Please Note: The 2016 TB-Eradication programme, approved for co-funding by the EU, will be continued through to the end of 2018. This is therefore current policy for implementation over the next 3-years although additional controls aiming to further reduce herd incidence will undoubtedly be incorporated as time progresses. Co-funding applications will, also be submitted to the EU for 2017 and 2018 and accordingly some details for the final programmes for each of those years may consequently be modified if and as required by the Commission.

1. Identification of the programme

Member State: **Ireland**

Disease(s)[1]: **Bovine Tuberculosis**

Request of Community co-financing for[2]: **2016 to 2018**

Reference of this document: **TB Programme 2016 to 2018**

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[1] One document per disease is used unless all measures of the programme on the target population are used for the monitoring, control and eradication of different diseases.

[2] Indicate the year(s) for which co-financing is requested

Recent restoration of OTF-status following a high risk breakdown: Following on from recommendations made by the TB-Task force in 2014, 'trade restriction' movement controls were introduced, in 2015, on the movement of stock out of herds where OTF status was restored following a high-risk breakdown. Such OTF-herds may move stock direct to slaughter and may move new-born calves (<6-weeks of age). However, with respect to the movement of other stock, the herd will be 'trade restricted' 3-months following the restoration of OTF-status test and will remain 'trade restricted' until such time as the next full herd level test, scheduled to be completed before the expiration of a further 5-months, has been conducted. Following this test the 'trade restriction' will be removed unless an OTF status suspension or withdrawal has been applied in which case the rules pertaining to the OTF status will supersede the trade restriction.

En Irlanda, la especificidad de prueba de la SIT (IDTB simple) es, en el mejor de los casos, del 92 al 94%, como lo demuestran O'Reilly y Mac Clancy15, que realizaron un ensayo en hatos libres de TB en Irlanda en 1975 Antes de la sustitución de la tuberculina humana y bovina por el programa irlandés. Este trabajo se repitió en 2008 y de nuevo en 2013 (documento en preparación) Con resultados similares (el 6,3% de los animales en el 44,5% de los rebaños libres de bTB eran falsos positivos). Para poner esto en contexto si 8,5 millones de pruebas en animales se realizaron mediante una prueba con una especificidad de 94%, habría 510.000 animales "falsos positivos", es decir, casi el 10% de la población total de ganado en Irlanda. La eliminación de los respondedores a las pruebas "falsas positivas" no El objetivo de la erradicación de bTB y por lo tanto no tendría ningún costo / beneficio positivo o impacto en el programa

4.4.6 Tests used and sampling schemes:

4.4.6.1 Types of tests used

The principal test used in the programme remains the Single Intradermal Comparative Tuberculin Test (SICTT) as specified in Council Directive 64/432/ EEC (as amended).

In Ireland, test specificity of the SIT is, at best, between 92 and 94% as demonstrated by O'Reilly and Mac Clancy[15], who conducted a trial in TB-free herds in Ireland in 1975 in advance of the replacement of human with bovine tuberculin for the Irish programme. This work was repeated in 2008 and again in 2013 (paper in preparation) with similar results (6.3% of animals in 44.5% of bTB-Free herds false positive). To put this in context if 8.5m animal tests were performed using a test with a specificity of 94%, there would be 510,000 'false positive' animals disclosed i.e. almost 10% of the total cattle population in Ireland. Removal of 'false positive' test responders would not further the goal of eradication of bTB and thus would not have any positive cost/benefit or impact to the programme. One of the reasons that SIT specificity is so poor and the

[15] O'Reilly and Mac Clancy. Estimation of the sensitivity, specificity and predictive value of the intradermal tuberculin test. 1978 Irish Veterinary Journal 32:127-128

SICTT is the test of choice in Ireland is because of the almost constant opportunity for animals to be exposed to non-specific sensitizing organisms causing cross reactivity[16] thus necessitating the use of the SICTT. Nonetheless the specificity of the SICTT is still <100% in Ireland and it is estimated that approximately 1% of Irish herds are restricted annually under the programme as a consequence of non-tuberculous animals failing the test. The directive (Directive 64/432/EEC Annex A I 3A(b)) allows for the possibility to only suspend the status of such herds pending full laboratory examination and retest of the herd and to restore the status if bTB is not confirmed. However, as yet these herds, in which disease (TB) is not confirmed, and not epidemiologically suspected, still count in the statistical output for the eradication programme.

SICTT (IDTB comp) es la prueba de elección en Irlanda debido a la oportunidad casi constante de que los animales estén expuestos a organismos sensibilizantes no específicos que causan reactividad cruzada16 Lo que hace necesario el uso del SICTT. No obstante, la especificidad del SICTT sigue siendo <100% en Irlanda y se estima que aproximadamente el 1% de los rebaños irlandeses son Restringido anualmente en virtud del programa como consecuencia de la falta de pruebas de los animales no tuberculosos. La Directiva (Directiva 64/432 / CEE Anexo A I 3A (b)) permite la Posibilidad de suspender únicamente el estado de dichos rebaños hasta que se realice un examen completo del laboratorio y se vuelva a probar el rebaño y se restablezca el estado si no se confirma el bTB. Sin embargo, comoSin embargo, estos rebaños, en los cuales la enfermedad (TB) no está confirmada y no se sospecha epidemiológicamente, todavía cuentan en la producción estadística para el programa de erradicación.

programme for the last 10-plus years has been in the order of 50,000 I.U./ml as assayed in cattle and this conforms to the OIE recommendations for tuberculin used for a bTB eradication programme. The 2012 EFSA Scientific Opinion on the use of a gamma interferon test for the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis reported the sensitivity of the SICTT in Ireland as equivalent, if not better than the published literature, they also conducted Bayesian latent class analysis and reported only marginal differences between the Se of the SICTT in Ireland as compared with the SIT elsewhere in Europe[17].

With regard to the implementation of severe interpretation, the post de-restriction, classification related check test regime and contiguous tests, provided for in the programme (see below) and regarded as tests on 'high bTB- risk' OTF-herds have, in the first instance, standard interpretation inconclusive reactors removed as reactor. In addition, if infection is confirmed by reason of the number of test reactors or otherwise, in any herd, a more severe interpretation regime, including where appropriate only having regard to the reaction at the bovine site (i.e. effectively the SIT), will apply and the interferon-γ assay is employed with a view to removing all potentially infected animals in as short a time-frame as possible.

[16] Cooney, R., Kazda, J., Quinn, J., Cook, B., Muller, K. and Monaghan, M. Environmental mycobacteria in Ireland as a source of non-specific sensitisation to tuberculins. 1997. *Irish Veterinary Journal*. 50:370-373

[17] Scientific Opinion on the use of a gamma interferon test for the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis (2012) http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2975.htm