

The Veterinary Laboratories Improvement Project



Project Sites Montevideo

1. Background of Project

The livestock industry in Uruguay is of significant importance as a contributing sector to Uruguay's export and is subject to governmental promotion measures. Low productivity of livestock caused by diseases not only affects farmers' income, but also trade to both domestic and international markets. Priority was given to improving the functions of the Division of Veterinary Laboratories (DILAVE), which is responsible for diagnosis of diseases and inspection and research on the hygiene of exporting livestock. However, DILAVE has been suffering from inadequate veterinary diagnostic techniques and aging equipment. Training and retention of staff were thus among the urgent needs of the country, therefore, the Government of Uruguay requested to Japan for project-type technical cooperation for a project to transfer skills on diagnosis of animal infectious diseases and to train technicians related to the subject.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 October 1996 – 30 September 2001

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Division of Veterinary Laboratories (DILAVE)

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

An effective system for the control or eradication of animal infectious diseases is established.

2) Project Purpose

Veterinary diagnostic techniques are improved to detect animal infectious diseases rapidly and precisely.

3) Outputs

a) Diagnostic techniques for the following are im-

proved: 1) histopathology, 2) diseases caused by mycotoxins, 3) clinical pathology; 4) microbial infections (including reproductive disorders); and 5) viral infections.

b) Appropriate laboratory animals necessary for diagnostic activities are supplied.

c) Improved diagnostic techniques are extended through technical guidance and seminars at DILAVE and related institutions.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	11
Short-term experts	21
Trainees received	21
Equipment	189 million yen
Local cost	61 million yen

Uruguayan Side

Counterparts	33
Land and facilities	
Local cost	71,738 USD (9 million yen)

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:

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Pathology:

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Bacteriology:

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Virology:

Hiroyuki OTOMO, Senior Veterinary Officer, Division of Animal Quarantine, Department of Animal Quarant-

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Cooperation Policy:

Yuichi NAKAMURA, Chief of Project Cooperation Section, Division of Technical Cooperation, Department of International Affairs, General Food Policy Bureau, MAFF

Evaluation Analysis:

Shinsuke KUBO, NEWJEC Inc.

Planning Evaluation:

Junko KATSUNISHI, Division of Livestock and Horticulture, Department of Agricultural Development Cooperation, JICA

4. Period of Evaluation

4 March 2001 – 17 March 2001

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

DILAVE's main role is to assure the safety of meat products for export through accurate inspection of infectious diseases. The country's top priority of increasing the export of animal products requires the prevention and control of animal infectious diseases with improvement of veterinary diagnostic techniques. The Project was in line with these needs.

(2) Effectiveness

The Project has enabled DILAVE to diagnose animal infectious diseases accurately and rapidly. Its epidemiological survey showed clear existence and epidemic of diseases. The production of Tuberculin, used for the detection of TB in cattle, was increased from 137,850 doses in 1997 to 258,000 doses in 1999. A survey done in September 2000 by the USA and Mexico confirmed the reliability of DILAVE's inspection results and increased trust from export counterparts.

(3) Efficiency

Dispatch of experts, counterpart training and provision of equipment were executed effectively, and the project was managed smoothly. Those inputs met the needs of Uruguay for relatively high techniques.

Budget allocated to DILAVE from the Uruguay government was not sufficient enough to replenish consumables.

(4) Impact

The Project enhanced capabilities of DILAVE to deal with various diseases beyond the project scope. The importance of animal disease diagnostic study became more recognized by executive officers of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), clinical veterinarians and farmers. Impacts reached neighboring coun-



Pathologic diagnosis by the counterparts

tries. Chile with no veterinary lab requested DILAVE for inspection.

(5) Sustainability

The MGAP upgraded DILAVE from an "inspection center for livestock export" to a "reference lab," and is planning to strengthen the organization and expand budget allocation. DILAVE also has several income sources such as fees from diagnostic services. The technical level was improved and maintained high enough to sufficiently conduct diagnostic and research work. Aging of DILAVE staff is a concern due to the non-hiring policy of new civil servants, but staff development fellowship of the MGAP is one of the solutions. Overall, few hindering factors are expected.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

Most objectives will be achieved as scheduled, owing to well-examined and effective inputs, the high acceptance level of Uruguay with a quality organizational system and techniques, and the strong commitment of the Government to the Project that yielded self-help.

(2) Recommendations

Since a few problems exist in DILAVE's system for providing lab animals, an "Animal Committee (tentative name)" must be established to promote appropriate operation of lab animal facilities. Staff training is also necessary.

Further sustainability and development of DILAVE will require a multidisciplinary approach in its research activities, human resources development plan, and internal exchange to fulfill the technological disparity between central and regional labs.