



Activity Title and Number: Standardization of Animal Health Reference Laboratories; A451-C3	Beneficiary: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Location and Date: Qingdao, China 22-28 November, 2015.	Stakeholders: Livestock Producer associations and industry, animal health industry, academic institutions.

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

In March 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the People's Republic of China and the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) agreed to cooperate in the area of Laboratory Quality Assurance. An expert roundtable ([A138-C3](#)) and a study visit (activity [A166-C3](#)) were implemented in April and July 2012, respectively, to establish a roadmap to support the harmonisation and standardisation of animal health reference laboratories. As a result, the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) and the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) agreed to a 3-year MOU to enhance CAHEC's laboratory capacity to become a reference laboratory for brucellosis in China. Brucellosis is a disease with high prevalence in China affecting human and animal health and causing detrimental effects on animal origin food safety. Regional laboratories are essential to provide diagnostic services to regional veterinarians and livestock producers and these laboratories need to be accredited with Central laboratories. The accreditation process ensures that the diagnostic tools applied in the field do not deviate from standard procedures and generate information used in regional and national regulations to eradicate zoonotic diseases that represent food safety risks. In this context, a series of activities have been organised including study visits in France ([A209-C3](#) [A280-C3](#) and [A319-C3](#)), and consultations in China ([A149-C3](#), [A249-C3](#), [A306-C3](#) and [A386-C3](#)). The activity described herein is the last consultation of the 2013-2015 ANSES – CAHEC MOU and follows the MOA strategy to enhance the capacity of animal health laboratories to support the harmonisation of standards and enforcement of the Food Safety Law in China.

Activity Description

Five EU experts travelled to Qingdao to work with the Chinese experts in charge of the CAHEC Laboratory dedicated to zoonotic diseases. The experts facilitated hands-on training in CAHEC laboratories and assessed the progress of the CAHEC laboratory in its efforts to be accredited as a biosafety laboratory level 3. Additionally, the EU and the Chinese experts participated in a two-day conference on Control and Prevention of Brucellosis and its Diagnostic Techniques organised by CAHEC. A total of 60 experts from Chinese provincial disease control and prevention centres, veterinary bureaus and representatives from the pharmaceutical and livestock industry attended the conference. The themes for the conference were: (i) the role of reference laboratories in the control and surveillance of brucellosis in domestic animals and, (ii) the progress of the CAHEC – ANSES MOU.



EU experts preparing reagents for a ring trial at CAHEC brucellosis laboratory in Qingdao, November 25, 2015.

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ Chinese experts gained new knowledge to support the integration of regional animal health laboratories to a national brucellosis surveillance program.
- ✓ CAHEC experts enhanced their capacity in laboratories procedures to support brucellosis surveillance programs.
- ✓ Livestock and pharmaceutical industry gained new knowledge on brucellosis control in China and became familiar with CAHEC's laboratory capacity to enforce the control and surveillance programs for brucellosis.