



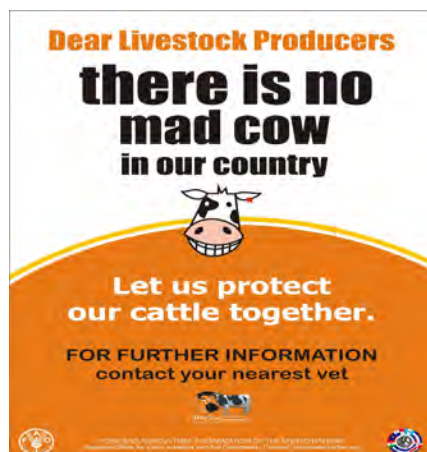
# Legal Office

## Animal health

Veterinary legislation refers to the various legal instruments by which countries regulate animal health and production as well as the use of veterinary inputs such as feeds, veterinary biologicals and veterinary drugs. With agricultural commodities playing an increasingly important role in the trade agenda of developing countries, WTO member states are required to align their regulatory frameworks for sanitary measures to the SPS Agreement, avoiding sanitary measures more strict than necessary to preserve the sanitary status. The Legal Office provides legal assistance to countries in the development of veterinary legislation in line with the international standards issued by the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Other international obligations assumed by countries on animal health, pathogenic organisms custodianship, or conservation of biological diversity (i.e., dual-purpose research, biological weaponry, or protection of endangered species) should also be incorporated into national legislation. The FAO has a multi-disciplinary team of lawyers with expertise spanning the full range of veterinary-related areas. Its work in assessment and drafting legislation is effected through projects as diversified in scope and subject matter as they are in geographic distribution. The work of the Development Law Service is buttressed by in-house technical experts of the Animal Production and Protection Division (AGA).

### Regulating animal health and production

In the project TCP/RLA/3113 "Strengthening systems for the prevention and control of BSE and good animal feeding practices" (2008-2009) FAO worked alongside experts from the OIRSA and OIE to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks in eight Central American countries with regards to BSE prevention and control programmes. Assisted by a national lawyer in each country, legal assessments were conducted on the framework for epidemiological surveillance, feed, slaughterhouses, waste treatment, and the sale and marketing of animals and animal products. As a result of this project, each country produced a draft regulation on BSE prevention and control consistent with relevant primary national legislation and in compliance with the OIE standards contained in the Health Code for Terrestrial Animals.



Organizational Result B02  
Reduced animal disease and associated human health risks