The EU, China and South East Asia Dialog for the Development of Research Areas in Animal Health

Specific Support Action

Background/description of problem

The livestock sector occupies a significant part of the global economies, particularly in the developing world. In addition to its contribution to food supply and base of livelihood for innumerable families, livestock provides energy, raw materials for the textile and leather industries, and fertilizer for crops. It is therefore not surprising that the livestock sector has emerged as an important economic resource for a vast majority of rural populations.

Project profile

Recent public health scares such as Rinderpest, CSV, Avian influenza, SARS, mad cow disease, to name a few, share the main feature of being diseases common to human and other animal species, domesticated or wild. The objective of ASEMDialog is to identify areas of mutual interest for future collaborations between the EU, China and South-East Asia regarding animal health and food chain safety.

International aspects

Transboundary diseases have the potential for very rapid spread irrespective of national borders, causing serious socio-economic and possibly public health consequences. ASEMDialog will organise workshops coordinated by an international committee consisting of two European partners and three scientists from the Asian partner countries to create an enabling environment for a frank and open debate on prevailing animal health issues of relevance to both the EU and Asia.

Socio-economic significance

ASEMDialog will have the following long-term socio-economic impact:

- It will elucidate the cultural, economic and biological basis of interspecies interactions involving humans and animal food species, domestic or wild.
- It will structure the production and flow of this information by making it relevant and accessible to all interested users.
- It will provide a foundation for international S&T based cooperation, with particular emphasis on intraregional and bi-regional cooperation, involving the EU and East and Southeast Asia.

Specific Support Action

Basic project information

Full project title: The EU, China and South East Asia Dialog for the Development of Research Areas in Animal Health of Mutual Interest
Duration: 18 months
Starting year: 2007
EU funding: €99 873
FP6 instrument used: Specific Support Action (SSA)
Project coordinator:
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Third country partner(s) involved:
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Chinese Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (China)
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Scientific significance

The project will contribute to the following scientific areas:

- Address challenges to food security, food safety and animal welfare through bi-regional dialogue
- Establishment of working groups to identify research and action priority to be addressed within the FP7
- Increased awareness of the health risks for both human and livestock populations.

Project outcomes

- Better understanding of epidemiological cycles of the candidate diseases through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach
- Identification of intrinsic as well as extrinsic factors triggering or modulating the spread of the diseases
- Promotion of food safety control
- Promotion of traceability and awareness-raising.

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