



The 4th FAO-APHCA/OIE/DLD Regional Workshop

“Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control in Asia-Pacific Region: Proficiency Test and Way Forward”

(Chiang Mai, Thailand, 19 to 21 March 2014)

Conclusions

(Facts)

1. The 4th FAO-APHCA/OIE/DLD Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control in Asia-Pacific Region – Proficiency Test and Ways Forward – was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand, between 18 and 21 March 2014.
2. The main objectives of the workshop were:
 - (i) To update on the Brucellosis situation, including its epidemiology, in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (ii) To present and analyze the proficiency test (PT) results obtained from the participating laboratories/ countries; and
 - (iii) To promote collaboration on diagnosis and control of Brucellosis in the Region.
3. The workshop was attended by participants from 14 countries, namely: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition, there were 3 observers from other countries, i.e. Australia/CSIRO, China and Fiji as well as 12 local (Thai) observers.
4. The workshop comprised the following technical lectures:
 - (i) Review and update on Brucellosis by Dr. Bruno Garin-Bastuji;
 - (ii) Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories by Drs. Maryne Jay and Bruno Garin-Bastuji;
 - (iii) International shipment of biological and potentially infectious material – main requirements by Mrs. Gabriela Vecchio;
 - (iv) PT management and result-analysis by Drs. Monaya Ekgat and Maryne Jay.

5. All the 14 participants presented their country papers with the following details:
 - (i) Livestock populations;
 - (ii) Brucellosis situation and national surveillance/control programmes and strategy;
 - (iii) Laboratory organization with a focus on Brucellosis diagnosis;
 - (iv) Country plan/policy for regional collaboration on diagnosis and control of Brucellosis; and
 - (v) Results obtained from proficiency test using the serum panel and the RBT antigen provided by DLD of Thailand.

(Recognition)

The workshop recognized/reaffirmed:

6. That Brucellosis is one of the significant animal and public health concerns with high serological prevalence of infection observed in animals as well as in humans. The disease was listed in the top ten zoonotic diseases affecting humans (as of 2011).
7. That no single test can confirm infection or certify the freedom from Brucellosis. Relevant tests should be conducted repeatedly to confirm infection or freedom from Brucellosis.
8. That the Rose Bengal Test (RBT) in combination with the Complement Fixation Test (CFT) are still the most widely used and effective methods for the serological diagnosis of Brucellosis in ruminants, including sheep and goats, and for national surveillance and eradication programmes for the disease.
9. That the following factors are the key elements in designing and adopting adequate control measures against Brucellosis in the member countries:
 - (i) Sound knowledge of the actual epidemiological situation of Brucellosis;
 - (ii) Technical capacity of Veterinary Services for disease control and laboratory diagnosis;
 - (iii) Political will to promote and ensure legislative empowerment.
10. Progress in some countries in improvement of laboratory diagnostic capacity on Brucellosis, such as quality assurance, including standardization of testing procedures and diagnostic reagents. However, continuous efforts are still required to improve/strengthen their laboratory diagnosis capacity taking into consideration the epidemiological situation in animals and humans in each country.
11. That there is a need to: (i) strengthen information sharing on the epidemiological situation of Brucellosis in the region, (ii) establish a regional laboratory network, and (iii) promote regional collaboration on disease diagnosis and control.
1. The OIE Twinning Programme between the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France (ANSES) and the Thai NIAH was completed in 2013. All the participating countries fully support Thai NIAH applying both to: (i) APHCA for endorsement as an

APHCA Regional Brucellosis Laboratory/Center at the forthcoming 38th APHCA Session; and (ii) the OIE, under the standard OIE procedure for designation as an OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, possibly at an OIE World Assembly of Delegates in the near future.

(Proposals made)

The workshop proposed:

12. That the combination of RBT and CFT should be considered the most reliable and practical serological method for diagnosis of the disease. The 2nd PT activity was initiated and PT sera and RBT antigen were provided by DLD to all the participating countries.
13. Those member countries should actively share information on the disease situation and laboratory diagnostic data amongst each other to strengthen the regional (laboratory/epidemiology) networking and collaboration to improve the disease situation in the region. A mechanism of periodical updates by each participating laboratory may be considered. In order to facilitate such networking, NIAH Thailand will establish a “Brucellosis link” on the NIAH website. A FAO-APHCA and OIE RRAP should encourage the initiative.
14. That FAO-APHCA and OIE Asia-Pacific should continue providing collaborative supports to strengthen Brucellosis diagnostic capacity for national laboratories in the member countries through assisting the Thai NIAH’s relevant activities under the framework of this workshop. Countries which have on-going bi-lateral or multi-lateral collaborations with Thailand are encouraged to utilize mechanisms under animal health collaborative schemes.
15. That the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France (ANSES) should continue to provide technical support to the participating countries, as well as NIAH, in developing support activities. Additional contribution of the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France might be considered provided it is endorsed by FAO-APHCA and/or the OIE and/or bilateral/multilateral co-operation programmes between each participating country and Thailand. The participating countries may seek cooperation/assistance in other forms from other potential donors/stakeholders.
16. If possible, a refresher/updating hands-on workshop on Brucellosis diagnosis is requested by all the participating countries to be jointly organized by FAO-APHCA/OIE and DLD.