

[Bhutan]

Bhutan's updates on the Bovine Tuberculosis

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- Bhutan- mountainous & landlocked country - India to the south, east and west and China to the north.
- Country has 20 dzongkhags , human population - 797,335 (2025)
- Agrarian society - agriculture and livestock remaining important components of rural livelihoods.
- Bhutan's livestock sector - smallholder household production, commercial farms, government farms and semi-intensive/intensive production system
- Livestock production includes cattle, yaks, pigs, poultry, goats, sheep and equines.
- The 2024 census data reported approximately 260,000 bovines, 34,000 pigs, 924,000 poultry, 55,800 goats, 9,200 sheep and 10,500 equines



Current situation of bovine tuberculosis

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- Bovine tuberculosis is notifiable diseases in Bhutan
- Listed as one of the priority diseases by one health stakeholders in Bhutan
- No much of the study , lack baseline data
- The study in 6 eastern district
 - apparent seroprevalence of 2.57% (25/971 cattle; 95% CI:1.58–3.57),
 - true seroprevalence of 0.91% (95% CI: 0.0–2.81)
- Recently reported in elephants in Pangbang
- Suspected reported in recently imported animals from India

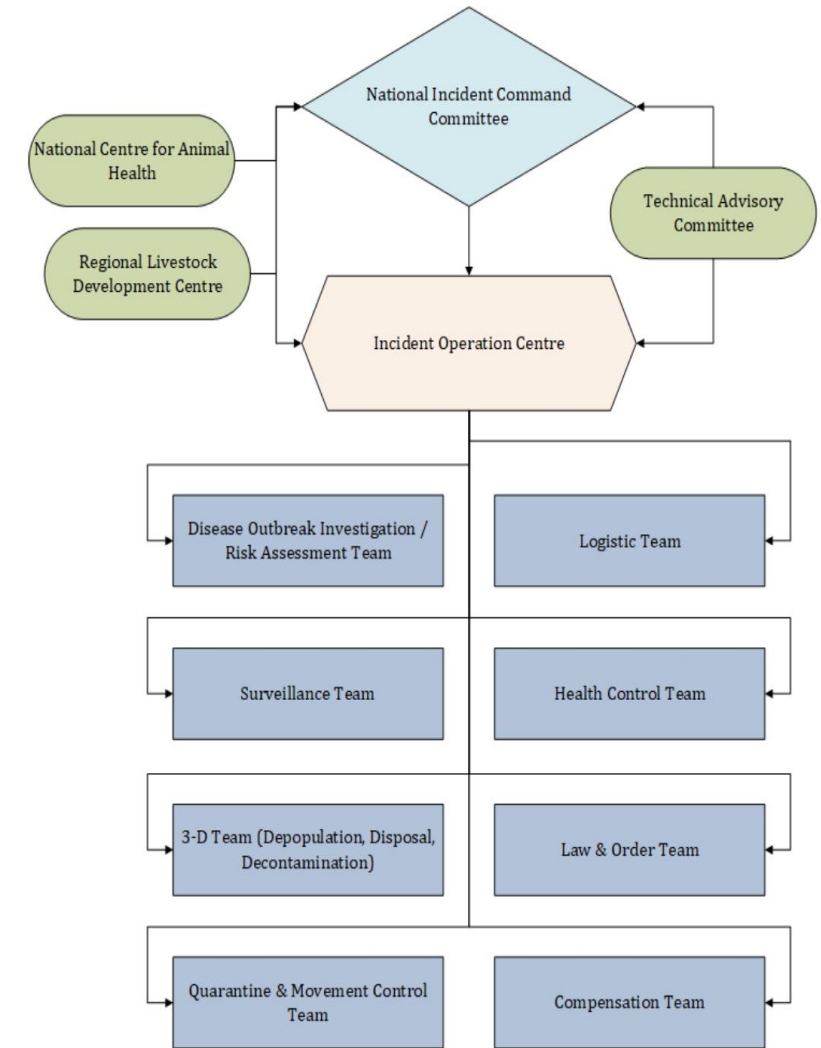




Prevention and control measures

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- Suspected bTB need to report through Veterinary Information System, and flash report to National Centre for Animal Health.
- Not much active surveillance done except for sero-surveillance in cattle in 6 eastern districts
- Import of animals are restricted through import conditions – bTB is one of the diseases
- No specific prevention and control plans for bTB.
- Response based on the other diseases prevention and control plans
- Rapid Response Team (RRT) in case of positive detections

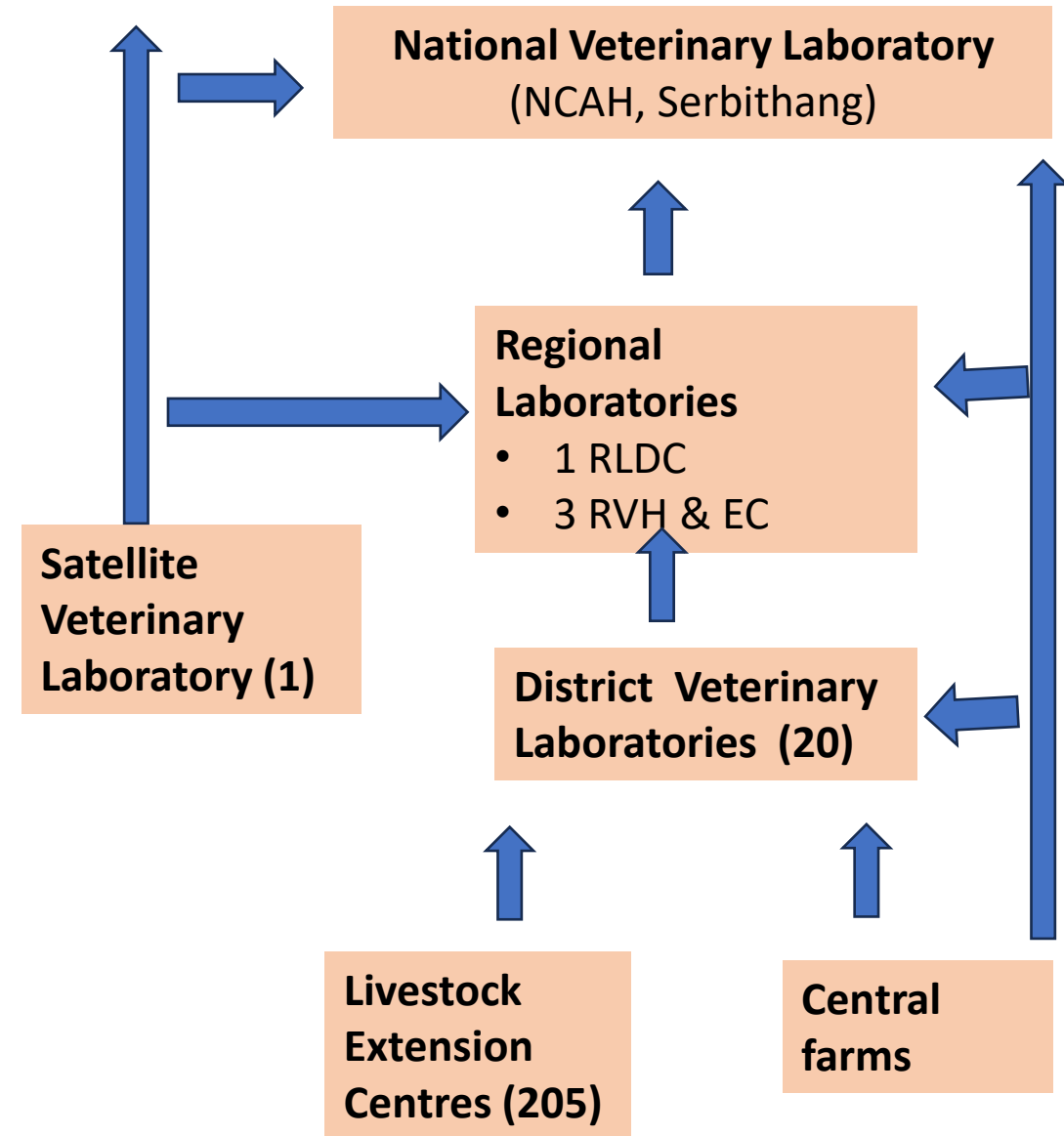




Laboratory diagnostic capacity for bovine tuberculosis

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- Sample collections and staining facilities at district & regional lab
- Tuberculin testing recently introduced at the National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH) , Serbithang in collaboration with NIAH , Thailand
- PCR facilities for human at Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC) , Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Animal samples & Wildlife – PCR at RCDC
- Technicians trained for tuberculin testing – NIAH, Bangkok Thailand

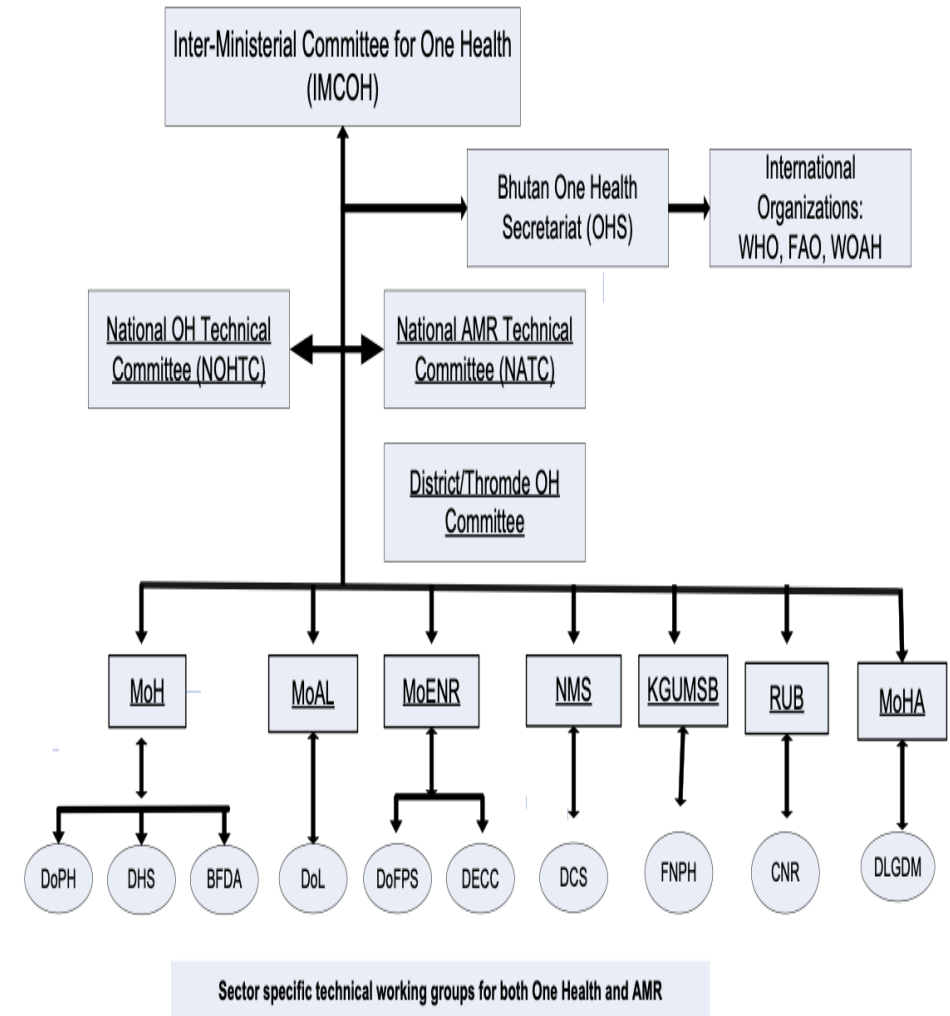




Collaboration with other stakeholders

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- No systematic surveillance, investigation following case reports in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (MoH, BFDA, DoFPS etc.)
- Rapid Response Team (RRT) comprises with team from different relevant agencies – BFDA, MoH, DoFPS
- Molecular diagnosis – collaboration with the Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC), Ministry of Health (MoH)
- One health secretariat, IMCOH and technical committees – drivers of multistakeholder collaboration





- Lack of awareness among the farmers and field professionals
- Limited technical HR
- Sub- clinical infections – problems in detections
- Limited diagnostic facilities , particularly for animal health
- Animal identifications & Traceability
- Sustaining one –health coordination

- Established the baseline data through nationwide surveillances in cattle, yaks and zoo animals
- Established the diagnostic facilities at Regional and district laboratory- tuberculin and if possible PCR facilities
- Training of the all laboratory technicians of the country in tuberculin testing
- Molecular genotyping of the isolates

Thank you!

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