World Organisation for Animal Health

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

TRAINING ON RISK ANALYSIS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL, Bangkok, Thailand, 28 - 30 April 2025

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1. Introduction

Transboundary animal disease spread in SEA

- ✓ Highly contagious.
- ✓ Potential for very rapid spread irrespective to national borders.
- ✓ Leads to serious socio-economic and possibly public health consequences.

TADs

- ✓ Foot and Mouth Disease,
- ✓ Rinderpest,
- ✓ Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
- ✓ Sheep and Goat Pox,
- ✓ *Peste des Petits Ruminants*,
- ✓ Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza,
- ✓ Rift Valley Fever,
- ✓ Newcastle Disease,
- ✓ African and Classical Swine Fever,
- ✓ Equine Encephalitidies,
- ✓ Rabies
- ✓ Brucellosis.

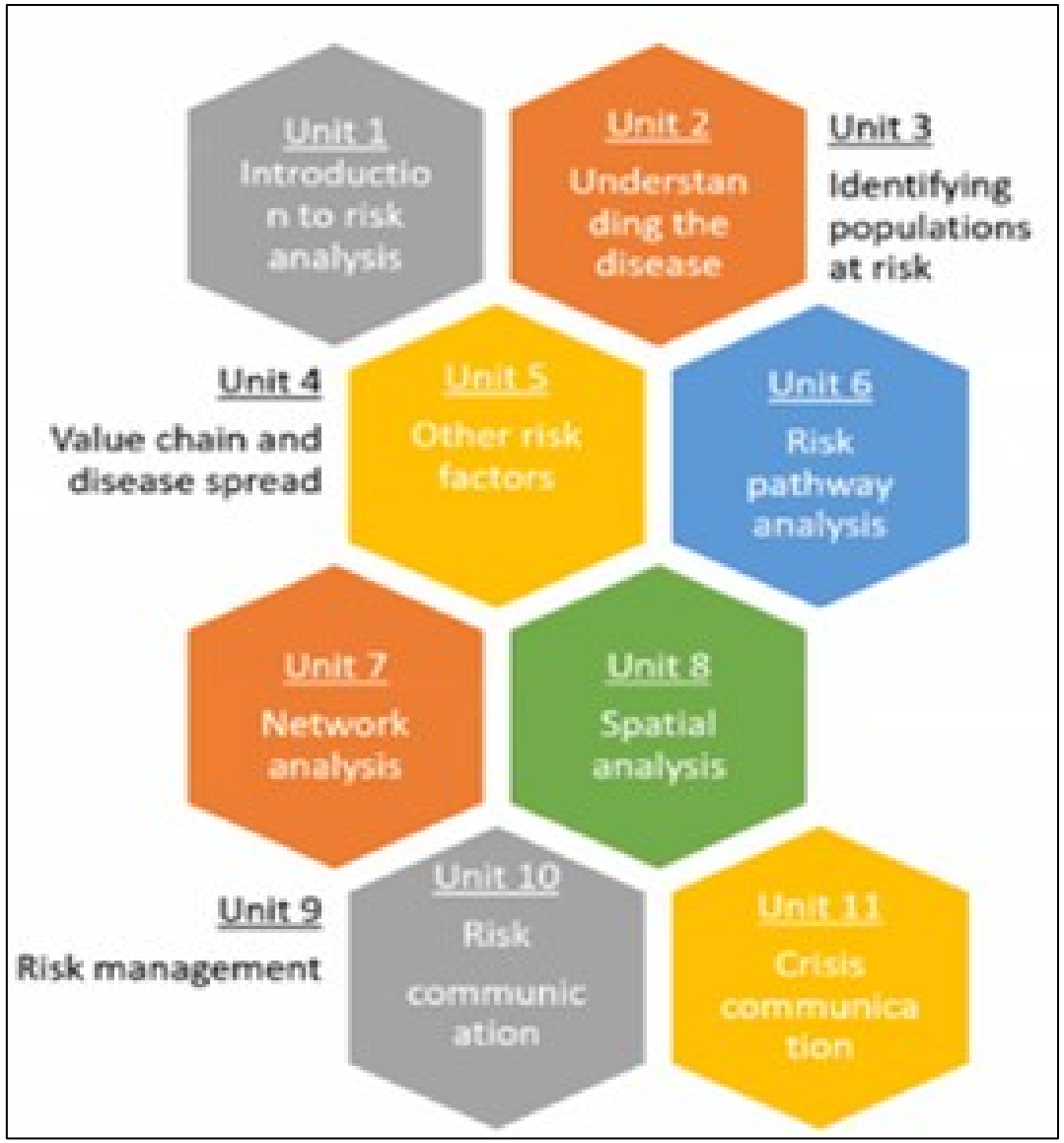
2. Course Organiser and Funder

Training on RA for TAD control is jointly developed by WOAH, Animal Health Research Centre (CISA-INIA/CSIC) Spain, and WOAH SRR-SEA under an Australian-funded DAFF project.

Aims of the RA training is to equip veterinary professionals and policymakers with the knowledge and tools to **assess, manage**, and **mitigate risks** following international standards and frameworks.

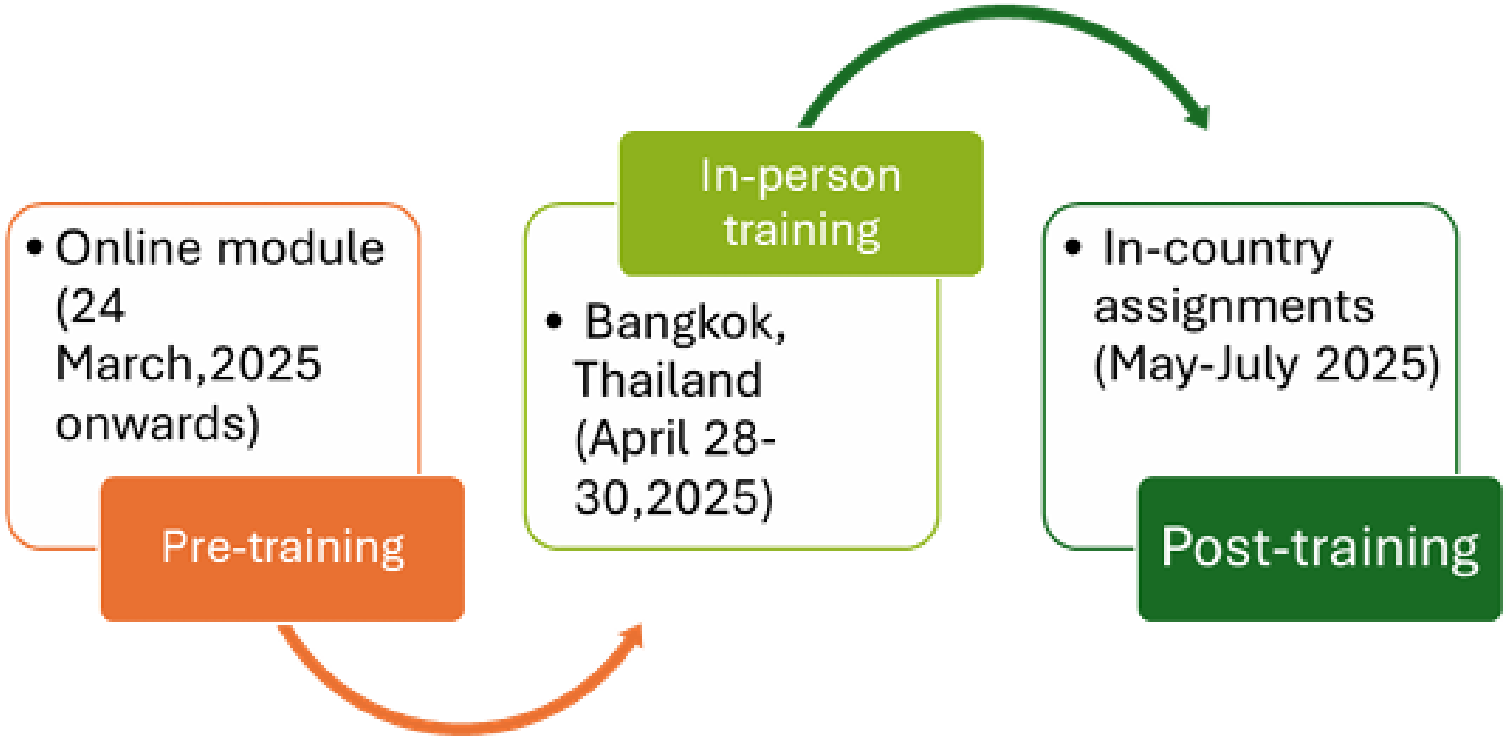
This training was attended by **27 participants**, including 2 consultants from Madrid, Spain, and 2 representatives from the sub-regional WOAH office in Bangkok as the organizers.

3. Course Modules



- The course has 11 units covering:
  i. the identification, assessment, management and communication of risks from the disease/infection situation
  ii. the population at risk
  iii. the value chain, and
  iv. other risk factors including One health approach.
- The course also includes specific methodology commonly used to assess epidemiological risks (i.e. pathway identification, network and spatial analysis).
- The course covers theory as well as practical examples, and includes quizzes, assignments, and other exercises with proposed solutions and feedback.

4. Course Methodology



- Training combines an online self-paced for 1 month, followed by face-to-face meeting in Bangkok, Thailand , & then post training assignment (2 months) – present and submit to the expert.

5. Objective of the training

- To strengthen the capacity of veterinary services in the South-East Asia region in risk analysis for TADs control.
- To develop skills in risk assessment, enhance understanding of epidemiological tools for risk identification and management.
- To improve communication strategies for risk assessment outcomes and apply risk analysis to real-world scenarios in South-East Asia.

6. Main activity organised

i. Completion of Online Learning Modules - Participants must complete several self-paced e-learning modules.

ii. Pre-Reading of Required Materials – Journals, reports etc

iii. Completion of Pre-Training Assignments – e.g Describing risk pathway for disease introduction or spread

iv. Participation in Online Webinars

v. Submission of Assignments

vii. Technical Familiarisation on Tools - Install & learn basic functions of GIS tools

viii. Self assessment with passing mark over 90%

7. Learning experiences

Strengthened both our technical understanding and practical skills in animal health risk management

Provided a structured and comprehensive overview of key risk assessment concepts, including hazard identification, exposure assessment, consequence assessment and overall risk estimation.

Systematic approach to evaluating disease incursion pathways, including assessing import risk, cross-border transmission, and high-risk practices that may contribute to disease spread.

The practical exercises, group discussions, and case studies allowed us to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios, enhancing our confidence in conducting qualitative and semi-quantitative risk assessments.

8. The knowledge and skills gained that can be applied to tasks in the workplace

Important knowledge and practical skills that are directly applicable to our work.

Better equipped to conduct systematic risk assessments, including identifying hazards, analysing pathways of disease incursion, and evaluating the likelihood and consequences of TAD introduction into the country.

Stronger skills in interpreting epidemiological data, identifying uncertainties, and preparing clear risk communication outputs for stakeholders

Strengthened our ability to use evidence-based approaches when reviewing import requirements, assessing disease threats such as ASF and HPAI, and supporting decision-making processes within our department.

Group exercises and case studies improved our confidence in applying qualitative and semi-quantitative methods, which can be used in preparing reports, reviewing policies, and designing risk-based surveillance activities.

Enhance the quality and effectiveness of our technical work in animal health risk management.

9. Challenges During the Study

Struggled in balancing the intensive course requirements with ongoing office workload.

Sometimes difficult to allocate sufficient time and focus to complete learning activities and assignments on time.

Managing responsibilities simultaneously required effective prioritization and extended working hours.

Understanding and applying some of the more complex components of the risk assessment framework, especially when analysing disease pathways with limited or uncertain data is not that easy.

Certain concepts, such as exposure assessment and consequence estimation, needed additional effort and revision.

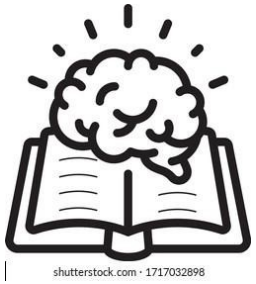
But…it is worth it!

10. Recommendations for Improving DVS Services Based on TAD RA Course;

Strengthen Risk-Based Decision Making	Develop Internal Risk Assessment Capacity	Strengthen Risk Communication Practices	Increase Preparedness and Scenario Planning
• Incorporate structured risk assessment approaches into routine decision-making processes, particularly for import risk analysis, disease preparedness planning and the development of national policies related to transboundary diseases.	• Provide more training and capacity-building opportunities for officers to strengthen their skills in qualitative and semi-quantitative risk assessment, uncertainty analysis and risk communication. • This will ensure that more staff members are equipped to contribute to technical assessments.	• Adopt clearer, more structured communication methods for presenting risk findings to stakeholders, including policymakers, industry partners and farmers. • Effective risk communication will support informed decision-making and better stakeholder engagement.	• Utilise risk assessment outputs to guide contingency planning, emergency response exercises and resource allocation, ensuring that DVS is better prepared for potential disease incursions such as ASF, HPAI, FMD and other TADs.

11. Conclusion

- The TAD Risk Assessment course has strengthened our understanding of risk assessment principles and improved our ability to apply them in daily technical work.
- Despite challenges in balancing office duties with the course requirements, the training enhanced our analytical skills, appreciation of evidence-based decision making and confidence in evaluating disease incursion risks.



- The knowledge gained will support more effective risk-based planning, surveillance and policy development within DVS, and contribute to overall improvements in national preparedness for transboundary animal diseases.

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12. Photos

Thank You