

Country experiences on bovine TB/ zTB diagnosis, surveillance and control

MYANMAR

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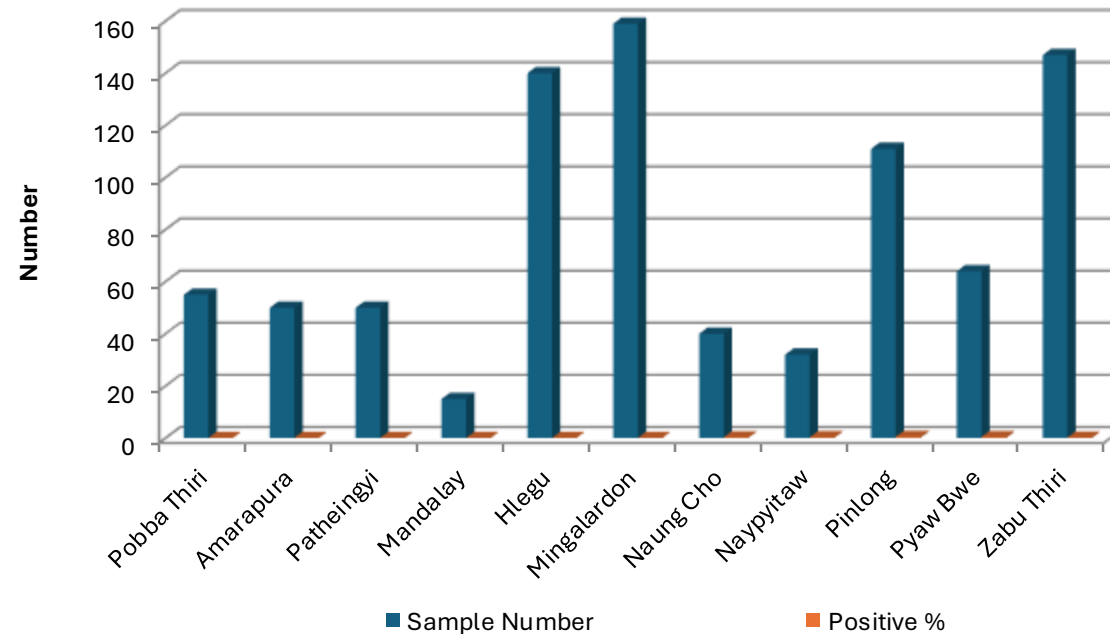
**WOAH Regional Hands-on Training on
Zoonotic TB Diagnosis**
Qingdao, China P.R., 1 – 5 September
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- Myanmar is one of the world's 22 high tuberculosis burden countries, with a TB prevalence rate three times higher than the global average and one of the highest in Asia
- There was estimated that in Myanmar 180,000 new TB cases in 2010 and more than 40,000 cases out of this figures was children. MOHS estimates 9,000 cases of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) have been increasing in each year
- Disease diagnostic means used in human tuberculosis cannot differentiate *M. tuberculosis* from *M. bovis* and therefore zoonotic tuberculosis is under-diagnosed

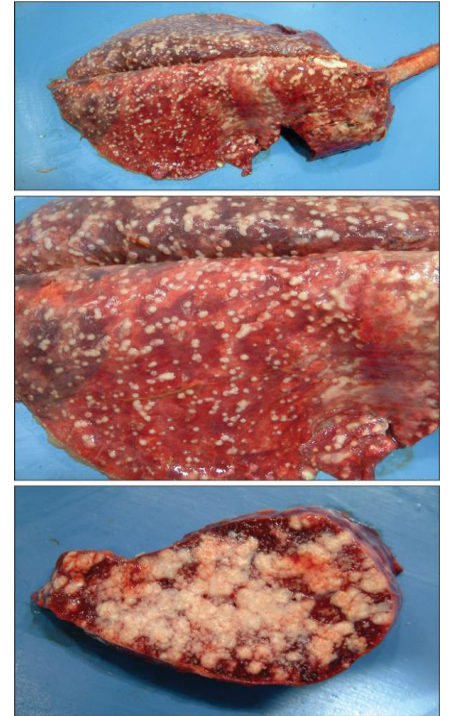
Current Status of bTB (2022-2023)





Laboratory diagnostic capacity

- There are two BSL-2 Laboratories in Myanmar
- Diagnostic Tests for bTB include:
 - **ELISA** : Detects antibodies for a more sensitive and specific diagnosis
 - **Rapid Test Kit** : Provides quick results for on-site preliminary screening
 - **Skin Tuberculin Test** : Primary, cost-effective method for field screening
 - **Post-Mortem Examination**: Identifies gross lesions in suspected dead animals



Current Surveillance Activities;

- The Department carries out biannual testing in dairy cattle farms
- Slaughterhouse/meat inspection surveillance: routine, post-mortem inspection is conducted at official abattoirs to detect gross lesions indicative of bTB

Key Challenges in Disease Surveillance

- **Lack of Widespread Testing & Surveillance:** The inability to conduct broad-scale testing and surveillance across large cattle populations
- **Lack of a Centralized, Integrated Data System:** The absence of a central database to track disease information, locations, and movements of cattle
- **Diagnostic Limitations:** The capacity for more advanced laboratory tests is very limited
- **Financial and Human Resource Constraints:** Limited financial and human resources available for conducting disease surveillance activities



Biosecurity Measures

- Farm-Level Practices
 - Isolation of Infected Animals
 - Controlled Animal Movement
 - Human and Equipment Hygiene
 - Milk Pasteurization
- A national control plan for Bovine Tuberculosis is under development
- No national vaccination policy is currently in place for bovine TB
- Current one health coordination in Myanmar is an ongoing process that focuses on collaboration between the health and livestock sectors, Joint training for professionals, and information sharing with international organizations



Constraints/challenges in disease prevention and control

- **“Test and Slaughter” Policy:** Not a standard practice due to lack of a compensation policy
- **Socio-economic Barriers:** Farmers hesitate to report cases due to lack of compensation for culled animals
- **Lack of Effective Risk Communication and Low Public Awareness:** The absence of a well-resourced national program for surveillance and risk communication, which hinders widespread testing and farmer
- **Limited Resources and Trained Personnel:** Insufficient resources and trained professionals to carry out prevention and control measures
- **Economic Impact on Farmers:** The economic hardship experienced by farmers includes financial losses and trade restrictions

- **Strengthening Policy and Legal Frameworks:** Establish a clear national strategy and a robust legal framework
- **Improving Surveillance and Diagnostic Capacity :** Enhance lab capacity and conduct widespread surveys
- **Investing in Effective Risk Communication:** A well-funded and strategically planned risk communication system is needed to build trust with farmers and educate the public
- **Strengthen Collaboration :**
 - Enhance cooperation between veterinary and public health sectors.
 - Engage with international partners (WOAH, WHO, FAO) for technical and financial support.
 - Encourage participation of the private sector and farming communities



Thank you!

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