

TAFS Roundtable on Vaccine Verification

Key Recommendations for Strengthening Vaccine Verification Capacity

Bangkok, Thailand | 24 March 2026

Introduction

On 24 March 2026, the TAFS Forum held a dedicated roundtable focusing on **“Vaccine Verification”** in Bangkok, Thailand, bringing together experts from veterinary services, international organizations, reference laboratories, and the private sector.

The objective of the roundtable was to discuss current challenges in vaccine evaluation and to explore practical, science-based approaches to strengthen vaccine verification in the region, using Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccines as a case example.

The discussions highlighted that vaccine verification remains a critical bottleneck for effective disease control. While technical tools and methods exist, their application is often constrained by limited capacity, lack of standardization, and insufficient access to independent data. At the same time, there is a need to better align technical requirements with procurement processes and decision-making frameworks.

The following recommendations reflect the key outcomes of the roundtable discussions. They are intended to support participants and stakeholders in strengthening vaccine verification capacity through practical, collaborative, and context-adapted approaches.

1. Strengthen Pre-Procurement Verification

Participants agreed that vaccine selection should be based on clear technical criteria, not on price alone.

Key actions:

- Establish **minimum technical requirements** for vaccine selection (safety, potency, stability, NSP-purity)
- Require **robust and transparent documentation** from suppliers
- Ensure that **technical expertise is integrated into procurement processes**

2. Apply a Multi-Parameter Evaluation Approach

Vaccine quality cannot be assessed based on a single indicator.

Key actions:

- Combine interpretation of:
 - antigenic matching (r1-values)
 - potency (PD50 or equivalent methods)
 - immune response (VNT or ELISA-based assays)
- Promote **capacity building** on how to interpret these parameters in combination
- Avoid reliance on “single-number” decision-making

3. Introduce Small-Scale Local Validation (“Test Drive”)

Before large-scale procurement, vaccines should be evaluated under local conditions.

Key actions:

- Conduct **small-scale immunogenicity studies** (e.g., 5–10 animals)

- Verify that vaccines induce adequate immune response in the **target population and context**
- Use results to support **evidence-based procurement decisions**

4. Improve Access to Reference Materials and Standardization

Reliable interpretation of laboratory results requires comparability.

Key actions:

- Request **reference sera from manufacturers** linked to potency testing
- Promote **harmonized laboratory protocols** across countries and institutions
- Support calibration of ELISA and VNT assays using **shared reference standards**
- Promote the use of **ELISA-based methods** (e.g., LPBE, SPCE) as practical tools for vaccination monitoring and supportive potency assessment, given their **lower cost, ease of standardization, and suitability for laboratories without BSL-3 facilities**

5. Strengthen Laboratory Capacity and Regional Collaboration

Individual countries may not have the resources to perform all required tests independently.

Key actions:

- Explore **regional laboratory approaches** for complex testing (e.g., VNT, BSL-3 diagnostics)
- Strengthen collaboration within existing networks (e.g., ASEAN laboratory platforms)
- Facilitate **sharing of expertise, protocols, and data**

6. Promote Transparency and Data Sharing

Limited access to independent data remains a key constraint.

Key actions:

- Encourage **open exchange of data and experiences** on vaccine performance
- Create platforms to share **lessons learned from field use**
- Reduce barriers to **strain and information sharing**, where possible

7. Align Procurement with Technical Requirements

Bridging the gap between technical and administrative processes is essential.

Key actions:

- Increase **awareness among decision-makers** (e.g., procurement and finance authorities)
- Highlight the **economic risks of sub-optimal vaccine selection**
- Promote procurement frameworks that balance **cost and quality considerations**

8. Strengthen Public–Private Dialogue

Effective vaccine verification requires collaboration across sectors.

Key actions:

- Enhance communication between **veterinary services, laboratories, and manufacturers**
- Ensure that **regional needs are clearly communicated to suppliers**
- Foster **practical partnerships** focused on performance and quality

Conclusion and Next Steps

Participants emphasized that strengthening vaccine verification is not a one-time effort, but a continuous process requiring coordination, trust, and sustained investment.

Strengthening vaccine verification will:

- improve the effectiveness of vaccination programs
- reduce the risk of disease outbreaks
- support more resilient livestock systems

The TAFS Forum will continue to support knowledge exchange, regional collaboration, and the practical implementation of these recommendations.

These recommendations are intended as a starting point for continued dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to further develop and implement practical solutions.