Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) – History and Context

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APHCA Strategy Workshop

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Outline

- History
- Objective & Functions
- Membership
- Funding
- Functioning
- Work thrusts
- SWOT analysis
- Changing landscapes

History

- Established in 1975 as FAO Regional Commission under Art. XIV of FAO constitution
- Asian countries saw need for coordination of livestock development policies & programs
- FAO keen to promote TCDC concepts

Objective & Functions

Objective

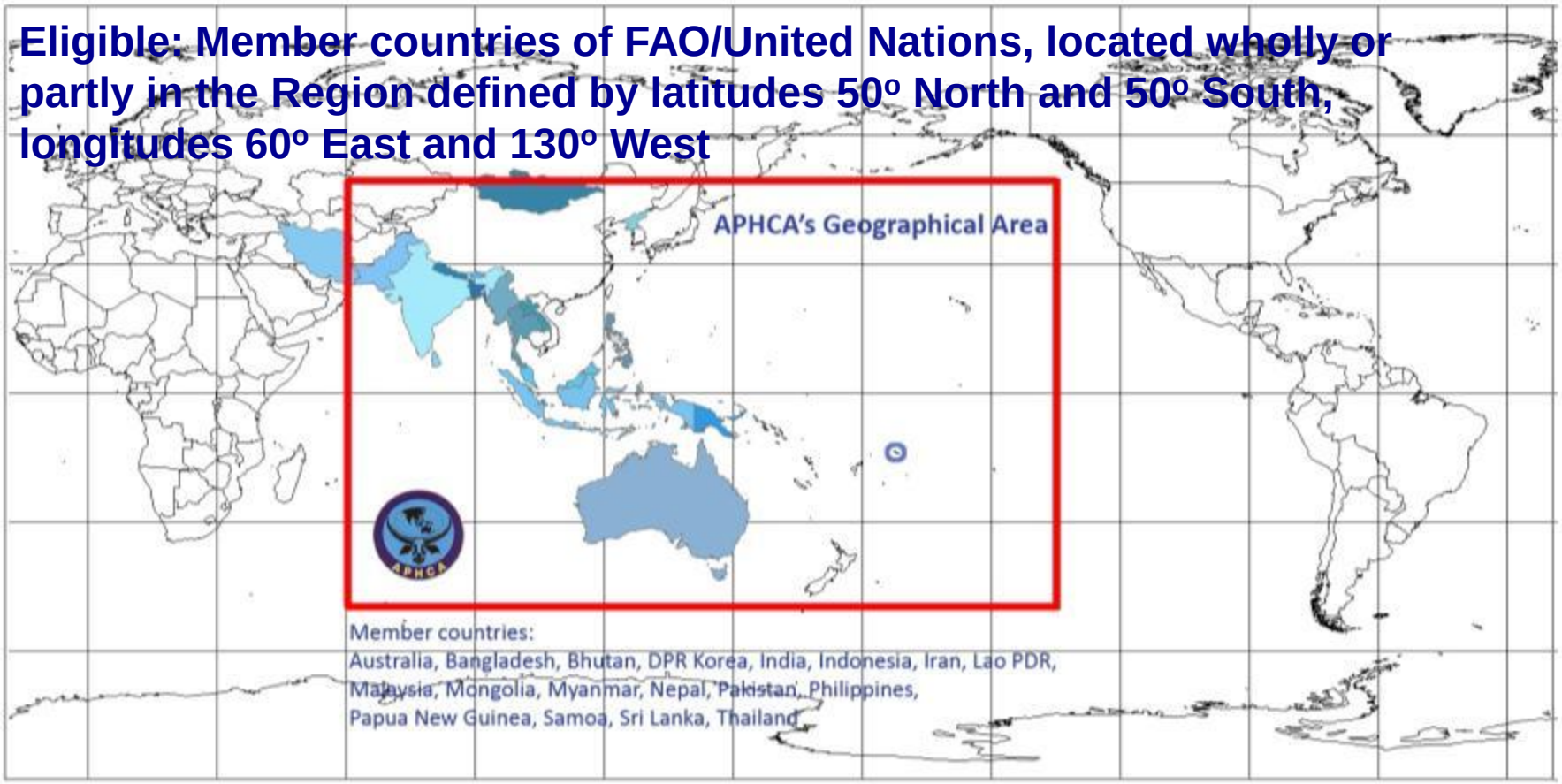
- *"To raise the level of nutrition and living standards of small-farmers and rural communities through optimal exploitation of resources for livestock development."*

Functions

- **Promote joint action, cooperation, coordination and information exchange among the members for better animal production;**
- **Assist in diagnosis, surveillance and control of livestock diseases;**
- **Assist in appropriate agricultural education and research, that relates to the Asian situation;**
- **Seek cooperation and assistance of UN bodies, other international and government organizations to help implement APHCA programmes.**

Membership

Eligible: Member countries of FAO/United Nations, located wholly or partly in the Region defined by latitudes 50º North and 50º South, longitudes 60º East and 130º West



Funding

- Membership fees
  - into FAO trust fund (app USD 100,000/year
- National Currency Funds
  - under national sovereignty
- Voluntary contributions
  - Australia A$175,000 in 80s
- In kind
  - FAO provides secretariat

Functioning

- Each member country assigns a 'permanent delegate' and a 'national focal point'
- Delegates / focal points meet at 'General Session' at least once per year:
  - Elect an Executive Committee with 5 rotating members (at least one meeting per year – 72 meetings so far)
  - Deliberate on pertinent livestock sector related issues
  - Approve work plan and review implementation
- Secretariat
  - Implementation and documentation

Recommendations from 35th Session

- Policies & strategies to better integrate smallholders into agri-food supply chains;
- Promotion of more inclusive regional trade policies;
- Enhanced investment in technical domains of livestock production (feeding, breeding, health, etc);
- Regional veterinary laboratory networks establish closer links to global diagnostic networks and that the link between animal and human health laboratory systems be strengthened (One Health).

2011 -2012 Work 'Thrusts'

- Smallholder dairy development (USD30k)
- Strengthening diagnostic capacity for 'neglected' diseases (USD30k)
- 'Positioning' of APHCA (USD40k)

Review Results

- Stated functions remain very relevant
  - Joint action and assistance
    - Animal production
    - Education programmes
  - Information and coordination
    - Dissemination of information on animal production
  - Cooperation
    - Work with other organizations and leverage inputs to projects and workshops

SWOT (1)

Strengths

- Membership organisation
- Ownership
- FAO umbrella
- Spin-off benefits
- Leverage
- Large geographic coverage

Weaknesses

- Weak PR, low visibility
- Limited budget
- Understaffed secretariat
- *Ad hoc* planning
- Large geographic coverage

SWOT (2)

Opportunities

- Unique position for profiling
- Regional Members/Donors
- Enlarge membership
- South-South cooperation
- New donor funding mechanisms

Threats

- Decline in FAO funding
- Arrears in contributions
- Failure to increase membership
- Failure to take key role in emerging issues

Changing Landscapes

Issues

- Environment: pollution, land degradation, etc
- Climate change: GHGs, resilience / adaptation
- EIDs and food safety: H5N1, MRSA, One Health
- Resource use efficiency: natural resources, human resources

Institutions

- Corporate private sector growth
- Proliferation of national & international NGOs
- Growing role of Regional coordination bodies (ASEA, SAARC)
- Donor 'volatility'
- FAO decentralization

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