RESOLUTION No. XII

Vaccine banks: present status and future developments

CONSIDERING

Three international vaccine banks representing 18 member countries have been established during the last 20 years for stocking foot and mouth disease (FMD) viral antigens which can be quickly formulated into vaccine.

All three international banks were formed and are supported by countries which are free from FMD infection.

There is no system for drawing rights between the three banks, nor are there mechanisms for non-member or non-associated countries, to gain access to antigens in a bank even during emergency situations.

In addition to the international banks, individual countries or regional organisations also stock antigens or vaccines for their use in case of need.

Other countries maintain strains of organisms for vaccine production, or maintain contracts with producers for vaccine production for their individual use in case of need.

World-wide, the number of facilities (commercial and state) capable of producing certain vaccines, and FMD vaccines in particular, has declined.

To date, none of the banks have functioned in an emergency situation.

Through recombinant DNA technologies new products are becoming available and more are on the horizon for production and long term storage of non infectious, stable, immunogenic vaccines for several List A diseases but no such products are presently stored in vaccine banks.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Existing banks should be encouraged to develop mechanisms for reciprocal access to antigens, and to consider the feasibility and conditions for extending drawing rights to OIE Member Countries in general.

2. The exchange of technical expertise and experience between banks be increased.
3. The OIE FMD and Other Epizootics Commission should consider the need, interest, and available finances for establishment of other banks.

4. The OIE FMD and Other Epizootics Commission should identify other diseases where banks are needed and where available technology makes their inclusion in banks practical and feasible. Such diseases might include hog cholera (classical swine fever), African horse sickness, bluetongue, rabies, Newcastle disease, infectious bursal disease of poultry, rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, sheep pox and lumpy skin disease.

5. OIE Member Countries should regularly submit FMD samples to OIE Regional and the World Reference Laboratories so that field strains can be characterised and the most up-to-date information made available for selection of appropriate strains for inclusion in vaccine banks.

6. As far as possible the OIE should, upon request, make available to Member Countries information about the sources of FMD vaccines.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 20 May 1994)