

Circovac launched in the Philippines

Merial Philippines has begun a series of roadshow launches in the Philippines for Circovac, Merial's vaccine against Porcine Circovirus Disease (PCVD).

Circovac is the first PCV2 vaccine to be used extensively in field trials in Europe since 2004. In 2008, Merial has supplied more than 10 million sow doses worldwide.

Dr Tomas Acorda, Technical and Marketing Manager for Large Animal Business Operations-Merial Philippines, explained that unlike other PCV2 vaccines which are given to piglets, Circovac is a vaccine for sows and gilts prior to pregnancy and farrowing.

This has several advantages. Studies

have shown that PCVD is the consequence of massive infection of suckling piglets with PCV2 resulting in an impaired immune system and a reduced ability to mount an adequate or effective response to infection by other pathogenic co-factors.

Vaccination of sows would result in a great reduction in virus excretion and contamination of the farm environment especially in the farrowing area. Good maternal immunity will permit piglets to cope with PCV2 exposure during the suckling stages



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and emerge with their immune systems intact and subsequent exposure with more PCV2 and other co-factors will be met with a full natural ability to respond. Studies in many countries have shown that the early protection will extend throughout the pig's life.

Among the other benefits of Circovac are:

- it provides early reduction of viral load;
- it reduces mortality at all stages;
- it optimises growth performances;
- it improves reproduction parameters; and
- it restores profitability.