

THE PROBLEM OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES IN LEBANON AND WAYS OF ITS SOLUTION

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Cross-border animal diseases are critical to the economies, trade relations and food security of many countries. They are characterized by a wide interstate distribution on the scale of epizootics, which require coordinated efforts of several countries to deal with. These diseases cause high morbidity and mortality of animals, posing a threat to the country's livestock.

In Lebanon, the spread of cross-border diseases is associated primarily with the influx of refugees fleeing a military conflict in a neighboring country who carry a large number of susceptible animals.

According to the official data of the International Epizootic Bureau, three especially dangerous and economically significant infectious diseases of animals, with a tendency to cross-border spread, are spread in the Lebanese Republic – infectious nodular dermatitis in cattle, foot and mouth disease and small ruminant plague [1, 3, 4]. This group of diseases causes tremendous damage, which consists of: 1) deaths, destruction and forced slaughter of animals, disposal of corpses and waste, reduction of animal productivity due to their disease; lack of offspring due to illness and infertility of animals; loss of breeding value of animals; due to the reduction (rejection) of products and raw materials. These aspects lead to a threat to the economic and food security of the country due to huge losses of livestock products and, consequently, losses for the processing industry. In this regard, foot and mouth disease received the informal name «economically devastating livestock disease». Losses in the production of livestock products due to the depopulation of susceptible animals as an effective measure to combat this disease, a decrease in the supply of meat, dairy products, live animals, reach a loss of millions of dollars; 2) damage associated with special veterinary (quarantine and control and preventive) measures; 3) dangers for the population of the country with anthroponoses (for example, with foot and mouth disease); 4) the possibility of mass death

of a population of susceptible wild animals, which can lead to environmental disaster, etc.

In the fight against cross-border animal diseases, Lebanon is greatly assisted by international organizations. The Food and Agriculture Organization, in collaboration with other countries, is running a program called «Improving Resilience to External Factors to Ensure Food and Nutrition Security» along the border between Syria and Lebanon. In Lebanon, the Food and Agriculture Organization is providing government support for a vaccination campaign for livestock in border areas. These measures reduce the number of infected animals, thereby protecting vulnerable populations living in rural areas from livestock deaths from transboundary animal diseases. By the way, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health pledged to eradicate the plague of sheep and goats in Lebanon by 2030 [2]. The program supplies high-quality feed, organizes field schools that allow farmers to share advanced livestock and crop production technologies with each other.

Thus, cross-border animal diseases are highly contagious and spread rapidly, regardless of national borders. They cause high morbidity and death of animals and therefore have serious socio-economic consequences, and sometimes dangerous to human health.

References. 1. *List of the OIE and transboundary diseases of animals* / V. V. Makarov [et al.]. – Vladimir : FSBI ARRIAH, 2012 . – 162 p. 2. *Urgent vaccination of cattle is carried out along the Syrian-Lebanese border.* Access mode – www.fao.org/news/story/ru/item/282855/icode/. Access date: 12.01.2020. 3. *The official website of the Food and Agriculture Organization.* Access mode – <http://www.fao.org/home/ru/>. Access date: 12.01.2020. 4. *The official website of World organization for animal health.* Access mode – <https://www.oie.int/>. Access date: 12.01.2020.