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USAID-TIJARA PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM

STATUS OF IRAQ'S LIVE CATTLE IMPORT REGULATIONS

IRAQ'S REINTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL
REGULATORY COMMUNITY



March 2012

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USAID-TIJARA PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM

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IRAQ'S SPS LAWS DELIVERABLE REPORT

LIVE CATTLE IMPORT REGULATIONS PREPARED BY
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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy [“Mad Cow Disease”]
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
COSQC	Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control
DG	Director General
FAO	Foreign Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations [UN])
FAS	Foreign Agriculture Service (of USDA)
Gol	Government of Iraq
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
IFDA	Iraqi Food & Drug Administration
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRL	Minimum Residue Level
OIE	International Animal Health Organization
SPS	Sanitary/Phytosanitary
ToT	Training of Trainer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



INTRODUCTION

1.1 METHOD OF APPROACH

This report is identified as a deliverable in the *Tijara Year 5 Annual Workplan*, Chapter C (pages 39-48), International Trade and World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession, Component Activity 4.1: *Support the GoI to draft and enact WTO-compliant harmonized SPS laws and regulations*.

The stated deliverables follow:

1.1.1 DELIVERABLES

- Support reform for agriculture and food safety to reduce barriers to trade
- Support the Government of Iraq (GoI) to draft and enact WTO-compliant harmonized SPS laws and regulations including *Live Animal Import Regulations*
- Prepare and submit an after-action deliverable report.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

Section 1 provides the Introduction, Method of Approach and Structure of this Report.

Section 2 includes discussions about Technical Transfer & Capacity Building and Deliverable Update & Report Writing.

Section 3 provides subsections regarding Background and Outlook & Way Forward regarding current capacity and future activities to bring Iraq's SPS inspection system to global standards and international recognition.

Annexes A through C provide supporting documentation, technical presentations and draft regulations related to Iraq's live animal import regulations.

2. PROCESS AND WRITING

2.1 TECHNICAL TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

USAID/Tijara has developed long-standing relationships with Government of Iraq (GoI) Baghdad and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials in the Ministries of Agriculture and Health. Director Generals (DGs) responsible for Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) -- food safety, animal health and plant quarantine -- regulations and laboratory directors and managers and laboratory technicians responsible for implementing Live Animal Import Regulations have been included.

Since March 2010 *USAID/Tijara* Deputy Director and Senior Agriculture Advisor have held lengthy discussions with a broad range of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC) laboratories within the Ministry of Planning. Discussions were also conducted with officials at the U.S. Embassy including the Agricultural Minister Counselor, economists and various other USDA technical specialists in the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) and representatives from other donor organizations.

The primary purpose of the December 11-13, 2011 Workshop for Harmonization of Live Animal Import Regulations facilitated discussion about applying Articles from the International Animal Health Organization (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/> to Iraqi import regulations for live animals and animal products. The workshop included Veterinary officials from GoI Baghdad and KRG MoA with technical support from *USAID/Tijara*.

This workshop was a follow-up to earlier workshops conducted during May and August 2010 and February and July 2011 that facilitated discussion among GoI MoA officials regarding implementation of the draft *Plant Quarantine Law* and the *Animal Health Law* from MoA and the draft *Public Health Law* and *Food Safety Regulations* from MoH. These laws have been submitted to WTO and are available to members of the Working Party for the Accession of Iraq for review.

Participants in these workshops are high level decision-makers within the GoI Ministries responsible for implementation, administration and enforcement of SPS animal health, plant quarantine and food safety regulations necessary for WTO Accession. The workshops provide a forum for dialog and input regarding critical needs.

2.2 DELIVERABLE UPDATE AND REPORT WRITING

Consistent with the *Tijara Year 5 Annual Workplan*, Chapter C (pages 39-48), International Trade and WTO Accession, Component Activity 4.1: *Support the GoI to draft and enact WTO-compliant harmonized SPS laws and regulation* this component activity deliverable report entitled, “*Status of Iraq’s Live Cattle Import Regulations: Iraq’s Reintegration into the Global Regulatory Community*” is submitted to USAID. Additional needs and next steps are outlined and discussed in “*Outlook and Way Forward*,” of the following Section 3 in this Deliverable Report.

3. SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

3.1 BACKGROUND

In order to accede to the WTO, Iraq must reform aspects of its agricultural regime to comply with WTO requirements. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture lays down core principles related to reducing trade distorting state subsidies of agricultural production, national treatment and *Most Favored Nation* tariff treatment of fellow WTO Member's agricultural exports, and other disciplines.

These WTO disciplines will require important reforms of Iraq's agriculture sector both in terms of laws and regulations as well as the practical administration of certification and licensing rules to ensure a trade facilitating and promoting agricultural regime.

The component's assistance has primarily focused on:

- Assisting the Government of Iraq to draft and adopt laws and regulations in compliance with the *WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*;
- Provide capacity building training for the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, regional authorities as well as the private sector to build awareness of international requirements.

Two primary ministries maintain statutory authority for legislation, administration and enforcement of Iraqi SPS requirements. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has primary authority for food safety requirements and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has primary authority for animal health and plant quarantine requirements.

USAID/Tijara has provided technical assistance to both ministries since at least March 2010. Each ministry has a long-range plan and strategies for developing an infrastructure for the long term implementation and enforcement of SPS regulations within its jurisdiction. Different long range plans result in some different specific needs for technical assistance, but also some needs in-common.

To become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Iraq's SPS (animal health, plant quarantine and food safety) legislation and regulations must follow international WTO SPS standards and be developed and disseminated by Iraqi Official Representatives within the international organizations to which WTO defers technical issues as follows:

- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health issues;
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the FAO (Foreign Agriculture Organization, of the United Nations) for plant health, pest & quarantine issues; and
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for food safety and some animal feed issues.

OIE provides all international standards and guidelines for international trade of live terrestrial and aquatic animals and animal products. IPPC provides comparable guidelines for plants.

MoH representatives for food safety and public health issues help assure that current legislation is consistent with international guidelines as developed by the WTO SPS Food Safety Organization (Codex Alimentarius Commission, [CAC]).

Codex is often supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Codex guidelines as they relate to the *Public Health Law* and the *Food Safety Regulations* are primarily under the jurisdiction of MoH but in coordination with MoA.

USAID/Tijara has facilitated discussion about applying Articles from the International Animal Health Organization (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/> to Iraqi import regulations for live animals and animal products. Primary participants include veterinary officials from Gol Baghdad and KRG MoA with technical support from *USAID/Tijara*.

The OIE 2010 Terrestrial Animal Health Code has been translated to Arabic by the OIE regional office in Beirut and has served as the authoritative document for drafting new Iraqi live animal and animal products import regulations. Iraqi officials have stated that having the Code in Arabic has greatly facilitated communication with MoA supervisory officials and has speeded efforts to develop and gain acceptance for import regulations that are based on the Code.

MoA technical animal health experts have expressed concerns about conflicting philosophies between MoH and MoA officials -- particularly among members of the inter-ministerial Baghdad Food Safety Working Group. MoA members understand risk assessment and the concept of accepting minimal risk while MoH members lean to zero risk strategies.

These different approaches were specifically discussed relevant to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) -- commonly known as mad-cow disease -- and MoA acceptance of OIE country risk classifications. Conversely, MoH representatives support a "one case and you are out" approach that is not consistent with OIE country risk classifications -- and therefore not consistent with WTO guidelines. *USAID/Tijara* has been requested to provide additional technical assistance in educating MoH officials on the concept of risk assessment and acceptance of Minimum Residue Levels (MRLs) specific to food safety regulations.

3.2 OUTLOOK AND WAY FORWARD

Developing an open and transparent system for administering and enforcing SPS food safety regulations will be a systemic legacy regardless of Iraq's success in WTO accession. Gol/Baghdad MoH has declared policy for forming an Iraqi Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) but the operational logistics have not been determined. Technical input and guidance for high level decision-makers, travel to visit other functioning SPS systems and Training of Trainers (ToT) activities will be included in this phase of the project.

MoA and MoH officials from both Erbil and Baghdad have agreed that the next critical needs will be technical expertise and advice for International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation and certification of MoA reference laboratories, HACCP training and Risk Analysis. Officials from both locations have provided letters to *USAID/Tijara* requesting technical support in these areas.

Workshops involving food safety and animal health officials from Baghdad and Erbil include discussion of SPS (including veterinarian) inspection of live animals and animal products and food safety inspection at Iraqi points of entry. Assessing regional laboratory capabilities to accurately evaluate products for animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety conditions in a timely manner is critical for facilitating the flow of food and agricultural products at entry points consistent with WTO guidelines.

Participants in these workshops are high level decision-makers within the GoI Ministries responsible for implementation, administration and enforcement of SPS regulations necessary for WTO Accession. The workshops provide a forum for dialog and input regarding critical needs to improve laboratory speed and accuracy and to develop the inspection infrastructure at points of entry. For example, live animal quarantine facilities will be available at five entry points – Baghdad Airport, Um Qasir, Ibrahim Khalil, Tripil and Haj Umran.

Consistent with the *Tijara Year 5 Annual Workplan*, Chapter C (pages 39-48), International Trade and WTO Accession, USAID/Tijara will continue to coordinate with USDA FAS and GoI ministerial officials to conduct the following activities:

- Continue to facilitate information sharing and transparency and provide technical support for veterinary experts and legal counsel from Baghdad and KRG as draft live animal import regulations are developed and shared to provide one uniform Iraqi standard.
- Iraqi live cattle import regulations (Annex C, this report) consistent with Articles from the International Animal Health Organization (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code have been finalized by MoA but are being blocked from publishing in the Gazette by MoH. USAID/Tijara will continue to provide technical assistance to MoA and MoH to gain inter-ministerial approval of WTO-consistent live cattle import regulations.
- Live sheep and buffalo imports are prohibited into Iraq until genome mapping for these species is complete. Iraqi sheep and buffalo are known to have unique meat quality (heavily muscled [meaty] with high marbling) characteristics similar to Japanese Waygu cattle used to produce Kobe beef. Import regulations for sheep and buffalo will not be published until genome mapping (currently approximately 70 percent complete) has been finalized to preserve unique geographic indicators for Iraqi genetics. USAID/Tijara will continue to work with MoA to develop import regulations for live sheep and buffalo to be published once genome mapping for those species is complete.
- USAID/Tijara will continue to cultivate progressive thought-leaders within MoA and MoH by providing public awareness, Training of Trainers (ToT) and technical training material regarding Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), ISO accreditation for laboratories, risk assessment and risk-based inspection.
- Sponsor workshops and public education programs for MoA, MoH and MoT spokespersons to discuss technical issues and linkages between WTO Accession, establishment of rule of law and transparent legislation regarding SPS regulations for plant and animal health. Assure that SPS legislation and regulations are consistent with guidelines from international technical organizations – OIE, IPPC and Codex.
- Anticipate that 100 percent sampling of all loads and some other current SPS inspection practices will be challenged during WTO accession working party meetings and bilateral negotiations prior to WTO accession.
- Develop additional understanding and how to achieve laboratory accreditation and international recognition of ISO certified reference laboratories, HACCP and risk-based inspection procedures and risk-based sampling (Iraq still samples 100 percent of all loads for food safety).
- Continue to coordinate with FAS and other donors to provide technical support for developing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IFDA) at MoH and risk assessment/HACCP training and ISO accreditation for reference laboratories at both MoA and MoH.

Annex A: **Field Trip Report**

Name: Charles Lambert and Saif Natiq

Date Submitted: January 12, 2012

Component: International Trade/WTO Accession

Beneficiaries/Counterpart Organization: Gol Baghdad MoA and KRG officials from Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and KRG Ministry of Health officials (MoH)

Date(s) of Trip: December 11-13, 2011

Workplan Activity Reference: This Training workshop is consistent with the *USAID/Tijara* 2011-2012 Workplan: Line 6.1 -- WTO-Compliant Harmonized SPS Laws and Regulations and Line 6.2 -- Review SPS legislation and regulations in pipeline

1. Objectives and Purpose of Field Trip:

The December 11-13, 2011 Workshop for Harmonization of Live Animal Import Regulations facilitated discussion about applying Articles from the International Animal Health Organization (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/> to Iraqi import regulations for live animals and animal products. The workshop included Veterinary officials from Gol Baghdad and KRG MoA with technical support from *USAID/Tijara*.

This workshop was a follow-up to earlier workshops conducted during May and August 2010 and February and July 2011 that facilitated discussion among Gol MoA officials regarding implementation of the draft *Plant Quarantine Law* and the *Animal Health Law* from MoA and the draft *Public Health Law* and *Food Safety Regulations* from MoH.

Participants in these workshops are high level decision-makers within the Gol Ministries responsible for implementation, administration and enforcement of SPS animal health, plant quarantine and food safety regulations necessary for WTO Accession. The workshops provide a forum for dialog and input regarding critical needs to improve develop the inspection infrastructure at points of entry including reference laboratory speed and accuracy.

Iraqi draft SPS laws and regulations listed in paragraph 2 above have been submitted to the WTO for distribution to members of the WTO Working Party for Iraq's Accession. Developing WTO-consistent SPS legislation and regulations and a point-of-entry inspection, and administrative infrastructure to uniformly and transparently administer and enforce those regulations, is relevant regardless of when Iraq accedes to the WTO. The overall objective for this series of workshops is to develop implementing regulations for SPS legislation that will be administered and enforced uniformly at all Iraqi points of entry.

WTO defers development of guidelines for SPS issues and resolving international disputes regarding SPS issues to the following technical organizations: International Animal Health Organization (OIE) for animal health issues, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the UN Foreign Agriculture Organization (FAO) for plant quarantine issues and Codex Alimentarius (Codex) for food safety and some animal feed issues.

While waiting for MoT to submit an initial goods offer and to request scheduling of the 3rd WTO working party meeting for Iraq's accession, *USAID/Tijara* has focused to ensure that adopted SPS legislation and regulations are consistent with international guidelines and that a regulatory infrastructure is in place to assure that these regulations are uniformly administered and enforced throughout Iraq. *USAID/Tijara* and predecessor projects have conducted ongoing seminars and workshops during 2008-2011 and *USAID/Tijara* has identified key Gol Baghdad and regional KRG players who are also active members in the Gol WTO SPS and Accession committees.

2. Agenda / Outline of Field Trip:

This workshop continued a series with Gol MoA officials to draft uniform implementing regulations for the draft *Animal Health Law* and the *Plant Quarantine Law*. The OIE 2010 Terrestrial Animal Health Code has been translated to Arabic by the OIE regional office in Beirut and will serve as the authoritative document for Iraqi live animal and animal products import regulations. Iraqi officials believe that having the Code in Arabic will facilitate efforts to develop and gain acceptance for import regulations that are based on the Code.

Participants expressed concerns about conflicting philosophies between MoH and MoA officials - particularly among members of the inter-ministerial Baghdad Food Safety Working Group. MoA members understand risk assessment and the concept of accepting minimal risk while MoH members lean to zero risk strategies.

These different approaches were specifically discussed during the Workshop relevant to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) -- commonly known as mad-cow disease -- and MoA acceptance of OIE country risk classifications. Conversely, MoH representatives support a "one case and you are out" approach that is not consistent with OIE country risk classifications -- and therefore not consistent with WTO guidelines. Workshop participants requested additional technical assistance in educating MoH officials on the concept of risk assessment and acceptance of MRLs specifically related to food safety regulations.

Dr. Lambert and Mr. Natiq also met with KRG MoH Minister Taher Abdullah Hussein and Dr. Salar Mustafa Saidon, to receive an after-action report from the U.S. food safety tour and to continue discussion about MoH technical needs identified for the 2011-2012 Work Plan. Dr. Salar attended a 4-week Food Safety SIDA training in Stockholm and was a regional customs inspector in Norway prior to returning to Iraq. Dr. Salar strongly supports Iraq's accession to the WTO consistent with a letter signed by the Minister of Health for *USAID/Tijara* technical support and has been assigned responsibilities for forming a KRG Food & Drug Administration.

Dr. Lambert also met with Dr. Taliib Murad Elam, Advisor for Agriculture and Food Security to His Excellency, the current Prime Minister in the KRG. The advisor indicated negligible support for WTO accession and further market opening of agricultural markets given current conditions. Much attention is given to the inability to control smuggling at the Iraqi border.

Iraqi agriculture is unable to compete under current circumstances (as has been documented in previous *USAID/Tijara* analyses and publications). The advisor is a previous FAO regional officer and stated that without the ability to control the borders, Iraq has (nearly complete) (illegal, but) free trade. In light of porous border conditions, he was not optimistic about benefits that could result from increased tariff protection, the ability to implement WTO-consistent protective SSG, AD and CVD measures and allowance for green box subsidization and infrastructure development that could result from WTO accession,. The fact that major Iraqi trading partners -- WTO non-members Iran and Syria -- are not subject to WTO trade guidelines, was also discussed.

3. Key Personnel Met/Attendees of Meetings Held:

Names of the Participants	Organization Represented / Contact Information
Dr. Mithaq Abdul Hussein, Manager Animal Health Department, Iraqi Company for Veterinary Services/ and Iraq's representative to World Animal Health Organization (OIE)	MoA Baghdad mithaq1973@yahoo.com
Dr. Majda Bader Wehaeb, Manager, Epidemiology Department, Iraqi Company for Veterinary Services	MoA Baghdad majda_bader@yahoo.com
Dr. Sabri Rajab Saith, Deputy Director General, Iraqi Company for Veterinary Services	MoA Baghdad iraq_vet2010@moagr.org
Dr. Abbas Abdii, KRG Director General of Animal Wealth & Veterinary	MoA KRG, Erbil kurdistan_vet@yahoo.com
Rasool Hussien – MoA Ministry Coordinator	MoA KRG, Erbil
Dr. Ronak Qader – Veterinarian Office Manager	MoA KRG, Sulaymania
Dr. Diyar Taeb Mohammed – Veterinarian Office Manager	MoA KRG, Duhok
Dr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullah – Veterinarian Office	MoA KRG, Duhok
Dr. Taher Abdullah Hussein, KRG Minister of Health	MoH KRG, Erbil hawramytahir@yahoo.com
Newzad Abdullah Hussein, Chief of Staff, KRG Office for Minister of Health	MoH KRG, Erbil pbkmoh@yahoo.com
Dr. Talilb Murad Elam, Advisor for Agriculture and Food Security to His Excellency, the Prime Minister	PM KRG, Erbil talibelam@aol.com
<u>Dr. Chuck Lambert</u> , Sr. Economist and Agricultural Advisor	USAID/Tijara clambert@tijara-iraq.com
<u>Mr. Saif Natiq</u> , Deputy Team Leader/WTO Accession Program Specialist	USAID/Tijara snatiq@tijara-iraq.com

1. Outcome and Summary Findings of Field Trip:

MoA officials from Baghdad and KRG (including regional leadership from Sulaymania, Dahok and Erbil) spent two days discussing the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (“the Code”), and applications to Iraqi import regulations for live animals and animal products. Participants agreed to explore a MOU with the OIE regarding use of the Code as the basis for Iraqi import regulations.

Animal Health Officials in Baghdad and KRG have exchanged knowledge among senior technical officials to gain broader understanding about how to read and apply Articles in the Code. This is critical to assure that regulations specific to individual animal diseases within species are consistent with WTO international guidelines.

Participants in the December workshop expressed concerns about conflicting philosophies between Iraqi MoH and MoA officials. MoA members understand risk assessment and the concept of accepting minimal risk while MoH members lean to zero risk strategies. Workshop participants requested additional technical assistance in educating MoH officials on the concept of risk assessment and acceptance of MRLs specifically related to development and implementation of food safety regulations.

Discussions with Dr. Talilb Murad Elam, Advisor for Agriculture and Food Security to His Excellency, the current KRG Prime Minister and with MoA officials indicate that there are still a lot of turf and political issues to be sorted out before jurisdiction is clear. MoA still manages SPS laboratories in KRG (including food safety testing), and MoH is proceeding with authorizing legislation to form an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration that would administer food safety regulations. Dr Talilb indicated that food safety authority currently rests with COSQC and recently the National Investment Commission (NIC) announced a plan to establish new Foodstuff Testing Laboratories at the border crossing points.

New KRG political leadership at the PM and Ministerial levels will be selected during early 2012 and changes in some priorities and strategic plans will likely result. *USAID/Tijara* will adjust technical assistance and programs consistent with the newly evolving agenda.

MoH participants on the U.S. FDA and food safety tour indicated confusion about reasons for U.S. split authorities for food safety inspection between FDA and USDA. Their preference is for a single food safety agency. KRG MoH officials stated that they will likely also review the Jordanian FDA as a Middle-East model for streamlined applications of the U.S. food safety inspection system before moving forward to develop an IDFA.

Tour participants were very impressed with the volume of trade, border inspection processes at the U.S./Mexican border and by input from Mexican embassy officials. Bottom line: the tour achieved the objective of triggering thought processes about what parts of the U.S. system might work or not in applications to the Iraqi food safety system.

Draft legislation authorizing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IDFA) is currently under consideration at the KRG parliamentary (at least committee) level, and if adopted would grant MoH authority over implementation of SPS Food Safety regulations according to MoH.

Codex provides for risk-based sampling techniques that require less than 100 percent of all loads being tested. There would be no national treatment issues, however, because 100 percent load testing is required regardless of whether it is domestic or imported product crossing from southern Iraqi provinces or at KRG international points of entry.

MoA veterinary officials from both Erbil and Baghdad agreed that next critical needs will be technical expertise and advice for International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation and certification of MoA reference laboratories, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) training and Risk Analysis and risk based inspection systems. Officials from both locations agreed to provide letters to *USAID/Tijara* requesting technical support in these areas.

4 (a). Documents, Materials, Resources from Trip:

5. Recommendations and Follow-up Action (if necessary):

- 1) MoH officials requested that *USAID/Tijara* explore possibilities for officials from the medical/pharmaceutical division of MoH to also visit U.S. FDA facilities and processes for drug approval and public health regulations. *USAID/Tijara* will explore alternative sources for funding and sponsorship.
- 2) MoA also requested assistance for coordinating with FAO (the Middle East representative currently lives in Amman) to bring representatives from OIE, Codex and FAO to Iraq to meet with relevant public health and food safety officials from MoA, MoH and other ministries with technical and political jurisdiction, or prospective jurisdiction, over SPS authority.
- 3) MoH and MoA continued to request *USAID/Tijara* technical assistance and direction to resources regarding HACCP, risk-based inspection processes and ISO accreditation for reference laboratories and laboratory technicians.

In Summary: Iraqi officials are in the initial formative stages of a multiple-year process for developing SPS regulations and an implementation and enforcement infrastructure. *USAID/Tijara* efforts during the coming year will only help shape the thought process and the actual adoption and future implementation will take place long after funding for the final year of the program ends. Even that scenario depends on an Iraqi political and security environment that is conducive to compromise, transparency and acceptance of international norms.

5 (a) Actions:

- Continue to facilitate information sharing and transparency and provide technical support for veterinary experts and legal counsel from Baghdad and KRG as draft live animal import regulations are developed and shared to provide one uniform Iraqi standard.
- Begin discussions among decision makers at MoI Customs, MoH Food Safety and MoA Animal & Plant Health regarding convergence of activities for streamlined and seamless inspection procedures at all Iraqi points of entry. This process would be consistent with the “one face at the border” strategy implemented when the Department of Homeland Security (DHD) was formed in the U.S.
- Coordinate with ministries having primary SPS authority -- MoH for Food Safety and MoA for Animal & Plant Health -- to develop risk based inspection procedures and laboratory expertise. These needs will include technical support for developing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IDFA) at MoH and risk assessment/HACCP training and ISO accreditation for reference laboratories at both MoA and MoH.
- Sponsor workshops and public education programs about linkages between WTO Accession, establishment of rule of law and transparent legislation regarding SPS

regulations for plant and animal health.

- Assure that SPS legislation and regulations are consistent with guidelines from international technical organizations – OIE, IPPC and Codex.
- Provide technical expertise to Iraqi officials, regardless of region, to facilitate open and transparent movement of agricultural products from province to province within Iraq and through all 22 Iraqi points of entry.
- Anticipate that 100 percent sampling of all loads and some other current practices will be challenged during WTO accession working party meetings and bilateral negotiations prior to WTO accession and be prepared to provide resources regarding risk-based sampling, acceptance of phyto-certificates and pre-shipment clearance for suppliers with problem-free historical records.

5 (b) By whom: MoA officials and private sector representatives, including plant and animal health non-government organizations (NGOs) with ongoing technical assistance and messaging provided by *USAID/Tijara* International Trade/WTO Accession Advisors and Specialists.

5 (c) Expected timeline: Strategy is further expanded and developed in the *USAID/Tijara* 2011 - 2013 Workplan Schedule for International Trade and WTO Accession and will be completed by the end of the 2-year extended workplan.

Signature of person completing report:	
_____	Date: _____
Signature of Component Leader:	
_____	Date: _____

Annex B: OIE PowerPoint Presentation

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code sets standards for improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide
- Standards for safe international trade in terrestrial animals (mammals, birds and bees) and their products -- accepted by WTO
- Used by veterinary authorities of importing and exporting countries to provide:
 - early detection,
 - reporting and control of pathogens in terrestrial animals, and
 - in the case of zoonoses, for humans,
 - to prevent disease transfer via international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade.
- The health measures in the Terrestrial Code have been formally adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates, the organization's highest decision-making body.

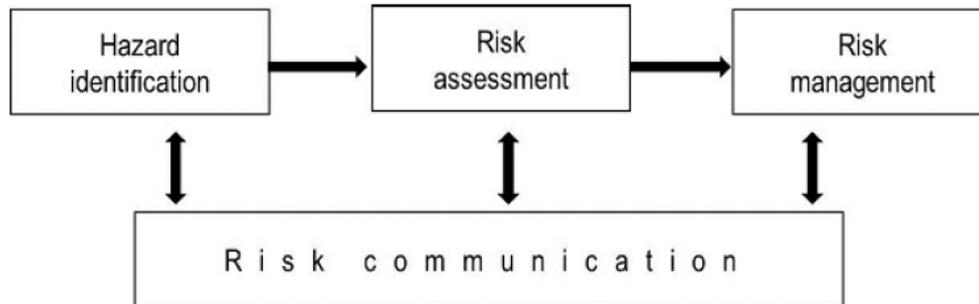
Section 1: Animal Disease Diagnosis, Surveillance and Notification

- Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
- Criteria for listing diseases
- Prescribed and alternative diagnostic tests for OIE listed diseases
- Animal health surveillance
- Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases
- Procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE

Section 2: Risk Analysis

- Import risk analysis

The four components of risk analysis



Section 3: Quality of Veterinary Services

- Veterinary Services
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Communication

Section 4: Disease Prevention and Control

- General principles on identification and traceability of live animals
- Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve traceability
- Zoning and compartmentalization
- Application of compartmentalization
- General hygiene in semen collection and processing centers
- Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
- Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock/horses
- Collection and processing of *in vitro* produced embryos/oocytes from livestock/horses
- Collection and processing of micromanipulated embryos/oocytes from livestock/horses
- Collection and processing of laboratory rodent and rabbit embryos/ova
- Somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock/horses
- Disposal of dead animals
- General recommendations on disinfection and disinsectisation
- Hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries
- Hygiene precautions, identification, blood sampling and vaccination

Section 5: Trade Measures, Ex/Im Procedures and Veterinary Certification

- General obligations related to certification
- Certification procedures
- OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of SPS measures of the WTO
- Animal health measures applicable before and at departure
- Animal health measures during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country
- Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country
- Animal health measures applicable on arrival
- International transfer and laboratory containment of animal pathogens
- Quarantine measures applicable to non-human primates
- Model veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin
- Model international veterinary certificate for dogs and cats originating from rabies infected countries
- Model passport for international movement of competition horses

Section 6: Veterinary Public Health

- The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety
- Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection
- Control of animal and public health of hazards in animal feed
- Biosecurity procedures in poultry production
- Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry
- Recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance
- Harmonization of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programs
- Monitoring of quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry
- Responsible use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine
- Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance from use of antimicrobials in animals
- Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates

Section 7: Animal Welfare

- Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
- Transport of animals by sea
- Transport of animals by land
- Transport of animals by air
- Slaughter of animals
- Killing of animals for disease control purposes
- Stray dog population control
- Use of animals in research and education

Volume II

Recommendations applicable to OIE listed diseases and other diseases of importance to international trade

Section 8: Multiple Species

- Anthrax
- Aujeszky's disease
- Bluetongue
- Echinococcosis/hydatidosis
- Foot and mouth disease
- Heartwater
- Japanese encephalitis
- New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and old world screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
- Paratuberculosis
- Rabies
- Rift Valley fever
- Rinderpest
- Trichinellosis (*Trichinella spiralis*)
- Tularemia
- Vesicular stomatitis
- West Nile fever

Section 9: Apidae

- Acarapisosis of honey bees
- American foulbrood of honey bees
- European foulbrood of honey bees
- Small hive beetle infestation (*Aethina tumida*)
- *Tropilaelaps* infestation of honey bees
- Varroosis of honey bees

Section 10: Aves

- Avian chlamydiosis
- Avian infectious bronchitis
- Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
- Avian influenza
- Avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*)
- Duck virus hepatitis
- Fowl typhoid and pullorum disease
- Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)
- Newcastle disease

Section 11: Bovidae

- Bovine anaplasmosis
- Bovine babesiosis
- Bovine brucellosis
- Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
- Bovine tuberculosis
- Bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae
- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- Enzootic bovine leukosis
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia (*Pasteurella multocida* serotypes 6:b and 6:e)
- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/ infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
- Lumpy skin disease (caused by group III virus, type Neethling)
- Theileriosis
- Trichomonosis

Section 12: Equidae

- African horse sickness
- Contagious equine metritis
- Dourine
- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
- Equine infectious anaemia
- Equine influenza
- Equine piroplasmosis
- Equine rhinopneumonitis
- Equine viral arteritis
- Glanders
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis

Section 13: Lagomorpha

- Myxomatosis
- Rabbit haemorrhagic disease

Section 14: Ovidae and Capridae

- Caprine and ovine brucellosis (excluding *Brucella ovis*)
- Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
- Contagious agalactia
- Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
- *Chlamydophila abortus* infection (Enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis)
- Maedi-visna
- Ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)
- Peste des petits ruminants
- Scrapie
- Sheep pox and goat pox

Section 15: Suidae

- African swine fever
- Classical swine fever
- Porcine brucellosis
- Swine vesicular disease
- Transmissible gastroenteritis

Annex C:

**Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Agriculture
General Company of Veterinary
Department of Animal health**

No: 15109

Date :18/10/2011

To Ministry of Agriculture/Planning Office/Animal Bounties Department
Sub/ Hygienic Conditions

Dear Sirs,

According to the instructions of the live animals importing law No.1 to the year 2010 articles -2- and-3- the 2nd we attach the hygienic conditions for the importing of the living cows to animal breeding in Iraq according to the International Standards OIE organization with an explanation for the most important diseases that may infect those cows in Iraq, and we request those regulations to be published to all of the importers and all the foreign embassies of the countries that intend to export to Iraq.

To be known...with Appreciations

Attachments Dr.SalahFadil Abbas

Hygienic conditions

Chairman

General Manager

Copy to

- Ministry of Agriculture/to the office of the technical deputy...with respect
- The General Company of the Animal Bounties Services \ Mohammed Ghazi....to be informed... with respect.
- The General Directory of the Agricultural Investments..to be informed..with respect.
- General Manager Office to be informed... with respect.
- General Manager Assistant to be informed...with respect.
- Department of Infections
- Planning Department.
- Animal Health Department...with respect.

The hygienic conditions for
importing live cows for animal
breeding purposes in Iraq
according to the regulations
No.(1) for the year 2010

The Hygienic Conditions for Importing Live Cows for Animal Breeding Purposes.

1. The cows must have a healthveterinary certificate according to the article (5.10.1) and the article (5.10.2) authenticated by the official veterinaryand the Iraqi embassy or the Iraqi council in the origin country, and applying the articles (5.1.1), (5,1,2),(5.1.3),(5.2.3)and(5.2.4)considering the article(5.2.3) from the terrestrial animal health code (OIE 2010).
- 2.The applicable procedure before the shipping must be subdued to the articles (5.4.1), (5.4.2),(5.4.3) and(5.4.4).
3. In case of sending the shipments directly to Iraq without passing through the transit countries (accept passing through the skies and airports of those countries) only the origin certificate will be required.
4. In case of the animals stayed in an meddler country after the confirming of the Iraqi official health authorities the health separation must be applied according to the infection lows of the mentioned country supported with a health certificate from that country and authenticated from the health authorities and the Iraqi embassy or council in that country.
- 5.The animals must be tagged with double plastic labels in each ear for every animal affixed in the shipping menus accepted in the tracking systems in the origin country and an evaluation certificate for the breeding ability of the females of two generations at least mentioning the father's name and his most important genetic features and the breeding ability of its female daughters (raising and origins records) with pictures from both sides to show the mapping of the color and its distribution included in an special ID confirmed by the original seller in the origin country and the holder of the importing certification authenticated from the commercial team in the Iraqi embassy or the council in the origin country.
6. The cows or buffalos are for animal breedingpurposes , must not be less than 16 months old and not more than 30 months old.

7. The cows must not be from flanks that been fed a protein based chum or genetically modified or hormones' or any toxic cancer causing radioactive material.
8. The origin country situation of mad cow disease(BSE) that declared officially in the OIE either (controlled BSE risk) or (negligible BSE risk).
9. All the cows must be came from farms that are free from BSE
10. The health authorities in Iraq must be informed about any case of BSE in the herds of the farms the cows been exported to
11. The animals must come from herds those fulfill the regulations related to diseases and according to the OIE regulations and as its shown in the table below and to be mentioned in the international health certificate (according to the article5.10.2)

Must be provided 2010 OIE code	Disease
Article 11.1.2	Anaplasmosis disease
11.2.2	Babisiosis disease
Articles 11.3.3 ,11.3.4 ,11.3.6 and 11.3.6	Bovine brucellosis
Article 11.4.2	Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
The country applies the articles 11.5.4 ,11.5.8	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy(BSE)mad cow disease
Articles 11.6.4 , 11.6.5	Bovine tuberculosis
Article 11.8.6/Article 11.8.7 ,the country applies the article 11.8.3	Contagios bovine PLEUROPNEUMONIA
Article 11.9.5 The country applies the articles 11.9.2 and 11.9.3	Enzootic bovine leucosis
Article 11.10.6 and 11.10.7 The country applies the articles 11.10.2 and 11.10.3	Hemorrhagic septicaemia
11.11.4 The country applies the articles 11.11.3 or 11.11.4 with the article applied 11.11.2	Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustularvulvovaginitis (ibr/ipv)
11.12.2 and article 11.12.4	Lumpy skin disease
Article 11.13.2	Theileriosis
Article 11.14.2 and article 11.14.3	Trichomonosis
Article 8.1.3	Anthrax
Article 8.3.6 according to the article 8.3.3	Bluetongue
Article 8.5.12/ article 8.5.13	Foot and mouth disease
Article 8.15.4 or 8.15.6	Vesicular stomatitis
Free from persistent infection	Bovine viral diarrhea
Free of it	Toxoplasmosis
Free of it	Vibrosis
Free of it	Skin diseases

Vaccination:

12. The type and the date of last vaccination against the diseases mentioned in the table above must be mentioned, the origin country must make a program to control it in case of one of them appears in condition of the dose must be taken before non less than 21 days and not more than three months before the shipping.

A. foot and mouth disease vaccination which must be

- a- The vaccine of foot and mouth disease which is determined by Iraqi veterinary authorities by a period not less than 21 days and not more than three months from arriving to the closest Iraqi border point in the country that allows using the foot and mouth disease vaccine on their soil or in the quarantine for exported animals or the farms, but the states that don't allow vaccine on their soil because vacancy of the disease or conditions concerned about it's privacy, the Iraqi veterinary authorities must be informed before shipping with no less than a month period of time .
- b- The cows should be vaccinated no less than 21 days ahead of time of shipping with HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA .

13- Note the result of pregnancy test with full information of each animal in case of importing pregnant animals .

14- the authorities of the exporting country when requested facilitate procedures of getting the Iraqi authorized veterinarian officially to have a point of view about procedures match in the exported country against the veterinary health in Iraq with full expenses .

Vaccine type	Disease
Pasteurellamutocida – carter -B	HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA
Trivalent A(Tur06),01manisa,Asia Ishamir	FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
Rb51	Bovine brucellosis
34f2sterne strain	ANTHRAX
CI.CHAUVOEI	Black leg
Controlling ticks by external parasitocidel or by injection	Anaplasmosis,babesiosis,theileriosis
ci.perferingens type c,d+ci.novyi type B	ENTEROTOXAEMIA