RESOLUTION No. XVI

Advances in the diagnosis, control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in domestic and wild animals

CONSIDERING THAT

Bovine tuberculosis caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* is a chronic disease affecting domestic livestock in 70% of OIE Member Countries where it reduces animal productivity, can pose significant public health problems and has the potential to have serious economic repercussions for movement or trade in animals and animal products.

Eradication of bovine tuberculosis from the cattle population is a long-term programme.

Countries require an adequate infrastructure and a motivated livestock sector for such programmes.

National or regional governments need to provide sufficient resources and a legal basis for the implementation of such programmes.

In some countries, tuberculosis is now known to be endemic in a few wild animal species that may act as a source of infection for domestic animals, and have a serious impact on the effectiveness of the traditional approach to bovine tuberculosis control.

Integration of new technologies and the incorporation of risk management techniques into bovine tuberculosis control programmes will make such programmes more cost-effective and acceptable to the farming community.

In the future, vaccination against bovine tuberculosis may provide an additional strategic option to facilitate control.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries encourage both competent authorities and educators to promote a training focus on the epidemiology, diagnosis and control of bovine tuberculosis in animals for veterinary students and for veterinarians and other participants involved in national programmes.

2. The chapters of the *International Animal Health Code* and of the *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines* on bovine tuberculosis be amended by the relevant Specialist Commissions and Working Groups to incorporate the latest research findings on the diagnosis and epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis.

3. The relevant OIE Specialist Commission or Working Group determine the scientific criteria for acceptance and use of a bovine tuberculosis vaccine(s) in *M. bovis* control programmes and investigate the international acceptance of animals and of products derived from animals that have been vaccinated.
4. OIE Member Countries undertake an epidemiological assessment of bovine tuberculosis in their own countries, including evaluating the risks posed and contribution made by infected wild animals to their domestic animal populations when reviewing or initiating a control programme.

5. In regard to species of animals for which no validated test exists:
   a) Member Countries exercise extreme caution when moving such species from regions infected with tuberculosis caused by *M. bovis* or in which the status of the disease is unknown
   b) the Working Group on wildlife diseases compile a list of species for which validated tests are available.

6. OIE Member Countries implement appropriate legal mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of national control programmes applied to tuberculosis caused by *M. bovis*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2000)