

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

PHILIPPINES

Gladys M. Quiatchon, DVM

Veterinarian II

Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry



中国动物卫生与流行病学中心
China Animal Health And Epidemiology Center

**WOAH Regional Hands-on Training on
Zoonotic TB Diagnosis**

**Qingdao, China P.R., 1 – 5 September
2025**





Current disease situation

With help of a map/graph, kindly state the current situation of bovine TB/zTB, animal species affected, bacterial species identified, prevalence, economic burden etc.

2

- The Department of Health (DOH) is implementing the National Tuberculosis Control Program – which states that in 2010, TB was the 6th leading cause of mortality (5.1% total deaths) in the population.
- In 2021, Philippines ranks 4th in worldwide tuberculosis incidence (humans).
- 2025 Q1 reports showed that TB reports are **6% lower** compared to same period last year.



-
- To date, there is **no active national surveillance for bovine TB / zoonotic TB in livestock** in the Philippines.
 - However, it is one of the identified reportable diseases to the **Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)** (*DA Administrative Circular n.8 s. 2021, BAI Memorandum Circular n.30 s. 2024 and BAI MC n.21 s. 2025*).



Table 4.1. Priority animal diseases identified by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), classified under the five categories: Threats to Disease Freedom (T), Assigned to Farm-Level Action Diseases (A), Zoonotic Diseases (Z), Endemic and Economically Important Diseases (E), and Rapidly Spreading Diseases (R).

Threats to Disease Freedom (T)	Assigned to Farm-level Action Diseases (A) ²	Zoonotic Diseases (Z)	Endemic and Economically Important Diseases (E)	Rapidly Spreading Diseases (R)
Foot and Mouth Disease	Highly Pathogenic Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome	Anthrax	Avian Influenza	Newcastle Disease
Peste des Petits Ruminants	Bluetongue	Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Complex	Rabies	Classical Swine Fever
Lumpy Skin Disease	Avian Infectious Laryngotracheitis	Q Fever	African Swine Fever	American Foulbrood
African Horse Sickness	Aujeszky's Disease or Pseudorabies	Japanese Encephalitis		Hemorrhagic Septicemia
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	Bee Pests (<i>Acarapis woodi</i> , <i>Tropilaelaps</i> spp., Varroosis, and Small Hive Beetle)	Brucellosis (<i>Brucella abortus</i> , <i>B. melitensis</i> , and <i>B. suis</i>) and Ovine Epididymitis		Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ³	Sheep and Goat Pox	Salmonellosis ⁴		Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis
		Avian Influenza ⁵		Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
		Rabies ⁴		Surra
				Equine Infectious Anemia
				Paratuberculosis
				Brucellosis

BAI Memorandum Circular No. 21, Series of 2025

HEADLINES

UPLB cattle herd killed to stop spread of bovine TB

By: [Maricar Cinco](#) - Reporter / @maricarcincoINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:16 AM November 19, 2018

Share:  

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna — An entire herd of dairy cattle was killed to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB).

Cases of bTB were detected as early as July in the cattle farm of Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI), a research unit of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).





- **Monitoring are conducted** at some farms using the Caudal Fold Testing and gross examinations (necropsy if necessary). [Farm level]
- For routine diagnosis and monitoring, currently there is **no capacity for confirmatory testing** at the BAI – Veterinary Laboratory Division (Central Laboratory).
- Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM-DOH) can perform **confirmatory testing**
- Other local research institutions can perform **molecular testing** (Philippine Carabao Center).



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Reactor-buffalo-showing-increased-thickness-a-positive-reaction-and-no-change-b_fig2_233978584 [accessed 24 Aug 2025]



Please provide a brief description of key disease surveillance activities undertaken including key challenges and how you are addressing it

Activity	Challenge	Actions
Routine monitoring [Farm Level] / Reportable Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Under-reporting at the farm level- Limited testing capacity at the national laboratory- Lack of BSL-3 facility for bacterial isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development of animal health program for bovine TB- Proposal for increased awareness of stakeholders
Active National Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Non-existent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inclusion in the list of BAI priority animal diseases (inclusion in the list will lead to the development of a disease-specific animal health program)



Please provide a brief description of disease prevention and control activities being undertaken such as biosecurity measures, vaccination policies/strategies, test and slaughter, risk communication, one health coordination etc. Do you have a national control plan?

- **No national control plan** in livestock.
- TB testing required in **Import Terms and Condition (ITC) for imported bovine**. TB testing is also mandatory during quarantine period of imported animals upon entry inside the country (60 days)
- **GAHP** (Good Animal Husbandry Practices)
- **Routine Monitoring** (self monitoring of farm owners) in ruminant farms (farm level). TB testing included in routine medical check up of farm workers (annual check up).
- Inclusion in the BAI **priority list of animal diseases** (BAI MC 21 s.2025) – reportable diseases.
- Reportable zoonotic disease through the **Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonoses (PhilCZ)** (One Health)



Please provide a brief description of key constraints/challenges in disease prevention and control

- As of writing, there is **currently no animal health program specific for bovine TB.**
- Due to other ongoing animal health emergencies in the country (AI, ASF, etc.) and the efforts against emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, there are **limited resources and capacity for bovine TB.**
- **Limited laboratory diagnostic capacity** to confirm bovine TB.



Please provide a brief description of future activities for bovine TB/zTB prevention and control including any elimination strategies/plans

- Recent inclusion in the **BAI priority list of animal diseases** (BAI MC n21 s.2025)
- BAI will also actively seek **additional budget support** for laboratory testing, capacity building and IEC.
- **Enhance implementation** in local shipment monitoring.
- **Laboratory diagnostic capacitation** for the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL) (upgrading of ADDRL infrastructure or building of new lab for TB testing – BSL 3 or BSL 2+)
- **One Health approach** in managing TB outbreaks (capacity building)



Gladys M. Quiatchon, DVM

Veterinarian II



Bacteriology and Mycology Laboratory
Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory
(ADDRL)
Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD)



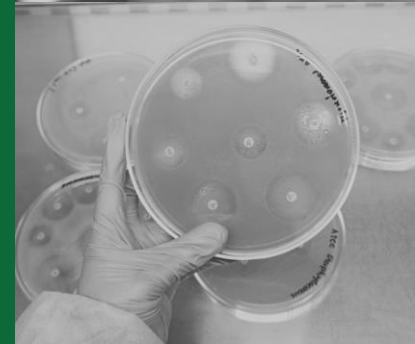
BAI, 5 Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1128



addrl.bacte@yahoo.com / gladysquiatchon.dvm@gmail.com



(02) 8528 2240 loc. 1607 to 1608





Thank you!

WOAH 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
rr-asia.woah.org

[Facebook](#)
[X](#)
[Instagram](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Flickr](#)

WOAH Regional Hands-on Training on Zoonotic TB Diagnosis
Qingdao, China P.R., 1 – 5 September 2025

