



Conclusions and Recommendations

2nd FAO-APHCA/OIE Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control with an Emphasis on *Brucella melitensis* (Khon Kaen, Thailand, 8-11 June 2009)

Conclusions:

1. The 2nd FAO-APHCA and OIE Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control with an Emphasis on *B. melitensis* (in collaboration with DLD) was organized at the Veterinary Research and Development Center (Upper Northeastern Region) in Tha-Phra, Khon Kaen, Thailand, during 8-11 June 2009 as a follow-up of the 1st Workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during 20-23 October 2008.
This 2nd Workshop was held with the main objectives to:
 - a) update information on Brucellosis and for hands-on training on standard diagnostic tests of Brucellosis (with an emphasis on *B. melitensis*); and
 - b) for standard protocol development for control of Brucellosis in the Region.
2. The 2nd Workshop recognized progress made on the testing of Brucellosis in the Region since the last Workshop. However, it was considered that the focused strategies for diagnosis and control of the disease are still to be developed, taking into consideration the lack of accumulated data on the disease.
Brucellosis, including that caused by *B. melitensis*, is recognized in most of member countries in the Region and, in some cases, with the high rate of human infection.
3. Laboratory testing of Brucellosis as well as good epidemiological knowledge on the disease are the essential elements and bases for application of appropriate disease control measures in the field.
4. Standard operating procedures for diagnostic tests (RBT, CFT and iELISA) – based on the OIE Manual – were prepared by the resource person from OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in France (with the help of staff of National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Thailand) and distributed to the participants during the Workshop, under the financial support of FAO-APHCA.

5. Rose Bengal Test (RBT) antigens produced by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) of Thailand were provided to all participants from member countries in the Region, under the financial support and collaboration of FAO-APHCA.

Recommendations:

6. The participating countries are encouraged to test their animals for Brucellosis, using the RBT antigens provided during the Workshop. It is recommended that the recipient countries should take the opportunity to:
 - a) set up appropriate testing facilities,
 - b) organize technology transfer to other national staff, and
 - c) implement preliminary survey in comparison with the existing testing regime, where possible.

(Further supply of RBT antigens can be made upon official request.)

7. Any progress made on the above activities (6 a, b, c) should be reported to the forthcoming meeting(s) such as the FAO-APHCA annual session in October 2009 by the APHCA Permanent Delegates who are the DGs/CVOs as well as the forthcoming 3rd Regional Workshop, organization of which was strongly requested by all participating countries of the 2nd Workshop.

The proposed 3rd Workshop should focus on:

- a) quality assurance including standardization of testing procedures and diagnostic reagents (as a step towards to the ring tests), and
 - b) strengthening of Regional collaboration on diagnosis and control of Brucellosis.
8. Combined testing of RBT and CFT, and iELISA (if appropriate and applicable) should be applied, as practical diagnostic measures for an effective and complementary purpose.
 9. Follow up on capacity building of laboratory technical staff as well as of strengthening of national laboratories should be favorably considered by collaborating international organizations including FAO-APHCA and OIE, where appropriate.

FAO-APHCA TCDC is one of the possible tools proposed.

10. Close collaboration between OIE/FAO Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis in

France and National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), DLD, Thailand, should be further facilitated through mechanisms such as the OIE Twinning Programme, etc., which may be followed by the possible nomination of the latter as an OIE Reference Laboratory on Brucellosis.

11. DLD proposed to host the 3rd Regional Workshop in Sukhothai/Phitsanuloke (the Veterinary Research and Development Center for Lower Northern Region), where its BSL3 module is fully functional and could be used appropriately for Brucella isolation demonstration.