



DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

Foot-and-mouth disease

Let us work together to control the disease!



S.Y. Magera

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is caused by a germ called a virus. This germ is found in all body secretions of infected animals (saliva, urine, faeces, milk and even droplets from sneezing and snorting).

Animals get sick from FMD when eating or breathing in the germs from these body secretions.

Now read the story of two farmers ...

THE STORY OF TWO FARMERS

The farmers of Jikalele held a meeting on foot-and-mouth disease.



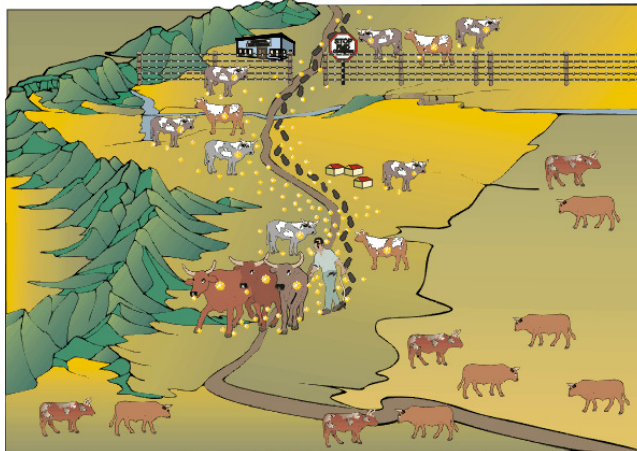
After the meeting Mr Mabena is very worried and thinks about moving his cattle. Mr Shabalala is also worried and thinks that he should have his cattle tested for FMD.



Mr Mabena's story



Mr Mabena's cattle have FMD but he does not know this and decides to move his cattle out of the FMD area. He sneaks away in the middle of the night.



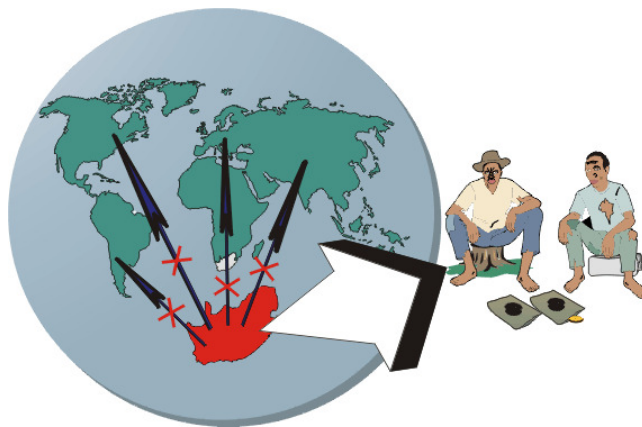
He travels throughout South Africa and spreads the virus

wherever he goes.



Mr Mabena is caught. His cattle are taken away and destroyed because they have FMD.

Mr Mabena gets no compensation because he broke the law by moving his cattle out of an FMD area illegally. He has spread FMD to cattle in many other areas and people are very angry with him.



South Africa can no longer trade with other countries because they believe that

our meat is infected with FMD.



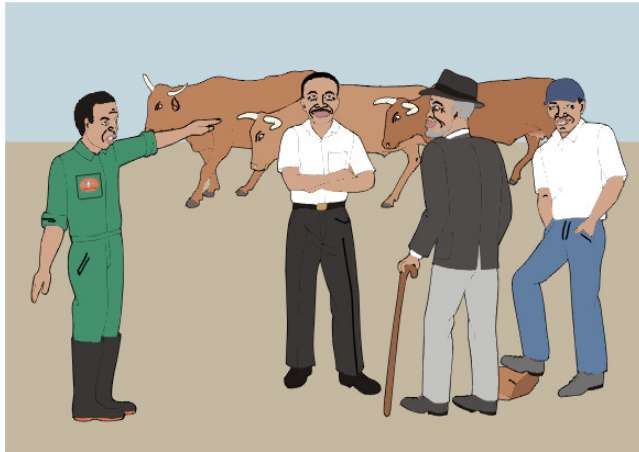
Mr Shabalala's story



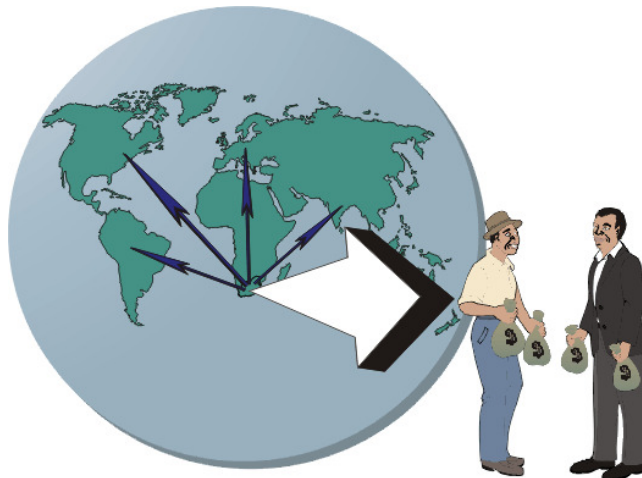
Mr Shabalala calls the local veterinary services to come and test his cattle for FMD.



Unfortunately Mr. Shabalala's cattle have FMD and they are taken away. He is given the option between taking new cattle or taking money as compensation for losing his cattle.



Mr Shabalala now has his new cattle.



Foot-and-mouth disease did not spread throughout the country because Mr Shabalala worked together with the veterinary services to try and control this disease. South Africa is therefore still able to trade with other

countries.

For further information contact your local animal health technician, state/private veterinarian or

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