

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

### **General conclusions**

The subgroup appreciates the tremendous work that has been done in Spain. The progress of the eradication programme during the last decade is impressive and the results are gratifying. The commitment to the programme is seen on all levels of the veterinary services, centrally as well as in the regions. The farmers' collaboration and commitment has also been ensured and farmers are now beginning to appreciate the benefits of the programme.

The previous recommendations of the subgroup have all been taken on board, adapted to the situation and used very well.

We hope that the programme will be able to keep its momentum until the final eradication, although it soon enters a difficult stage, when prevalence has come down but progress will be slower and some stakeholders may be inclined to sit back and relax. Below are some more specific comments and recommendations that the subgroup would like to give.

## **Recommendations**

### **Slaughterhouse monitoring**

The group recommends more in-depth studies of the slaughterhouse surveillance. There is a need to determine a "national" target for the expected baseline of slaughterhouse lesion detection rates due to causes other than TB, in order to ensure the sensitivity of this surveillance in the future. In addition to what is already done, the follow-up of TB outbreaks detected by slaughterhouse monitoring (i.e. in test-negative herds) should be studied in detail so as to evaluate if cases detected at slaughter are due to lack of sensitivity in field testing. An evaluation of the sensitivity of slaughterhouse monitoring is also recommended, as well as comparisons of submission rates between slaughterhouses in order to detect if there are some that don't meet their expected surveillance target.

### **Training courses**

The training activities are commended. In particular, the allocation of appropriate time for the field courses so as to ensure the quality of the training is appreciated. It is recommended that more collaboration in the courses given by public health and veterinary authorities be considered, perhaps in the form of common modules. This may improve the mutual understanding of those involved in the slaughterhouse surveillance and field testing.

In the training courses for field veterinarians, discussions on the need for strict measures at this stage of the programme and how to avoid weariness in farmers as well as others involved in the future programme are encouraged, as it will still take some time to reach the final goal.

## **Wildlife**

The creativity as regards breaking contacts between cattle and wildlife is inspirational and a good example for others.

The wildlife work is extremely useful for the programme and must continue. It is important that the vaccination studies are carried out for as long as it takes to develop a vaccination strategy. It should also be considered to include vaccination of the negative group in the test-and-release study in wild boar.

It is recommended that the risk of badgers becoming a reservoir in some areas be closely monitored so it doesn't become a larger problem. There are lessons to be learned from other countries as regards this and they are happy to share their experiences.

## **Other aspects**

The focus on all the potential TB reservoirs should be maintained, not only wildlife but also other farmed species such as sheep and goats, and perhaps others.

The epidemiological work has made a very good start and is encouraged. The studies performed so far are very useful for the programme and in the future more epidemiological studies will enable the detection of potential problems so that they can be tackled early on.

A production-type approach may be useful in devising strategies in different types of herds. For example, other measures/testing strategies may be needed in bullfighting herds. Anamnestic serology could be something to look into. We appreciate the legislative problem, but even if serological tests are not yet approved in EU legislation they may be useful as additional tools in special circumstances and should be approved on EU level for such use in the future.

Database information may be used to target spot-checks of field work. Testing performance of veterinarians could be evaluated from existing data such as reactor disclosure rates, detections at routine slaughter, failure to detect infected herds etc.

Finally the group would like to, once again, point out that the next phase of the eradication will require hard measures to achieve the final goal. It is important that all involved understand the need to keep going so as not to waste all the resources and efforts that have been invested so successfully. We would therefore like to encourage the Spanish authorities and wish them all luck in their future work.