Report of MSP Rest of Asia

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LIFE Network
The online MSP for the rest of Asia took place on the 9\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} of Sep 2020 at 11:00 am Rome Time.

The meeting was well attended by stakeholders representing different groups; civil society, NGOs, donor groups, research institutions, the government and the private sector. Several GASL partners, CIRAD, VSF, ILRI, LIFE network, HPI, Donkey Sanctuary participated either as panelists, contributors to the inputs or from the audience.
Impact of COVID 19 on Livestock Holders

• The pandemic has affected all sections of livestock keepers, large, small, capital intensive, low input, labour intensive,
• Impact was varied with several disruptions in value chains which had negative socio economic consequences but the effect as yet is largely unquantified.
• Other issues, like drought in Mongolia, ASF in several South east Asian and Asian countries added to the problem. To this I would add locusts in Pakistan and India.
• In China, Cambodia and several other countries livestock prices came down but the purchasing power of people had also reduced.
• In South Asia misrepresentation through social media made consumers wary of buying meat especially poultry from industrial.
• In India, Nepal organized Dairy and poultry sectors ran into big problems.
Responses of Government

Was varied. Sri Lanka seemed to have very little problem according to a presenter. On the other hand, China seemed to be helping its herders though ecological subsidies, fodder subsidies. Veterinary services were disrupted in several places.

Several groups such as pastoralists, small holders were particularly vulnerable because of other issues: drought, climate change, dependance on remittances from abroad, markets closing, low purchasing power, African Swine Fever.

Many governments were caught unprepared and were struggling to respond adequately.
Resilient systems

- Resilience: A systems ability to recover and adapt to stressors
- Small holder systems, traditional systems, pastoral systems were found to be more resilient because of their diversity and also because they were less dependent on external resources, markets or even government support,
- Where networks and farmers groups were strong, there were less problems.
- NGOs, CSO’s, CAHWs helped shoulder the shock.
- Ethnoveterinary medicine practices increased when other systems were not available;
- Local markets, sharing of food, new supply chains, online platforms were new opportunities.
- There were also new entrants into livestock rearing; In India returning migrant labour

Resilient systems are typically characterized by the very features—diversity and redundancy, or slack—that efficiency seeks to destroy.”
Action needed.

New poor expected to be in South Asia

1. Early detection, rapid response, sustained control.
2. Increased and greater attention to Environmental health
3. Support to traditional systems, small holders and pastoralists
4. Support to small short value chains, local systems, local production and consumption
5. Promoting a one health approach
6. Better surveillance (ethical), diagnostics, reporting
7. Building platforms for collaboration between farmers, partners, research institutes, governments.
8. Increasing awareness/education of disease across supply chain especially small farmers, butchers, traders
9. Better facilities for livestock product handling, processing, storage and marketing.
Poll question. .. answers

- Veterinarians will continue to play a critical role in combating and preventing future pandemics
- There will definitely be more pandemics, but we may be better equipped to handle them
- Traditional systems are more resilient but that doesn’t mean they do not need recognition and support
- Wet markets should not be banned but there is enormous scope for improvement
- Biosecurity is not only for large industrial units. Can be modified and adapted for small farms too
Thank you
Thank you