

# Public-private partnerships for animal health:

Strengthening laboratories for  
local economies and food safety





## Animals are worth protecting

Protecting against animal disease is a smart investment. People around the world rely on animals as a source of food, draught power, transport, savings and private enterprise. Some animal diseases also threaten public health, since many can infect humans.



## Laboratory services are key

Disease detection, prevention and control require reliable and fast laboratory services. Large and small livestock producers depend on diagnostic and veterinary information for their businesses to thrive. Governments rely on veterinary laboratories to detect diseases so that veterinary services can better protect animals as part of overall efforts to increase production, maintain food safety and enhance food security.



## Good for local economies

Partnerships with national veterinary laboratories make livestock production more profitable and local economies more lucrative. Through fast, accurate diagnoses and regular health checks, national laboratories can help producers invest in cost-efficient disease prevention and management. The result: increased production, efficiency and earnings. Veterinary services count on veterinary laboratories for detection of notifiable and high-impact diseases. Reliable diagnostic services promote international trust, leading to enhanced trade and thriving economies.



## Great for food safety

Partnering veterinary laboratories with livestock producers helps enhance food safety. Laboratory guidance enables producers to choose effective treatments. This in turn reduces the random use of antibiotics and other drugs. Laboratories help producers detect pathogens and other public health threats to prevent their introduction into the food chain.



## Making public-private partnerships possible

The benefits of extending veterinary laboratory services to producers are tangible and available. FAO helps governments and private sector counterparts access these benefits by supporting action in five key areas:

1. Revising the legal status of national veterinary laboratories
2. Establishing satellite laboratories in locations convenient for livestock holders
3. Equipping laboratories with public relations, marketing and client management skills
4. Targeting animal producers with products and services tailored to their needs
5. Integrating veterinary laboratory activities into public policies on livestock production, disease surveillance and food quality and safety



FAO supports public-private partnerships as part of its overall veterinary laboratory support programme.

### **For more information**

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