



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1924

中华人民共和国农业农村部  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China

# Timor-Leste Brucella management program

Australia Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry  
Tom Couston

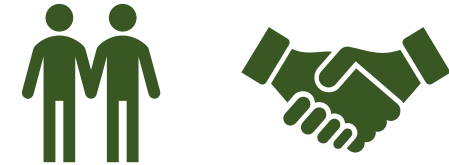
Veterinary Officer

Offshore Program for Animal Health



# Australia's international biosecurity partnerships

Australia has a long history of working closely with our international partners



Department Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has dedicated international animal health partnership programs

The partnership program with Timor-Leste has been active for over 20 years, and has established long term and trust-based relationships



# Setting the scene in Timor-Leste

- *Timor-Leste independent since 2002*
- *~400,000 cattle and buffalo*
- *Cross border cultural linkages*



# Importance to Timor-Leste

- Bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) considered an endemic disease in Timor-Leste
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery, and Forestry (MALFF) Strategic Plan (2021-25) includes the objective to “*sustainably increase livestock productivity and improve access to domestic and export markets.*”
- Since November 2022 has been listed as one of the top five animal diseases for priority action in Timor-Leste
- Partnerships with DAFF, Menzies and Agriculture Victoria



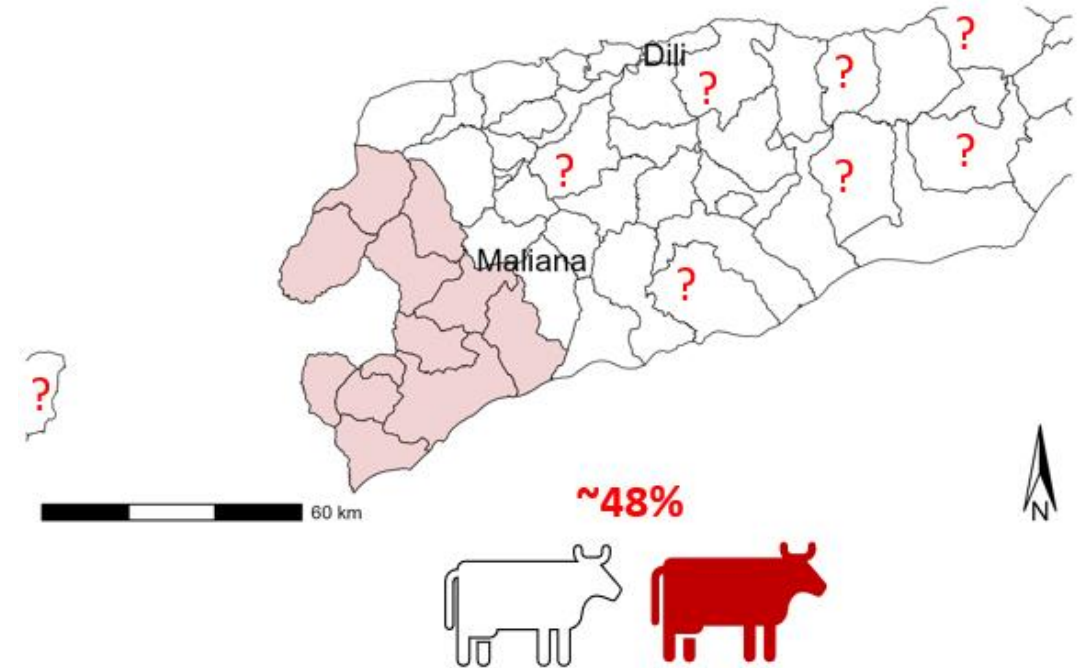
# Data and results – recent surveys

A 2023 serosurvey by MALFF

- 1000 cattle in 98 sucos (villages) in Bobonaro, Cova Lima and Oecusse Municipalities
- Brucella seroprevalence of ~48%

## Border regions surveyed for *B. abortus* seroprevalence (2023)

Data reported by MALFF



# Data and results – Menzies One health survey

Menzies intensive survey with a One Health approach in 2023



189 Household with cattle

- 253 interviews
- 239 farmer blood samples
- 437 cattle blood samples



12 slaughtermen/butcher

- 12 interviews
- 9 blood samples



22 veterinary/livestock technicians

- 22 interviews
- 19 blood samples

Percentage exposed to  
brucellosis

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Cattle



**20.6% (90/437)**  
95%CI: 16.5-25.2

Farmer



**5.4% (13/239)**  
95%CI: 3.0 – 9.1

Technicians



**10.5% (2/19)**  
95% CI: 1.3 – 33.1

Slaughterman  
/Butchers



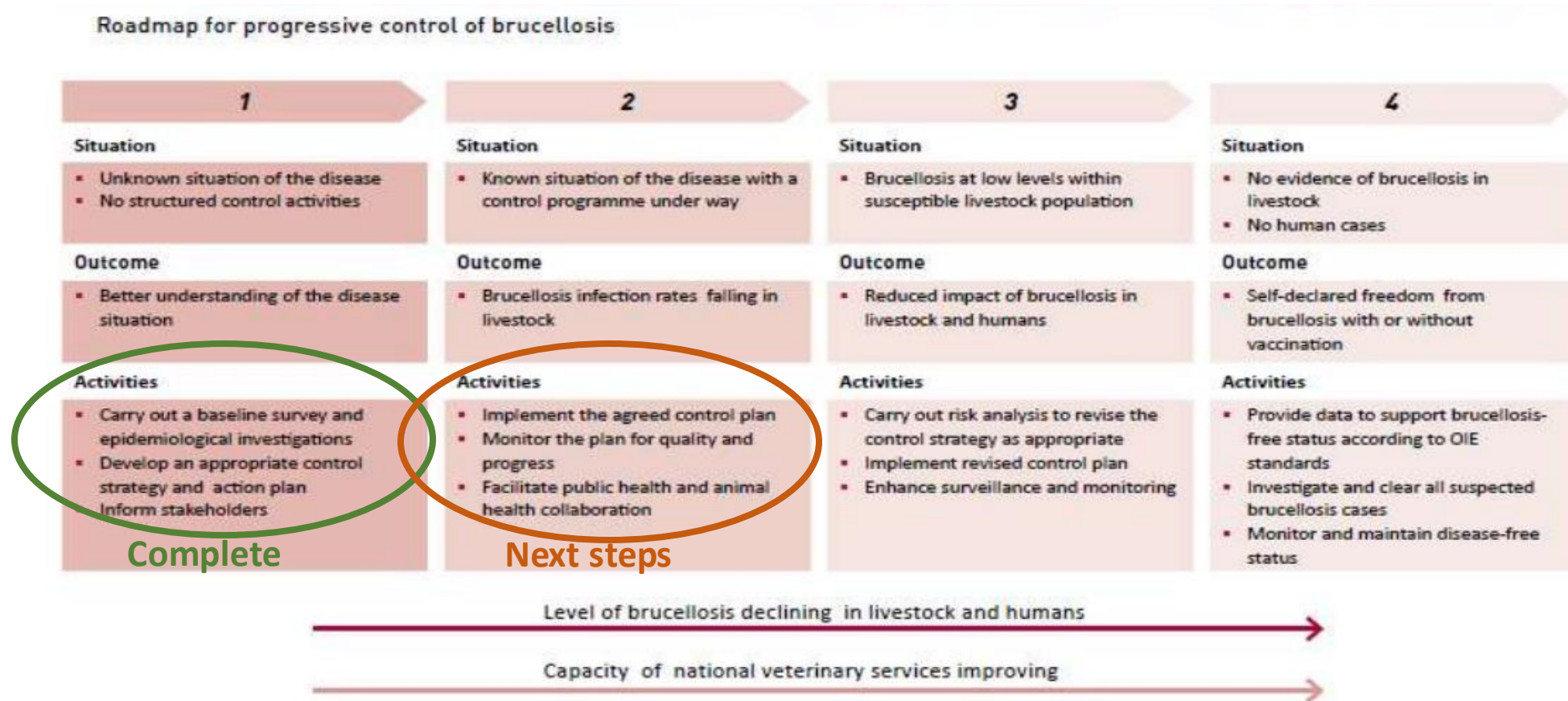
**11.1% (1/9)**  
95%CI: 0.3-48.2

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# Progressive Control Program (PCP)

## *A Brucellosis Control Road Map for Timor-Leste*



<https://www.fao.org/4/i2910e/i2910e.pdf>

FAO EMPRES Transboundary Animal Bulletin No-41, 2012

# Brucella management Pilot

A pilot program designed to manage bovine brucella through vaccination in Bobonaro

*Key areas the project will focus on*

- ✓ *Education and public awareness around good hygiene and animal management practices*
- ✓ *Vaccination to reduce Brucella prevalence*
- ✓ *Training and Monitoring*
- ✓ *Ongoing Brucella surveillance*





# Community Engagement & Vaccination

## *Educating communities on:*

- *Human health risks, transmission pathways and impact on livelihoods, economic and food security*
- *Good hygiene and animal management practices that reduce infection and transmission risk*



## *Vaccination program*

- *Vaccination pilot area: four sucos (villages) in Bobonaro (Maliana)*
- *Vaccinate female calves (heifers)*
- *Vaccinated calves will be marked for monitoring and identification purposes.*
- *Aim for majority of eligible animals in the pilot area to be vaccinated in 4 -8years ~ gradually reduce prevalence*



# Training & Monitoring

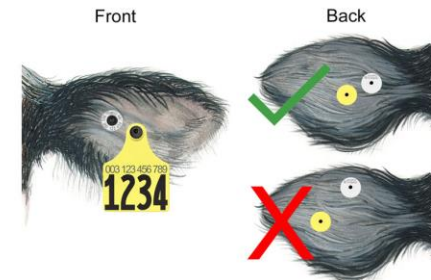
## *Training Animal Health staff - Develop Vaccination Operational Plan*

- *Develop a training program for local animal health staff*
  - *Disease processes of brucellosis*
  - *Who will vaccinate, where, when & how*
  - *Record keeping be managed*
  - *Logistic management*
  - *Safety risks*



## *On going monitoring*

- *Vaccinated calves will be marked for monitoring and identification purposes.*
- *Vaccinated calves will be recorded using the Epicollect5 database.*
- *Reporting for trade purposes*





# Key challenges/issues

## Some challenges in implementing the program

### Culling

- *There are several cultural and economic circumstances in Timor-Leste that will make large scale culling inappropriate*



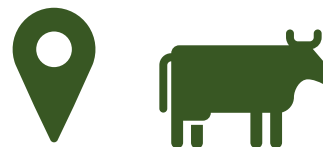
### Cultural practice around management

- *There are a few cultural practices around the management of aborted material*
- *Cultural implications around marking of vaccinated animals*



### Movement Controls

- *Controlling animal movements may also be regarded as difficult due to the geography of the areas, number of staff and cultural practises.*



# Key challenges/issues

*Some challenges in implementing the program continue*

## *Logistics and infrastructure*

- Cold Chain management
- Transport of officers
- Cattle handling facilities



## *Competing priorities, limited human & financial resources*

- Other transboundary animal disease e.g rabies



# Next Steps: Brucellosis Management

*Identify and appoint a Brucella management Pilot Coordinator*



*Development and distribution of community engagement material*



*Development and delivery of training for animal health extension officers*

- *For community engagement and disease awareness*
- *Nomination as a point of community contact*



*Finalise a Vaccination Strategy and Operational Plan*

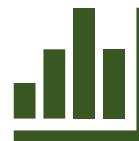


*Development and implementing a Vaccination Operational Plan*

- *Procurement of vaccines, equipment, consumables, identification equipment and supporting logistics.*



*Monitoring and evaluation program*







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# Thank you!

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Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific  
Food Science Building 5F - The University of Tokyo  
1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo, 113-8657  
JAPAN

[rr.asia-pacific@woah.org](mailto:rr.asia-pacific@woah.org)  
[rr-asia.woah.org](http://rr-asia.woah.org)

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