

# Preventing and controlling neglected parasitic zoonoses

A key role for the animal health sector

## 1 NEGLECTED PARASITIC ZOOSES

These diseases are caused by parasites such as *Taenia solium*, *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus* and *Fasciola*. They are often forgotten or overlooked because:

- they cause mild, chronic or no disease in animals
- economic losses might not be evident
- primarily affect the most vulnerable and marginalised communities

Animals are crucial in the transmission of neglected parasitic zoonoses. The animal health sector\* plays a vital role in breaking parasitic cycles by leading and implementing control measures in animals.

\*includes veterinarians and animal health practitioners, veterinary authorities, meat inspectors, animal traders, policy-makers and others.



## 2 DISEASE IMPACT

The disease impact is underestimated, and current data is likely to only represent the tip of the iceberg.

**Taenia solium**

**2.8 million**

disability adjusted life years (DALYs). The total number of people suffering from neurocysticercosis is estimated to be between **2.56 and 8.30 million**.

**Echinococcus**

**More than 1 million**

people are affected with echinococcosis at any one time.

**Trichinella**

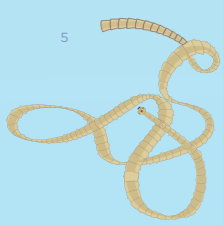
**10,000**

infections annually worldwide

**Fasciola**

**At least 2.4 million**

people are infected in more than 70 countries, with several million at risk.



## 3 ACTIONS FOR THE ANIMAL HEALTH SECTOR

The animal health sector can contribute to preventing and controlling neglected parasitic zoonoses.

**Field veterinarians and other animal health practitioners can:**

Create awareness among farmers and local communities.

Provide guidance to animal owners on how to prevent and control the diseases.

Diagnose the diseases and alert animal owners and authorities.

Tailor the prevention and control measures to the local and epidemiological conditions.

Ensure that the recommendations are feasible for the farmers to implement.



**Veterinary authorities can:**

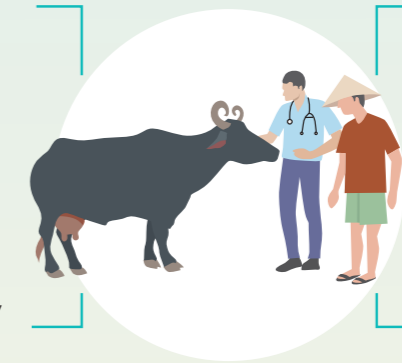
Establish surveillance programmes.

Provide an enabling policy environment.

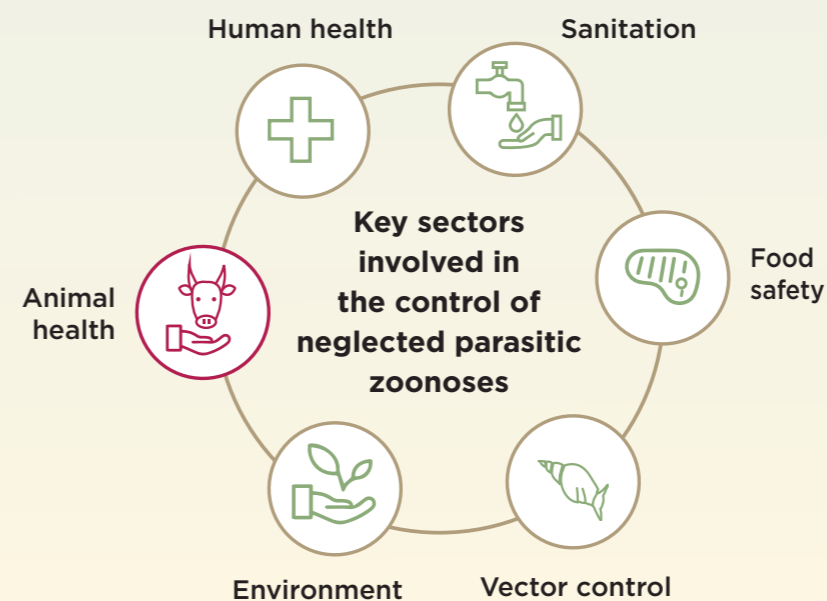
Conduct awareness campaigns.

Set up and support control programmes.

Liaise with human health authorities and others as needed.



Veterinary authorities should provide leadership, support and resources to implement the needed actions



For a more effective, efficient and sustainable control of neglected zoonoses, collaborating with other sectors under the One-Health approach is essential.



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