

# Webinar Series to Enhance Preparedness for FMD Serotype SAT2 in Middle East and West Eurasia

## Concept Note & Provisional Agenda

### Background

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is one of the most contagious animal diseases and therefore considered of the highest importance for monitoring and control. The costs of prevention and control with restrictions in both local and international trade are high, thereby affecting food security and livelihoods along the value chains.

Since December 2022, an unexpected increase in FMD outbreaks was detected in Iraq. Samples were sent to the FMD (SAP) Institute in Türkiye and on 3 February 2023 it was reported that the causative virus belongs to the SAT2 serotype, namely topotype XIV and most closely related to SAT2 strains from Ethiopia. The route of incursion of this virus to Iraq remains under investigation. Jordan has been responding to FMD outbreaks caused by serotype O since December 2021 and a wave of outbreaks observed in December 2022 was initially attributed to this serotype. On 5 February 2023, it was reported in the media that serotype SAT2 had been detected in Jordan. Serotype SAT2 usually circulates in Africa. It was largely contained to the south of the Sahara until 2012 when there was a large outbreak in Egypt and Libya. There have been previous incursions of SAT2 into the Middle East in 1990 (Yemen), 2000 (Saudi Arabia) and 2012 (Bahrain and Gaza strip) which were contained and eliminated, possibly due to rapid response.

Both Iraq and Jordan are in FMD virus pool 3, in which serotypes O, A and Asia 1 usually circulate. There are more than 170 million susceptible animals in Iraq, Jordan and neighbouring countries<sup>1</sup>, which have never been vaccinated against SAT2. As this serotype is exotic to the region, livestock populations have no immunity against the SAT2 FMD virus. Analysis to identify available vaccines matched to the SAT2 outbreak strain has already started. Until suitable SAT2 vaccines are available, only rapid and effective biosecurity measures can limit the spread of the SAT2 virus.

In this regard, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH), with the support of the European Commission for the control of FMD (EuFMD) and Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health (EMC), is organizing a series of webinars for veterinary services of the Member countries in the Middle East and West Eurasia regions to strengthen the capacity to better prepare and respond to FMD serotype SAT2, an exotic serotype that has recently been detected in the region. The webinars will be delivered through the Virtual Learning Center (VLC) for Near East and North Africa (VLC-RNE)

### Specific Objectives:

1. Update on the FMDV serotype 2 in the Middle East and West Eurasia
2. Increase awareness of technical issues related to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) emergency preparedness, biosecurity, laboratory diagnostics, surveillance, and risk management to safeguard livestock and livelihoods.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Gridded Livestock of the World v4 (GLW4) - 2015 (<https://data.apps.fao.org/catalog/iso/15f8c56c-5499-45d5-bd89-59ef6c026704>)

3. Share recommendations on the prevention and control of exotic FMD virus serotype incursions.

**Format:** Moderated panel discussion and Q&A session.

**Moderator:** FAO/EuFMD

### Provisional Agenda

#### Webinar 1:

**Theme:** SAT2 risk management: immediate/ short-term

**Date:** Thursday 9 March 2023 (12:00-13:45CET)

Time	Topics	Speaker
12:00-12:05	Welcome & introduction to the event	Melissa Mclaws
12:05-12:15	Update on FMDV Serotype SAT2 in the Middle East and West Eurasia	Don King
12:25-12:40	Emergency preparedness and Surveillance for early detection of SAT2	Carsten Poetzsch
12:40- 12:55	Enhancing biosecurity for the prevention and control of FMD SAT2	Shahin Baiomy
12:55-13:10	Vaccine procurement for SAT2	Samia Metwally
13:10-13:40	Moderated Question and Answer Session	All
13:40-13:45	Closing remarks and follow-up	FAO/EuFMD

#### Webinar 2:

**Theme:** FMD: Laboratory Diagnostics

**Date:** Tuesday 14 March 2023 (12:00-13:30CET)

Time	Topics	Speaker
12:00-12:05	Welcome & introduction to the event	Muhammad Javed Arshed
12:05-12:25	Laboratory diagnostics for FMDV confirmation and serotyping with focus on FMDV Serotype SAT2	Kees van Maanen
12:25-12:40	Role of Reference Laboratories and Ref lab network	Don King
12:40-12:55	Sample handling and shipment to FAO/WOAH reference laboratories	Akiko Kamata
12:55-13:25	Moderated Question and Answer Session	All
13:25-13:30	Closing remarks and follow-up	FAO/EuFMD

### Webinar 3:

Theme: SAT2 risk management in the medium-term

Date: Tuesday 21 March 2023 (12:00-13:30CET)

Time	Topics	Speaker
12:00-12:05	Welcome & introduction to the event	Melissa Mclaws
12:05-12:20	FMD Vaccination Strategies with emphasis on the regional situation	Carsten Poetzsch
12:20-12:35	<i>FMD vaccination and other control measures in response to the serotype SAT2 emergency: Türkiye</i>	Abdulnaci Bulut
12:35-13:00	<i>FMD vaccination and other control measures in response to the serotype SAT2 emergency: Country's Experiences</i>	CVO/Rep.
13:00-13:25	Moderated Question and Answer Session	All
13:25-13:30	Closing remarks and follow-up	FAO/EuFMD

### Proposed participants:

- CVOs/Delegates of veterinary Services in Member Countries in the regions
- Epidemiologists/Laboratory staff of VS
- Representative from veterinary policy development
- FMD Reference Laboratories (WRL-FMD & Regional)
- Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks
- Members of Regional Advisory Groups
- Members of Global Coordination Committee on FMD (GCC-FMD)
- FAO and WOAHA
- ECTAD Team Leaders
- Development Partners

### Language:

- English and translation in Arabic