The final RCM of this meeting was held from 17-21 February, 2003 in Bamako, Mali. The main objective of this CRP was to develop (cELISA, LAT), to introduce and to compare/validate (cELISA, CFT, LAT) a number of serological tests for the diagnosis of CBPP. The programme, which started in 1998, included 11 Research Contract holders from 11 countries of West, East and Southern Africa and 3 Research Agreement holders. The latex agglutination tests (LAT) were developed in cooperation with the Moredun Research Institute, UK and the competitive ELISA in cooperation with CIRAD/EMVT, France.

Inadequate diagnostic tools and insufficient knowledge on the distribution and prevalence of the disease are one of the main constraints in the implementation of efficient CBPP control programmes. The main achievements of the CRP are the identification and validation of such diagnostic tools (the cELISA, the CFT and the LAT) and the development of testing strategies to overcome these constraints. In this respect the programme was highly successful and it is anticipated that it will have a major impact on the establishment of national disease surveillance programmes aiming at the control of CBPP.

The cELISA was identified as a suitable and useful test and should be submitted to the OIE Standards Commission to be considered along with the CFT as a prescribed test. During the CRP the test was introduced in all participatory institutes and is now operational in all the institutes. Full details are available in the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.