



DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or a compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision nor any recourse of any kind.

The publication by the OIE of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE.

Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- (i) any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration;
- (ii) the use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- (iii) any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Self-declaration by Egypt of Compartment free from infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex

Declaration sent to the OIE on 5 August 2021 by Abdel Hakim Ali, OIE Delegate for Egypt and Chief Veterinary Officer.

1. Introduction and Historical data on the epidemiological situation of *M. tuberculosis* complex in Egypt

The objective of this self-declaration is to claim free status as compartment free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex in dairy cattle in compliance with the provisions of Chapters 1.6, 4.4, 4.5, and 8.11. of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* as of 1 January 2021 and share the favorable *M. tuberculosis* complex situation in Egypt between OIE Members.

In Egypt, tuberculosis is known to have been present from over 5000 years ago, and was relatively common during the predynastic (ca. 3500 – 2650 BC). The characteristic features of the disease and Pott's deformities in the skeleton of Egyptian mummies are also vividly seen in early Egyptian art. tuberculosis was first reported in an Egyptian camel in 1881, and the causal organism was demonstrated by inoculation experiments in 1911 (Mason, 1912).

The national TB control program in Egypt was based on compulsory periodic testing of females aged more than 6 months and bulls that are used for breeding purpose. The positive reactors are slaughtered with monetary compensation for their owners.

The agriculture law No. 53/1966 is the dedicated law that regulates control of zoonotic diseases. In 1999, Ministerial decree No. 1329 of Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation has described the detailed procedures for controlling bovine tuberculosis.

2. The legal basis, in order to support the obtaining of official tuberculosis free compartment status:

- Articles 125, 129 and 131 of chapter 2 of the agriculture law No. 53/1966 regulate control of zoonotic diseases in Egypt. While article No. 133 and 135 legalize the importation from other countries. As well, identification and animal registration are regulated by article No. 125, ([annex 1](#)).
- Ministerial decree 1329/1999 which regulates controlling of tuberculosis. It assigns only governmental veterinarians to do single intradermal tuberculin test for tuberculosis for all animal over 6 months (females, males that have been used for breeding and artificial insemination). Suspected cases are retested after 60 days and the positive cases are isolated, slaughtered and their owners are compensated. The farm/ herd, that have confirmed positive cases are put under veterinary quarantine



during which, all animals are retested every 60 days till 2 successive negative testes. At 2 successive negative testes, the quarantine is ended and the routine work by testing every 6 month is applied, ([annex 2](#)).

- As well, ministerial decree No. 1329/1999 determines the compulsory notification for Ministry of Health in regard to implement the required measures toward workers, associates and treatment or disposal of milk in the confirmed positive farms.
- Ministerial decree No. 1118/2013 regulates compensation of slaughtered positive cases, ([annex 3](#)).
- Law No. 53/1966 and its amendments by the legal presidential decree No. 13/2014 addressing that the governmental veterinarians are only specialized personnel in diagnostic testing processes for epidemic, infectious and contagious animal diseases including zoonosis and the system for identification and registration of animals, as well as animal movement system, ([annex 4](#)).

3. Tests for surveillance concerning the *M. tuberculosis* complex:

Egypt has developed a compulsory national program for the control of *M. tuberculosis* complex. The tests provided in the program are in compliance with chapter 3.4.6. Of the *OIE Terrestrial Manual*, as follows:

- Field single intradermal tuberculin skin test (field test): bovines aged over 6 months are tested twice a year.
- Anatomopathological examination and laboratory complex:
- After slaughtering of the positive reactors, isolation and identification of the causative agent from affected lesions are performed for research work.

4. Surveillance of *M. tuberculosis* complex:

The *M. tuberculosis* surveillance program is implemented in compliance with chapters 1.4 and 8.11. of the *OIE Terrestrial Code*. The disease is mandatorily notifiable and subject to quarantine measures in compliance to ministerial decree 32/1967 and agricultural law 53/1966, ([annex 1-1](#)).

4.1 Passive surveillance (Reporting System):

Tuberculosis as a chronic disease, is reported via slaughterhouses after veterinary inspection of the carcasses. The data that have been reported from the slaughterhouses, are electronically submitted on a weekly basis via Transboundary Animal Disease Information System (TAD info) by the local veterinary epidemiologists in veterinary administrations.

The clinical suspects are recorded in slaughterhouses. The procedure for determination and dealing with clinical suspicion of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex case is according to CVO decree 517/1986. After suspicion raised during the post-mortem inspection, the animal carcass is either partially or totally condemned based on the veterinary officer judgement.

According to the data analysis from this surveillance system, RBS strategy is developed and implemented in the at-risk geographical areas in which the field test is implemented, and the positive reactors are considered confirmed cases which are accordingly slaughtered, and their owners are compensated. During the past 12 months (2020), a total number of 338 clinical suspects have been detected in post-mortem inspection in slaughterhouses out of total number of 1,947,894 slaughtered animals.

4.2 Risk- based surveillance:

The risk-based surveillance (RBS) is implemented as a national program for surveillance of *M. tuberculosis* complex in compliance with the article 1.4.4. of the *OIE Terrestrial Code*. The main objective for risk-based surveillance (RBS) of *M. tuberculosis* complex is to control the disease and to mitigate the risk of transmission to human. The ministerial decree 1329/1999 regulates this national program that depends on sero-testing and slaughtering of the positive reactor animals.

The main criteria for RBS:

- The total number of animals that should be tested per year is estimated by 10% of the total high-risk animals' population (around 250 thousand head/ year).



- N.B: Total number of female animals is estimated as cattle (1.6 million head), water buffaloes (0.9 million).
- The surveillance is targeted and implemented in both farms and backyards sectors on the following bases:
 - At risk geographical areas that have high prevalence of tuberculosis (that are recorded from the previous results of different types of surveillance).
 - At risk animals:
 - Animal species; cattle, water buffaloes.
 - Age category female over 6-month-old;
 - Animal sex: Female calves over 6-month-old and bulls that are used in natural mating or artificial insemination.

Total number and confirmed positive animals tested for Tuberculosis in the RBS program during the past 3 years

Total tested and confirmed positive animal for tuberculosis 2018-2019-2020						
Year	Cow		Water Buffalo		Total	
	Total tested	TB positive reactors	Total tested	TB positive reactors	Total tested	TB positive reactors
2018	207914	44	50371	28	258285	72
2019	181012	16	39426	8	219046	24
2020	169261	51	40339	2	209600	53

5. Measures implemented to prevent and control of Tuberculosis in Egypt:

Egypt implements a national Program of surveillance, prevention, control and animal disease eradication, of *M. tuberculosis*.

In the case of importation of live animals from other countries, the importation of bovine species and their products is regulated according to article 133 of chapter 2 of the agricultural law No. 53/1966 and law No. 54/1983 which regulates importation of live animals for slaughtering or breeding.

In compliance with articles 8.11.7.; 8.11.9. and 8.11.10. of the *OIE Terrestrial Code*, the imported animal should be free from Tuberculosis.

Biosecurity:

Biosecurity plan for dairy compartments:

Biosecurity plan is promoted, implemented and supervised by the GOVS to assist producers to develop practical strategies to protect their herds from diseases which can enter unseen and unexpectedly. The objective of such plan is to implement and document the methods of disease outbreaks prevention, regularly monitoring animals for any disease signs and being prepared to respond when an outbreak occurs.

The Biosecurity plan is attached in ([annex 5](#)). The main principles of the biosecurity plan are as follows:

- All Farm data should be identified and be clear.
- The designated biosecurity coordinator could be an employee or farm family member.
- The farm employees and workers are trained and evaluated annually for their knowledge and ability to implement biosecurity procedures.
- Implementation of Farm security procedures.
- SOPs for entering and leaving restricted access areas.



- Cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- Visitor Procedures.
- Line of Separation Access Points.
- Entry Biosecurity Procedures.
- Cleaning and Disinfection Stations.
- Sanitation – Cleaning and Disinfection.
- General Management Strategies.
- Animals' general recommendations.
- Recommendation for ensuring safe feed and water.
- Waste Management.
- Pest Control.
- Management of dead animal.
- Product Safety.

The official veterinarians are responsible for evaluation of the implemented biosecurity plan in the farm. The assessment is based on a specific sheet as attached in ([annex 6](#)).

6. Implementation of “Compartment free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex” program in Dairy Cattle Farms in Egypt:

6.1. Requirement for joining Compartment free from Tuberculosis:

The Compartment must meet the following requirements:

1. The Facility/Farm has not been reported Tuberculosis for at least the past year.
2. Two tuberculin tests have been performed to all herds within the compartment with confirmed negative results on all sexually mature animals: the first test is performed not before 6 months after the slaughter of the last confirmed positive case and the second test at an interval of 6 months.
3. Compartments' Herds should have an integrated administrative and technical system with records of all activities within the farm and apply all the requirements of biosecurity and biosafety in detail.
4. Farms (compartment) should comply with all regulations for the prevention and control of Tuberculosis that have been issued by the concerned governmental authorities.
5. Commitment with transparency, especially in cooperation with the competent veterinary authority (GOVS) in concerning with examination.
6. Full compliance with the directives issued by the follow-up committees (General Organization for Veterinary Services and Animal Health Research).

6.2. Surveillance:

The implementation of the “compartment free from *M. tuberculosis* complex” program is carried out in dairy cattle farms in Egypt in the line of the national surveillance program to facilitate international trade of its products.

Two tuberculin tests have been performed to all herds in the joined farm with confirmed negative results on all sexually mature animals: the first test is performed not before 6 months after the slaughter of the last confirmed positive case and the second test at an interval of 6 months.

GOVS has certified 14 dairy cattle compartments that including 41 dairy cattle herds in this program, ([annex 7 a & b](#)). All these compartments are only having dairy cattle herds. All herds in all farms are free from tuberculosis.

6.3. Infrastructural factor:

Biosecurity requirements are among the most important steps to prevent the disease. The farms that participated in the compartment free program were visited to evaluate the infrastructure and the overall implementation of biosecurity.

6.4. Monitoring and follow-up system:

Field visits are carried out by the concerned veterinary officials. The farms are visited either with or without prior warning.



6.5. Movement control

The animal movement from/ to the compartment is under complete supervision of the veterinary authority.

All the newly introduced animals to the compartment free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex, should be coming from a certified farms that are free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex. The movement of animals from the compartment is allowed based on the certification that the compartment of origin is free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* according to its testing under complete supervision from the local veterinary authority (two tests for *M. tuberculosis* per year with a six-month interval; the second tests should be negative for *M. tuberculosis* complex).

Regarding introduction of semen to the compartment free from *M. tuberculosis*, the semen could be imported from abroad and under complete supervision from the veterinary authority and according to the OIE health standards, or the semen which is locally produced.

The locally produced semen is produced in a national governmental center that are completely operated and supervised by the general administration of animal reproduction and artificial insemination in GOVS (General Organization for Veterinary Services). All the donor males in the aforementioned centers are tested twice per year (with six-month interval) and are free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex. The locally produced semen is tested for contaminations and infections including *M. tuberculosis* in the Animal Reproduction Research Institute which is the national laboratory in charge of lab diagnosis and researches of animal reproduction.

7. Conclusions

Considering that:

- The control program of the *M. tuberculosis* was started in 1981.
- infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex in animals is a notifiable disease in the entire country;
- No occurrence of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex has been detected in the compartments for at least the past 12 months;
- bovids or cervids in the *herd* have shown no clinical signs of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex or lesions at ante- or post-mortem inspections for at least the past 12 months;
- two tests have been performed with negative results at a minimum interval of six months on all bovids or cervids over six weeks of age present in the compartments at the time of testing. The first test was performed at least six months after the removal of the last *case*;
- bovids and their germplasm introduced into the compartments comply with Articles 8.11.7., 8.11.10., 8.11.11. and 8.11.12.;
- for at least the past 12 months, there has been no occurrence of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex in other *herds* of the same compartments or measures have been implemented to prevent any transmission of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex from these other *herds*.
- The surveillance program revealed no evidence of infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex in the 41 dairy cattle herds within in 14 dairy cattle compartments during the past 3 years.

The OIE Delegate of Egypt declares that 14 dairy cattle compartments having 41 dairy cattle herds complies with the requirements for freedom from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex in Bovids as of 1 January 2021, in compliance with the provisions of Chapters 1.6, 4.4, 4.5, and 8.11. of the OIE Terrestrial Code.



I, the undersigned, Abdelhakim Ali

**Delegate of Egypt, Chairman of General Organization for Veterinary Services,
to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), takes responsibility for the self-declaration
of compartment free from infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex.**

DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision or any recourse of any kind. The publication by the OIE of self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE. Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of Member concerned. Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for: (i) Any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration, (ii) The use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration; (iii) Any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Drawn up on 5 / 8 /2021

Signature of the Delegate:



Annex 7-a:

Farms that have joined “Compartment Free from infection with tuberculosis” Program

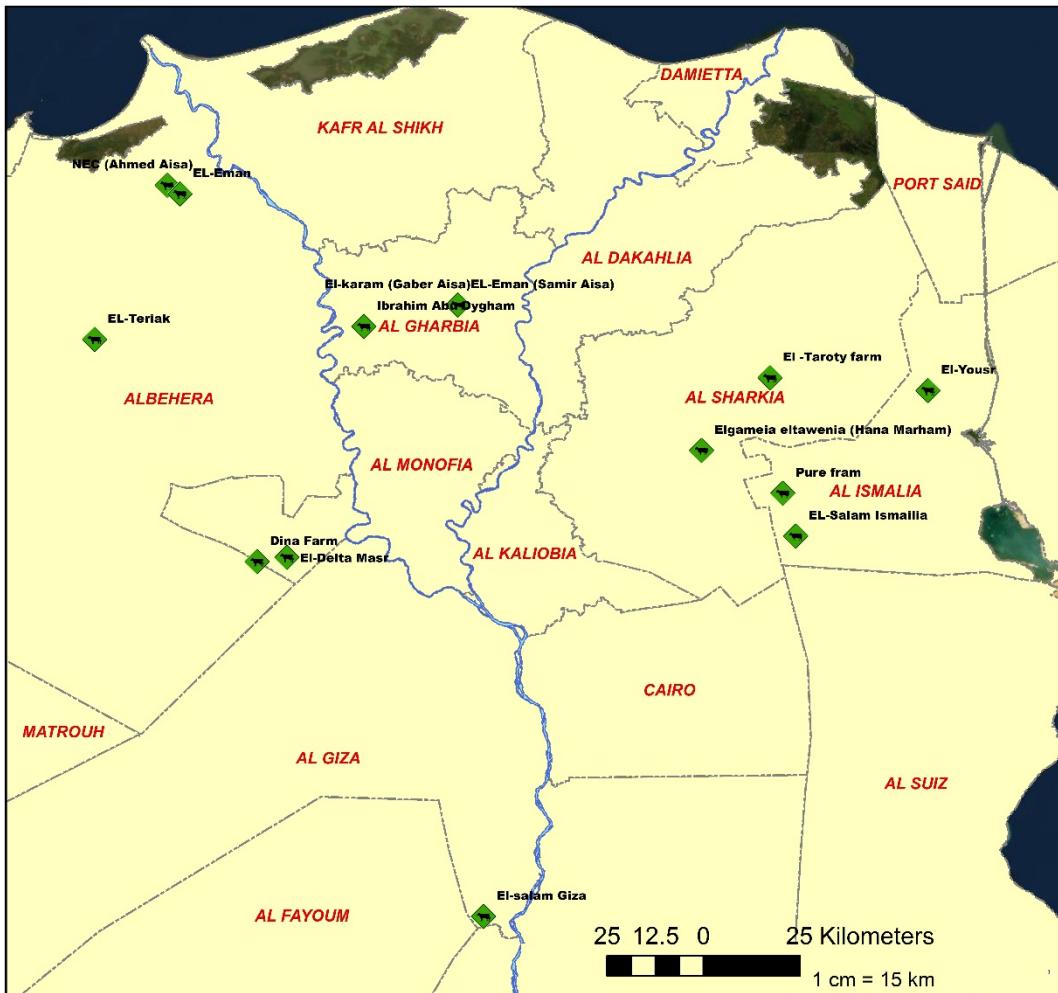
#	Name of farm/ compartment	Total No. of Cattle herds per each compartment	No. of Tuberculosis tested Cattle herds	Locality	Number of tested Animals*		Results of tuberculin test For 100% of the animal per each herd
1.	Dina Farm	9	9	El Giza Governorate	2019	8499	
					2020	7799	
					2021	8229	
2.	El-Yousr	2	2	EL Ismaylaia Governorate	2019	796	
					2020	800	
					2021	982	
3.	EL-Salam	2	2	EL Ismaylaia Governorate	2019	457	
					2020	392	
					2021	335	
4.	EL-Teriak	2	2	EL Behira Governorate	2019	200	
					2020	300	
					2021	400	
5.	Ibrahim Abu Dygham	2	2	El Gharbia Governorate	2019	76	
					2020	90	
					2021	59	
6.	El-salam	3	3	El GIZA Governorate	2019	1200	
					2020	1090	
					2021	1100	
7.	EL-Eman (Samir Aisa)	2	2	El Gharbia Governorate	2019	80	Negative
					2020	106	
					2021	108	
8.	El -Taroty farm	2	2	El Sharqia Governorate	2019	132	
					2020	150	
					2021	122	
9.	Elgameia eltawenia (Hana Marham)	3	3	El Sharqia Governorate	2019	520	
					2020	523	
					2021	497	
10.	Pure farm	3	3	EL Ismaylaia Governorate	2019	373	
					2020	461	
					2021	297	
11.	NEC (Ahmed Aisa)	3	3	EL Behira Governorate	2019	304	
					2020	366	
					2021	338	
12.	El-Delta Masr	4	4	El Menoufia Governorate	2019	1320	
					2020	1428	
					2021	1206	
13.	El-karam (Gaber Aisa)	2	2	El Gharbia Governorate	2020	87	
					2021	105	
14.	EL-Eman	2	2	EL Behira Governorate	2020	41	
					2021	91	

*Number of tested females: the mentioned tested number per each year is also the total animal population in this year (the test is applied for 100% of the total population).



Annex 7-b:

EGYPT
Farm free from infection with infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex



**Farm free from infection
with tuberculosis**

◆ Free Dairy Cattle Farm



Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
General Organization for Veterinary Services
A.H.F - Technical Office

