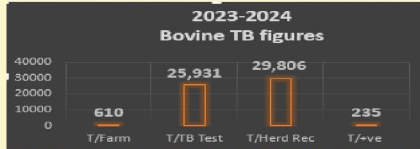


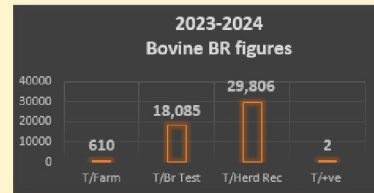
Current status of Bovine TB/zoonotic TB & Brucellosis Fiji

Bovine TB Current Situation



Fiji dairy farms are the most infected farms with TB because of the nature of the tropical climate that we have in the pacific. We had a TB case in past years where staffs have been tested, infected and a few positive cases. It is a rare disease in Fiji, however, everyone is responsible to take precautions every time while interface with nature and bovine animals. As of, for year 2023-2024 Fiji had 235 bovine TB positive cases which were mostly from dairy farms from Central Division.

Brucellosis Current Situation



Fiji had 2 cases of bovine brucellosis which was detected from Western & Central division. There was no case of such brucellosis with human as in the interval of transmission from animal to humans. However, it is possible but precautions are vital when attending clinical cases of abortion and stillbirths in animals.

Diagnosis, surveillance & control



The current diagnostic is exercised through TB test using Bovine purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin 30,000iu/ml is used for the Caudal Skin fold test. The test is read at 72 hrs +/- 6 hours after injection. The skin site must be physically examined and observed at reading. There is no correlation between the size of the reaction and the likelihood of the animal being truly infected with bovine TB. To control the spread of disease the positive cattle is taken to the slaughter house and TB lesions are sent back to lab for further diagnosis.

Diagnosis, surveillance & control



The blood sample is submitted to the laboratory. The test is done through the ELIZA TEST KIT. Once the result is finalized, it is dispatched to section Head, and the farmer is notified of the positive result and advised that the animal needs to be rounded up for tagging and removal from the farm. To control the spreads of diseases the animal is taken to the slaughter house and the samples are sent back to lab for further diagnosis.

One Health Approach



The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have joint operation on TB Screening through TB skin test for BTEC staff and the medication is provided for those who have been tested positive.

One Health Approach

There are no case of Brucellosis that is transmitted from animal to human being but we continued to take precaution through wearing the proper PPE and other equipment used by the Agriculture assistance.

Challenges & Way forward

The main challenge faced is noncompliance farmers whereby they fail to provide proper testing facilities, unable to present total stock for testing and reading. Lack of vets in Ministry has put a lot of pressure on the experienced staffs. Due to improper testing facilities, staffs are more prone to injuries and exposure to disease.

We need more exposure on local & overseas training to our staffs. We need capacity building in other areas that is associated with the bovine solutions to staffs and farmers.

Challenges & Way forward

Lack of Veterinary expertise in Fiji, lack of research in bovine species and the need for reality capacity to combat the transmission of bovine diseases.

