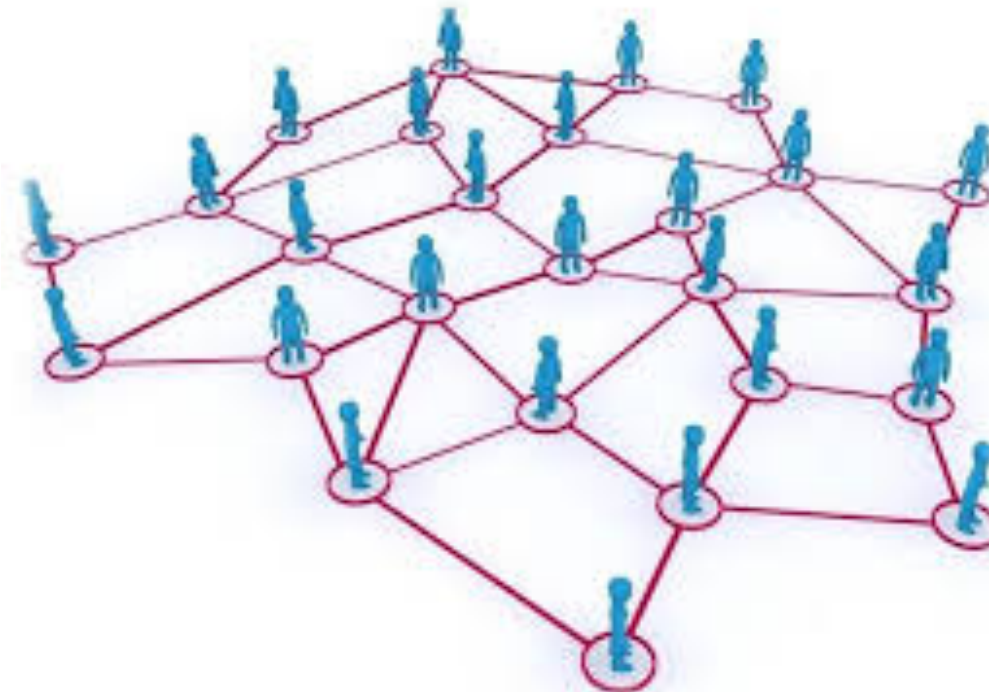# The Central Asia Animal Health Network (CAAHN)

Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo, Eran Raizman and Dinara Imanbayeva, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)

Why animal health networks are needed?

- The control of TADs requires a regional approach
- Common challenges → Sharing of best practices and lessons learned between countries
- Coordinate international initiatives
- Successful experience setting up animal health networks in other regions

Regional AH networks offer a framework for building strong technical capacity, competency, leadership and a critical mass of regionally networked specialists.

What is an animal health network?

1) **exchange** of information and experiences

2) **standardize** laboratory, field prevention/control, operating, communication and other procedures;

3) **harmonize** policies and approaches in accordance with international standards

4) **identify** gaps, weaknesses and priorities

5) **fulfil** these gaps, e.g. by providing training

6) **efficient coordination** of disease/theme specific sub-networks

7) **promote trade** in livestock and livestock products

The Central Asia Animal Health Network (CAAHN)

Countries

- The Committee of Veterinary Control and Supervision of the Republic of **Kazakhstan**
- The State Inspection for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety of the Government of the **Kyrgyz Republic**
- The Committee of Food Security of the Government of the Republic of **Tajikistan**
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of **Turkmenistan**
- The State Veterinary Committee of the Republic of **Uzbekistan**

International organizations

- FAO Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU)
- OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia

Other associate partners (ad hoc)

- WHO Regional Office for Europe
- World and regional FAO/OIE reference centres/laboratories, e.g. APHA, CDC
- Private sector (e.g. producer and veterinary associations, etc.)

CAAHN's structure and functioning

- Launched on 14-15 Nov 2019 ([First CAAHN Meeting, Tashkent, Uzbekistan](#))
- FAO & OIE (initial drivers) through projects and regular program funds
- Country ownership
- Sustainability: To be gradually taken over by regional economic/political institutions and national governments

[Recommendations of the CAAHN first meeting, Tashkent, November 2019](#)

Coordination

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Meetings on an annual basis (plus ad-hoc meetings)
- Regular communications: email, teleconferences, webinars
- Steering Committee: CVOs, FAO & OIE
- Lab and epi focal points from each country
- Disease or topic-specific subnetworks, e.g. brucellosis, AI & ND
- Website (upcoming)

The Central Asia Animal Health Network (CAAHN)

Epidemiology networks

1. Timely share outbreak and surveillance information (Central Asia animal health data sharing platform)
2. Harmonize surveillance and platforms
3. Discuss prevention and control strategies
4. Coordinate, harmonize and plan interventions in the region, particularly in border areas
5. Assess the improvement of regional technical skills and continuous training of technical staff and perform risk analysis for the region and beyond

CAAHN Epidemiology Action Plan

Laboratory networks

1. Share and update info on lab diagnostic techniques and algorithms
2. Management of Laboratory Information generated in the laboratories
3. Biosafety and Biosecurity issues
4. Quality Assurance implementation (harmonized quality assurance programs)
5. Develop regional technical collaborations and catalyze experience sharing
6. Ensure a minimum and harmonized supply of reagents
7. Develop opportunities to participate in diagnostic proficiency tests
8. Collectively benefit from international expertise (from OIE/FAO Reference Centres)
9. Assess improvement of regional technical skills and continuous training of technical staff

CAAHN Laboratory Action Plan

Who is who in CAAHN?

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First activities/outcomes (disease-specific)

Initial focus on neglected zoonoses, e.g. brucellosis, echinococcosis, rabies, tuberculosis, anthrax…

Regional coordination of diseases

- **Brucellosis** Progressive Control Workshop for Central Asia (11-13 Nov 2019, Tashkent) (every 1.5 years)
  - The periodic STEB assessments
  - Country focal points
  - Assessment country missions
  - Lab trainings
  - Quarterly data sharing

- OIE/WHO Sub-Regional Workshop on **echinococcosis** (10-11 Dec 2019, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

- Formation of an **Avian influenza** and **Newcastle disease** diagnosis and surveillance subnetwork (29 Jan 2020)

- **Lumpy skin disease** preparedness for Central Asia (2021-2022)

Ad-hoc trainings in Russian:

- Online training on laboratory diagnosis for **poultry diseases** (7-24 Sept 2020)

- Online **lumpy skin disease** preparedness course (20 Oct - 17 Nov 2020)

Awareness events:

- World **Rabies** Day webinar for Central Asia Countries, 9 Oct 2020

- World Antibiotic Awareness Week (Nov 2021)

The Central Asia Animal Health Network (CAAHN)

OIE and FAO Corporate Tools to assist countries

PVS Sustainable Laboratory Support

OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (**PVS**)

Assessments of laboratories using FAO's Laboratory Mapping Tool **(LMT)**

Assessment of surveillance capacities of vet services using FAO's Surveillance Evaluation Tool **(SET)**

Veterinary Statutory Bodies

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the veterinary domain

FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance **(ATLASS)**

FAO Progressive Management Pathway for Antimicrobial Resistance (**PMP-AMR**)

Veterinary and Veterinary Paraprofessionals Education

PVS Pathway Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (**VLSP**)

KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

TURKMENISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

Thank you