

Project Title: Control of Brucellosis in small ruminants

Project Symbol: TCP/BIH/3201 BABY02

Donor: FAO

Budget: US\$50,000

Duration: October – December 2009

The competent authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the state veterinary office as the central competent authority (CCA) at the state level, is engaged in making extraordinary efforts to conduct comprehensive diagnostic activities in order to detect Brucellosis positive reactors and destroy infected animals, as well as, to implement preventive measures in order to early detect and prevent spread of the disease. According to these authorities, evidence pointed out increased number of the outbreaks particularly in the first half of 2008, not only in animals but humans as well. CCA also organised several meetings with other relevant authorities, regional experts and EU expert for Brucellosis in order to obtain experiences from the regional countries dealing with this disease, where it was concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina had several options to combat the disease, including continuing of the test and slaughter policy or starting of the vaccination policy, animal identification and movement control and capacity building of the entire veterinary service. Thus, a policy on the state level needs to be conducted at the same level at all the territorial units of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Concerning the above mentioned aspects and the fact that the animals were not identified, made movement control and the epidemiological situation more complex. There is no rendering or incineration plans that are important for the outbreak's management point of view. Taking into account the above-mentioned situation, an urgent need of Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) assistance was requested by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project is being implemented to assist competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in improving the current Brucellosis control program to ensure its effective and sustainable functioning in order to progressively reduce the number of Brucellosis cases in animals and in humans. Key objectives of the project are to assess the epidemiological situation on Brucellosis in the Bosnia and Herzegovina, to assess the measures that can be applied to control Brucellosis in small ruminants and to assist the Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina in formulating a Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) or Donor funded project to implement the Brucellosis control program in small ruminants.

During the project implementation, a workshop is to be organised at the beginning of the project activities concerning implementation of the Brucellosis control in small ruminants in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also to assess current status of the control program and the capacities of national veterinary service for surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, animal movement control, traceability and peculiarities of livestock system. The aim of the workshop was also to design an effective strategy for brucellosis prevention and control, to assess information regarding other ongoing projects on Brucellosis control funded by International Bodies and to identify the means by which FAO can support the Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina in controlling Brucellosis in small

ruminants. The project will proceed with such workshops to build capacity of the national veterinary service staff in developing a long term control program of the disease. Moreover the project is keen on equal participation of both genders which will invariably contribute and lead to a successful strategy for prevention of Brucellosis.