

# Partnering to eradicate FMD in Colombia

Timeframe: 1997 to date

CASESTORY



## LED BY

### PUBLIC SECTOR

Colombian Agricultural Institute –  
ICA, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development

### PRIVATE SECTOR

Colombian Federation of Cattle  
Raisers – FEDEGAN

Also includes regional livestock  
organizations and breeders



## GOVERNANCE

This PPP was set up through national legislation adopted in 1997, with contributions from the cattle sector and ICA, establishing a National FMD Commission to eradicate the disease. The legislation set out the roles and responsibilities of the public and private sectors in FMD control, including training, disease surveillance, diagnostic services and more. It also allows regional livestock organizations and breeders to hire private veterinarians for vaccination services.

## FUNDING

Resources from ICA and the cattle sector are invested in the National Cattle Fund (FNG), administered by FEDEGAN, to finance the sector's functions, including in the context of the National Program for FMD Eradication. ICA provides direct allocations from the national budget and resources derived from its services. At least 30% of these resources (approximately \$7.5 million/year) are allocated to vaccination campaigns against FMD. Breeders cover the vaccination costs.



## PURPOSE

Many farmers, packing houses, exporters and industries in Colombia depend on the meat sector as a key source of income. A major challenge is managing foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) – a highly contagious virus that happens to be the main sanitary barrier to the trade of animals and their products in South America – which affects beef sales in domestic and foreign markets. The government has partnered with national and regional livestock organizations to work towards eradicating this disease, now a national priority.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### PUBLIC SECTOR

- Put in place public policies, sanitary regulations and control of biologicals to combat activities that carry a high risk of spreading the disease (e.g. illegal slaughtering and smuggling of animals).
- Establish the period and conditions for each FMD vaccination cycle, define the campaign's guidelines, oversee and approve the campaign's results, and apply sanctions, as necessary.
- Train the private sector on how to operate vaccination services.
- Conduct epidemiological surveillance and sampling of vesicular diseases, and control animal movement and quarantine, as-needed.

### PRIVATE SECTOR

- Ensure an unbroken cold chain and the availability of biological components required for FMD vaccination based on ICA guidelines.
- Increase understanding across the livestock sector about the importance of FMD vaccination and its impact on animal health and the economy.
- Provide logistical support in follow-up sampling by ICA on viral activity, immunity, reported cases and more.
- Participate in animal surveillance to report on vesicular disease incidence in a timely manner.
- Manage an information system that integrates public (SINIGAN) and private (SAGARI) platforms, records vaccination data and delivers technical reports to ICA.

## LESSONS

- Effectively managing animal diseases like FMD requires a collaborative approach and sharing of resources among the public and private sectors. National livestock industry associations play a vital role in bringing together smaller associations, cooperatives and breeders to leverage such collaboration.
- Integrating the FNG and mechanism for resource mobilization in the country's public law is key to ensuring a long-term partnership.
- Using mobile phones and I-Pads to record vaccination data collected in the field and integrating these records in the information system facilitates follow-up needed to improve surveillance.
- Establishing a National FMD Commission and inter-institutional working groups helped address challenges, such as differences in approaches between public and private institutions in achieving objectives, and a lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities.

## UP-SCALING OPPORTUNITIES

- Colombia received visits from institutions of other countries seeking to replicate the regulatory, collaborative and financing model.

## RESULTS

### COLOMBIA ACHIEVED THE OIE FMD-FREE STATUS WITH VACCINATION IN 2009.

**THIS ENABLED MEAT AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS TO EXPORT THEIR PRODUCTS TO FOREIGN MARKETS INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AS WELL AS COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS AND AND MIDDLE EAST.**



### New IT tools

#### IMPROVED MONITORING PROCESSES.

This helped to measure coverage of the vaccination programme and identify risk zones, essential to improving surveillance to maintain the FMD-free status.



### The partnership expanded to cover VACCINATION AGAINST BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS AT NO COST TO PRODUCERS,

further improving animal health and increasing importing markets' confidence in Colombian livestock products.