LMICs. They sought clarification on governance, financing modalities, costs, and how countries can join and contribute. As reflected in the briefing note, FAO clarified its role as neutral facilitator and matchmaker, confirmed the tiered solidarity-based financing model, outlined the three-level architecture and committed to continued consultations and early circulation of programme documents ahead of the launch.

III. GPP-TAD design

A. A new way of working

10. GPP-TAD represents a fundamental paradigm shift in how FAO supports Members in managing transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses. The previous model was predominantly donor driven and dependent on a single major donor, with FAO serving primarily as an implementing force. The new programme is designed to overcome these structural vulnerabilities, introducing a structured global architecture, a shift to diversified financing models, linking national platforms, regional hubs, and global coordination to move towards sustained prevention, preparedness, and bottom-up collective action.

11. GPP-TAD is built on the following core principles:

a) Country-driven leadership and country context-specific: countries lead the design and implementation of their national TAD prevention and control programmes, drawing on their own priorities, capacities and risk contexts.

b) Multi-partner model: it involves a broad coalition of stakeholders, including governments, development partners, regional economic communities, civil society, producers, the private sector and financial institutions.

c) Countries implement: countries, including public and private actors, take ownership of programme implementation with technical support from FAO and other implementing partners, rather than FAO acting as the primary implementing entity.

d) Private sector and financial institution engagement: new and innovative financing modalities are explored, including blended finance, impact investment and insurance mechanisms, to supplement public funding.

B. FAO's role at different levels

12. Under GPP-TAD, FAO's roles are differentiated by level, global, regional and national, to ensure coherent and complementary action across the programme.

13. At the global level, FAO will: convene global dialogues and technical priority-setting; support partnerships and matchmaking among Members, donors and partners; co-develop overarching policy frameworks, tools and guidance; provide disease intelligence and early warning alerts; and deploy surge capacity in crises.

14. At the regional level, FAO will: organize regional dialogues and support risk-information sharing platforms; support partnerships, innovation and matchmaking at the regional level; provide policy support to regional economic communities; support adaptation of frameworks, tools and guidance; provide technical backstopping to countries; and harmonize policies across borders.

15. At the national level, FAO will: convene national stakeholders to establish *National Partnership Platforms* (NPPs) and catalyse investments in line with the Country Programming Framework; coordinate tailored technical support (the "FAO service offer") to build country capacities; ensure information flows between national, regional and global levels; and coordinate surge capacity during crises.

16. In sum, FAO will act as: (i) a neutral facilitator and convener; (ii) a matchmaker and enabler of partnerships; (iii) a provider of normative policy guidance and technical assistance; and (iv) a provider of last resort in crisis situations and upon request. This positioning allows FAO to leverage its unique comparative advantage while enabling countries and other partners to take the lead in implementation.

C. FAO service offer

17. The FAO service offer under GPP-TAD spans five mutually reinforcing areas that are critical to effective and sustainable prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses:

a) Prevention and progressive disease control: strengthening biosecurity systems, vaccination strategies, capacity building, and risk-based progressive disease control strategies and monitoring.

b) Digital surveillance, early warning and animal health innovation: enhancing surveillance systems and disease intelligence, laboratory capacity, data sharing, and risk forecasting to enable early detection and more targeted interventions through the support of digital technologies and innovation.

c) Preparedness and risk-informed early action/anticipatory action: strengthening and upgrading contingency planning and linking early warning systems to anticipatory interventions through risk foresight and management, enabling timely action to prevent and mitigate foreseen risks on the ground.

d) Coordinated and rapid emergency response: ensuring surge capacity and timely emergency response when outbreaks exceed national capacity.

e) Legislation, partnerships, and financing models: strengthening frameworks that enable sustained public and private investment in animal health.

18. Support will be calibrated to country needs and contexts. The programme will support countries in developing tailored national prevention and control programs against priority TADs and zoonoses that draw on the national capacities and full range of the FAO service offer, while engaging partners and the private sector as appropriate for each national context.

D. Governance of the GPP-TAD

19. GPP-TAD is envisaged as a four-year programme organized around three interconnected levels, ensuring national ownership, regional solidarity, and global coherence and strategic oversight.

a) The National Partnership Platform (NPP) at country level coordinates and implements the country's own transboundary animal diseases prevention and control strategies. NPPs bring together relevant ministries, regional organizations, development partners, financial institutions, the private sector actors, and research institutions, while retaining ownership of priorities and decision making on national resource allocation, ensuring alignment with regional and global efforts.

b) Regional Hubs for TADs and zoonoses serve as the primary platform for regional and subregional coordination, cross-border collaboration, and policy harmonization of transboundary animal disease prevention and control efforts, mobilizing partnerships and resources to support coordinated action. They convene regional dialogues, promote peer learning, and coordinate technical backstopping on priority topics to countries and NPPs.

c) At the global level, a Global Coordination Mechanism, will be chaired by the FAO Director-General and a Steering Committee comprising contributing Members, development partners, and International Financial Institutions. The Steering Committee operates as a light, strategic, and advisory body. It endorses programme priorities and allocation principles, draws lessons from progress against the agreed results framework, promotes co-investment and co-financing, and releases emergency allocation from global resources when TAD risks are heightened. FAO retains full responsibility for programme implementation and technical delivery, normative functions, financial management, fiduciary oversight and accountability.

d) Member representation on the Steering Committee will be on a rotational basis, organized by FAO Regions, with defined terms of office. This rotational approach ensures balanced geographic representation and broad Member participation over time. FAO shall serve as Secretariat to the Steering Committee and shall be responsible for convening meetings, preparing documentation, and reporting to the Council.

e) Decision-making by the Steering Committee would be informed by a Technical Advisory Group comprising relevant FAO technical units, relevant international and regional organizations and technical partners, academia, relevant FAO and WOAH reference centres, universities, and scientific research networks, with participation tailored to the priority diseases and technical areas covered by GPP-TAD. The Group would provide science and evidence-based technical advice on disease prioritization, surveillance,

prevention and control strategies, innovation, and preparedness, ensuring that the programme is guided by the best available evidence.

f) GPP-TAD will link with the GF-TADs platform through the Technical Advisory Group, by working in close coordination with the GF-TADs Management Committee and, as relevant, draw on the expertise of GF-TADs disease-specific working groups and secretariats to ensure alignment with existing guidance, progressive control pathways and standards, while retaining the flexibility to bring in additional expertise relevant to financing, innovation, regional priorities and technical support for implementation.

g) Overall governance of GPP-TAD will include a combination of strategic oversight by FAO Governing Bodies[7] and implementation and operational coordination through its own tiered partnership structures.

h) GPP-TAD results monitoring will be based on an agreed results framework, linked to FAO's programmes on prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (such as EMPRES, Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme and others as relevant), with indicators at global, regional and country levels, enabling progress to be tracked across core technical areas, progressive control pathways for specific transboundary diseases, partnerships and financing. Monitoring will draw on programme reporting from National Partnership Platforms, Regional Hubs and FAO's global coordination functions, to assess performance, lessons learned and results achieved. Progress reports would be submitted regularly to the Steering Committee and, through FAO's corporate governance processes, to the relevant Governing Bodies, helping ensure transparency, accountability and evidence-based adjustment of programme priorities and investments.

E. Financing framework of GPP-TAD

20. GPP-TAD will be financed on the basis of shared responsibility, with all participating Member countries required to make material and/or financial contributions commensurate with their capacity and the scale of their national animal health services as a core condition for participation. Such national contributions will constitute the backbone of the Programme's financing and may be complemented, where appropriate, by voluntary contributions from Members and targeted support from development partners and other external sources to support global and transboundary public goods as well as providers of last resort functions. This approach strengthens country ownership, enhances predictability and sustainability and ensures that external financing reinforces – rather than substitutes for – Member country commitments, while allowing for synergies with relevant initiatives, including Pandemic Fund resources, where aligned.

21. The Programme is envisaged as a four-year global partnership initiative with an indicative, scalable financing envelope rather than a fixed global budget ceiling. Resource requirements will depend on the number of participating countries, the scope of nationally-defined programmes and the level of ambition agreed at national and regional levels. While financing needs will differ across contexts, indicative multi-year country investment packages may fall within an agreed range (to be determined), reflecting disease risk profiles, livestock sector scale and national capacities. A proportion of partner contributions will be allocated to regional coordination functions and global public goods, in accordance with agreed partnership arrangements.

22. Building on this shared-responsibility financing framework, financing will be anchored in national resources and may be complemented by development partner contributions, development bank financing and the private sector co-financing in areas such as vaccination, biosecurity, digital surveillance systems and disease monitoring. Innovative modalities may include risk-sharing

[7] The FAO Conference and Council will provide overall guidance, with programme updates reported to the Programme and Finance Committees and linked to technical discussions under COAG and its Sub-Committee on Livestock.

arrangements for vaccination campaigns, livestock insurance mechanisms and cost-sharing partnerships to support biosecurity, surveillance, supply chains or technology deployment.

23. To promote equity, national ownership and shared responsibility, the Programme will operate under a tiered, solidarity-based financing model:

a) Tier 1 – Core global and regional public goods: financed primarily through voluntary contributions from resource partners and complemented, where relevant, by FAO Regular Programme resources. This tier supports global coordination, disease intelligence, early warning systems, normative guidance, stockpile, emergency response support, provider of last resort functions, and regional public goods.

b) Tier 2 – Country programme support: financed through partner contributions, domestic public resources and concessional financing, aligned with nationally defined priorities for prevention, preparedness and control of transboundary animal diseases. Country support is tailored to national contexts and implemented under national leadership.

c) Tier 3 – Complementary and innovative financing: mobilized through voluntary engagement with the private sector actors, development banks, financial institutions and foundations. This tier includes risk-sharing facilities and co-financing arrangements that complement Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources, subject to national demand. A modular implementation structure enables country and regional activities to scale progressively as voluntary contributions are mobilized, allowing early engagement and phased expansion while maintaining coherence with regional and global objectives.

F. Operationalization and country engagement

24. Participation in GPP-TAD is voluntary, country-driven and demand-based. Countries wishing to engage in the Programme are invited to:

a) submit a formal expression of interest to FAO and designate a national lead institution for transboundary animal disease prevention and control;

b) establish or strengthen a National Partnership Platform, building where possible on existing coordination mechanisms; and

c) define national priorities and investment needs for prevention, preparedness and control, in alignment with national strategies and policies.

25. Participation requires material and/or financial contribution from countries, commensurate with national capacity and context. This financial contribution may be complemented by policy leadership, coordination efforts, in-kind contributions and integration of the prevention and control within existing national strategies.

26. The NPP functions as a coordination and convening mechanism rather than a new legal entity. It brings together relevant ministries, veterinary services, producers, the private sector actors, development partners and other stakeholders to coordinate national actions, align investments and technical support, and facilitate coherence with regional hubs and global-level structures. The NPP serves as the primary interface for country engagement in GPP-TAD.

27. FAO will support countries in establishing and operationalizing NPPs through technical guidance, convening support and access to the full FAO service offer, while implementation leadership and decision-making remain with national authorities.

G. Relationship with existing frameworks

28. GPP-TAD serves as a platform that operationalizes and scales up existing technical frameworks and standards through policies and investments at different levels, leveraging existing mechanisms. In particular, GPP-TAD: (i) translates the normative guidance, technical tools and progressive control pathways developed by FAO, the Quadripartite (FAO/WOAH/WHO/UNEP)[8] and those under GF-TADs into sustained, country-led implementation; (ii) builds on existing normative FAO mechanisms, reinforces FAO's early warning, preparedness and prevention work and disease-specific control pathways; and (iii) strengthens coherence across national, regional and global levels by linking existing initiatives through a common partnership architecture. Duplication is avoided by anchoring GPP-TAD activities in nationally defined priorities, strengthening regional coordination mechanisms, and leveraging normative technical guidance. In parallel, the programme supports FAO's broader One Health in Agrifood Systems agenda, including FAO's Programme Priority Area on One Health by improving biosecurity, disease intelligence, and cross-sector collaboration.

29. By strengthening prevention, preparedness, and early warning systems, GPP-TAD also plays a critical de-risking role, reducing the likelihood and impact of disease outbreaks that can disrupt livestock production, trade and market stability, food security, and investments in agrifood systems.

IV. Next steps

30. GPP-TAD is on track for its official launch in June 2026. The following key steps remain between May and June 2026:

a) finalize the GPP-TAD programme document, incorporating feedback from regional consultations, the Joint Meeting of the 142nd Session of the Programme Committee and 207th Session of the Finance Committee, and the Fourth Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock;

b) complete the governance framework, including the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, modalities for the NPPs, and the results framework;

c) establish partnerships with regional economic communities, the private sector actors and financial institutions;

d) identify and secure initial countries to operationalize the NPP and Regional Hub model from the outset of the programme; and

e) finalize the resource mobilization plan, including outreach to potential donors and engagement with other financing mechanisms.

31. FAO will provide updates on GPP-TAD implementation progress to the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, and the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock regularly, as well as to the FAO Council and Conference as appropriate. Members are encouraged to actively engage at the country level in the development of national TAD programmes under GPP-TAD and to consider contributing to the programme's multi-partner financing model.

[8] FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme.