



ERADICATING RINDERPEST : moments in time

Rinderpest has been described and documented on as early as the Antiquity. The term Rinderpest means bovine plague and rightly reflects the devastation the disease brings to affected animal populations, to people's livelihoods, and consequently, to entire economies.

1711 Dr Lancisi, physician of Pope Clement XI developed first recorded disease control strategies against rinderpest. Today they are still best practices in animal disease control.

1761 Creation of the first veterinary school in France

1924 Creation of the Office International des epizooties (today's World Organisation for Animal Health) to coordinate scientific knowledge for the control of rinderpest and other animal diseases.

1945 Creation of the FAO
United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation

1957 Veterinary scientific research led by Dr Walter Plowright developed a stable, safe and cheap rinderpest vaccine

1980's Resurgence of rinderpest in Africa, the Middle-East and South Asia.

1989 Expert consultation on Rinderpest Surveillance Systems: the OIE created a three-stage pathway "OIE Pathway" for countries to be officially recognized as free from the disease by the organization.

1992 Launch of the Global rinderpest eradication programme (GREP) by the FAO which set 2010 as an objective for final eradication – The OIE Pathway is fully included into the GREP.

2001 Last reported outbreak of rinderpest in one buffalo in Kenya.

May 2011 Final vote of last official free-status recognitions at the OIE's 79th General Session in Paris, France.