

18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
N'Djamena (Chad) 22-26 February 2009)

Recommendation Technical Item II

Impact of brucellosis on the livestock economy and public health in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT,

1. Livestock represents an important factor in the economy and livelihood of most African countries;
2. Zoonotic animal diseases remains a serious obstacle to public health, to social and economic progress and food security in most African countries and especially those countries where appropriate prevention and control measures are not taken in time;
3. Sanitary prevention and control measures against some zoonoses, including brucellosis, to mitigate risks to public health, are not always properly nor applied on time in several African countries;
4. Effective collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in the spirit of "One World, one Health" (OWOH), both at national and regional levels, is an important factor for succeeding in controlling zoonoses;
5. Good veterinary governance of Veterinary Services complying with global standards on quality allows effective detection and control of brucellosis at its sources, in the animal population thereby minimizing exposure to the human population.;
6. There is not yet sufficient, analysed information and analysis in most African countries on the economic and public health importance of brucellosis ;
7. Epidemiological surveillance for brucellosis, adapted to the specific characteristics and production systems enable African countries to know their sanitary situation as well as to exchange relevant epidemiological information through effective regional epidemio-surveillance networks;
8. Sustainable surveillance networks and diagnostic capacity are crucial for achieving an effective prevention and control of the disease;
9. Vaccination against brucellosis in relevant species for ensuring the necessary immunity of targeted animal population is not broadly applied nor consistently monitored in all African countries and available vaccines are not often adapted to African field constraints;
10. Appropriate sanitary control measures against brucellosis, such as isolation and slaughter of infected animals are not consistently applied in all countries thereby avoiding the elimination of the disease from herds to prevent its spread to humans and to other animals;
11. The implementation of permanent awareness campaigns and close collaboration between public health and animal health services will allow effective management of brucellosis risk.;

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The OIE continues its support to Members for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the PVS Gap Analysis and follow up as well as their complementary supporting projects such as the sanitary legislation model and laboratory twinning programme, for improving the control of brucellosis, as well as other zoonoses;
2. With the support of relevant global and regional organisations, Member Countries establish at both regional and national levels, adequate cooperation mechanisms between the animal health and public health sectors, to improve the management of the disease at the animal-human interface by focusing on control at the animal source;
3. The OIE as well as other global and regional organisations encourage and support Member Countries to further develop research and studies to get a clearer understanding of the impact of brucellosis in animal and humans, both at public health level as well as on livestock production and to improve the vaccines including their thermostable property for their use in relevant species;
4. Member Countries establish sustainable regional epidemio-surveillance networks, including relevant international and regional organisations, to have a better knowledge of the brucellosis sanitary situation of each country, as well as to share all relevant sanitary information between different countries;
5. Member Countries continue to improve their national disease reporting systems to accomplish their obligation in notifying the occurrence of brucellosis to the OIE through WAHIS;
6. Potential candidate laboratories be identified in Africa to enter into Twinning projects for brucellosis with existing OIE Reference Laboratories, to enlarge the availability of and access to expertise in the region to assist African countries for better preventing and controlling brucellosis;
7. Governments be encouraged and sensitised to commit to support brucellosis prevention and control programmes in relevant species, by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) which allow proper implementation of relevant preventive and controlling measures, including among others cooperation with farmers (including their financial contribution), massive vaccination of susceptible species, as well as culling of infected animals when possible;
8. Member Countries with the support of relevant global and regional organisations implement awareness campaigns addressed to all sectors, including regional, national, municipal and field level, with the involvement of Ministries of Health and Veterinary Services with a specific focus on the importance of brucellosis for both animals and humans;
9. The OIE continue establishing and publishing international standards for prevention and control of brucellosis in all susceptible animal species, as well as working together with relevant organisations such the FAO, WHO and Codex Alimentarius to assist its Members in mitigating brucellosis burden in public and animal health.