**FAO launches specialized training workshops on brucellosis diagnosis using serological methods**

***3 June 2025, Dushanbe*** – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with funding from the Pandemic Fund and in close collaboration with the Committee for Food Security under the Government of Tajikistan, has launched a series of training workshops on brucellosis diagnosis using serological methods. These workshops aim to strengthen the diagnostic capacities of national laboratory specialists and enhance the country’s preparedness for zoonotic and transboundary disease outbreaks.

Brucellosis remains a serious threat to public and animal health in many parts of the world, including Central Asia. The training programme equips participants with essential knowledge and hands-on experience in modern serological diagnostic techniques, contributing to national and regional disease surveillance and control strategies.

The workshops are part of a nationwide initiative to be implemented across multiple regions of Tajikistan, including Sughd, Khatlon, and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). The target audience includes laboratory specialists working under the Committee for Food Security. The trainings will enhance their capacity to conduct accurate and timely diagnoses of brucellosis—an important zoonotic disease that affects both animals and humans.

Participants receive in-depth instruction on key topics such as the epidemiology of brucellosis, principles of serological diagnosis, and practical use of diagnostic tools. Specific focus areas include the Rose Bengal Test (RBT), sample preparation techniques, and an introduction to enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

The training offers a comprehensive, step-by-step approach that includes both theoretical instruction and practical sessions. Participants learn the principles behind ELISA and perform ELISA assays using laboratory equipment such as ELISA Readers and Washers. They also gain hands-on experience in implementing and interpreting the Rose Bengal Test (RBT) and the Complement Fixation Test (CFT).

Emphasis is placed on test result analysis and interpretation, utilizing specialized ELISA software and customized Excel-based tools developed for data processing and quality control. Participants are also trained in troubleshooting common issues and applying good laboratory practices to ensure the accuracy and reliability of results.

“By investing in diagnostic training, we are strengthening a vital line of defense against zoonotic and transboundary diseases. This initiative enhances technical expertise and contributes to building a safer, healthier, and more resilient food system,” said Aghasi Harutyunyan, FAO Representative a.i. in Tajikistan.

These workshops form part of FAO’s broader commitment under the Pandemic Fund to improve pandemic preparedness and ensure food security through investments in early warning systems, laboratory infrastructure, and human resource capacity development.