

Regional Workshop on Zoonotic Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Control in the Asia Pacific Region, 24-26 September, Qingdao, China P.R.

Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

1. Zoonotic TB (zTB) and Brucellosis, though important diseases of animals and humans in the Asia Pacific (AP) region, remain neglected in most WOAHA Members in the AP region.
2. zTB and Brucellosis cause significant economic burden in terms of reduced animal production and trade restrictions besides posing significant public health concerns in many Members in the AP region.
3. The Veterinary Services in most Members in the AP region lack resources in terms of trained manpower, laboratory diagnostic facilities, surveillance capacities, and funding to implement effective disease detection and control measures for zTB and Brucellosis
4. There is limited advocacy and understanding of the importance of these two diseases at the policy level in most Members due to which not enough resources are allocated for their prevention and control.
5. There is limited investment in research for these two diseases in most Members and therefore data on disease epidemiology, risk factors, prevalences, economic impacts, and control options are limited.
6. Although “test and cull” method has been the cornerstone for successful eradication of the two diseases in Members currently free of the diseases, it is not feasible in endemic situation owing to resource limitations, socio-cultural and religious beliefs and variable/insufficient compensation mechanisms practices.
7. As zTB and Brucellosis have significant public health implications, the use of One Health approach involving animal, human, food safety, wildlife/environment, and other sectors is crucial. However, intersectoral coordination is still insufficient in many Members in the AP region.
8. WOAHA will soon publish Guidelines for Alternative Strategies for the Control and Elimination of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC) Infection in Livestock.

Recommendations – for WOAHA Members

1. Enhance capacity for disease detection and surveillance for zTB and Brucellosis by engaging in WOAHA Laboratory Twinning Programs, laboratory proficiency programs, and general capacity building activities offered by WOAHA and Partners.
2. Strengthen the capacity of Veterinary Services by engaging in WOAHA Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) activities and follow-up actions.

3. Institute/implement legislations and regulations on farm registration, animal traceability, animal movement and biosecurity for prevention and control of zTB and Brucellosis.
4. Develop costed and time-bound national action plans for zTB and Brucellosis, in coordination with human health and other sectors.
5. Conduct routine surveillance for zTB and Brucellosis based on disease epidemiology and produce data on disease prevalence/burden, socio-economic impact and public health impact, for resource mobilisation and political support for disease control/elimination efforts.
6. Promote public-private partnerships in areas of compliance to farm biosecurity, disease reporting, disease surveillance, disease control, and compensation mechanism for “test-and-cull” method.
7. Establish national and sub-national networks/platforms including One Health collaborative mechanisms where key players/stakeholders involved in control of zTB and Brucellosis could meet regularly to discuss progress, challenges and key actions to take and maintain continuous communication and awareness on the diseases.
8. Members are encouraged to undertake disease prioritisation exercises using tools such as the US CDC's OHZDP tool or other prioritization tools and consider inclusion of zTB and Brucellosis in the exercise.

Recommendations – for WOA, WOA Reference Laboratories/Collaborating Centres

1. Support capacity building of WOA Members for disease detection, surveillance and control for zTB and Brucellosis through WOA Laboratory Twinning Programs, laboratory proficiency programs, and trainings.
2. Support strengthening of Veterinary Services through the WOA Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) activities.
3. Support the development of national action plans for zTB and Brucellosis, in coordination with Quadripartite (FAO-UNEP-WHO-WOA) and other Partners.
4. In coordination with Quadripartite partners, support the establishment of regional/national networks/platforms where Members can meet regularly to discuss key discuss progress, challenges and key actions to take.
5. In coordination with Quadripartite partners, support the establishment/revitalisation of one health coordination mechanisms in countries to prevent, control and eliminate zTB and Brucellosis in animals and humans. This will include use of OH tools such as International Health Regulations (IHR)-Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism Operational Tools (MCM-OTs) to strengthen multisectoral coordination mechanisms in countries.
6. Coordinate with Quadripartite, other Partners, and donors for resource mobilization to support disease control and elimination efforts in line with global strategies and guidelines.