

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2024

This report has been submitted: 19 janvier 2025 21:23

CENTRE INFORMATION

*Title of WOAHCollaborating Centre	Validation, QA Europe
*Address of WOAHCollaborating Centre	Sciensano; Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Uccle, Belgium
*Tel:	+32-2 642.06.27
*E-mail address:	nick.deregge@sciensano.be
Website:	https://www.sciensano.be/en
*Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official):	Prof. Christian Léonard
*Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	Prof. Nick De Regge; head of the service Exotic and vector-borne diseases
*Name of the writer:	Nick De Regge

TOR 1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHC

Category	Title of activity	Scope

--

Disease control (true)	assistance in revision of FMD chapter in Terrestrial Manual and evaluation of impact on the code chapter	updated terrestrial manual with relevant tests
Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment, (true)	-Identification of FMD, LSDV and SPPV strains present in Nigeria -identification of SPPV strains from outbreaks in Georgia, Greece, Bulgaria, Mongolia and Pakistan -expert advice for FMD vaccines in vaccine banks	-provide better insight in circulating field strains to assist outbreak investigations and support selection of diagnostic tests in case of an outbreak
Training, capacity building (true)	-presentations during the annual meeting of the European Reference laboratory for FMD -organisation of a proficiency test for molecular detection of Seneca Valley virus	provide updates on the epidemiological situation and laboratory testing to help European Member nations and third countries with their capacity building and preparedness
Diagnosis, biotechnology and laboratory (true)	-validation of commercial FMD ELISAs from Innovative Diagnostics -evaluate new commercial LSDV ELISA from Indical -production of post-vaccination sera for recent outbreak strains to include in proficiency tests -participate to FMD proficiency tests of Anses, Pirbright and Botswana	'-ensure the availability of high quality diagnostic tests in case of an outbreak
Vaccines (true)	-performing in vitro quality testing of LSDV and SPPV vaccines -in vivo LSDV vaccine safety and efficacy testing	-guarantee that independently quality controlled vaccines are used in case of an outbreak

TOR 3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable Area

3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?H?

No

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHO Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOAHO CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
other partners of the WOAHO/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network, which consist of 16 core members and 6 affiliated members (see https://www.foot-and-mouth.org)	UK, France, Germany, Italy, South-Africa, Argentina, Botswana, Brasil, China, US, Russia, Thailand, Canada, the Netherlands, India, Republic of Korea; affiliates in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Türkiye	África América Asia y el Pacífico Europa	- WOAHO/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network - Vaccine matching - International proficiency tests - Post vaccination monitoring - Virus and sequence exchange - Obtaining viral reference strains - collaboration in international research projects

TOR 4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHO Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOAHO CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
WOAHO RL for Epizootic Hemorrhagic diseases; Anses, France	France	Europe	information exchange EHDV epidemiology in Europe
WOAHO RL for bluetongue virus, Pirbright, UK	UK	Europe	information exchange BTV epidemiology in Europe
WOAHO RL for lumpy skin disease virus Pirbright, UK	UK	Europe	international proficiency testing - sample exchange - optimization NGS capripox

--

IAEA (international atomic energy agency) Wien, Austria	Austria	Europe	sample exchange - optimization NGS capripox
WOAH/ASEAN RL lumpy skin disease virus (under development) Thailand	Thailand	Asia and Pacific	sample exchange for implementation/optimization LSDV diagnostics
EURL bluetongue virus Algete, Spain	Spain	Europe	virus strain exchange (SPPV, EHDV) - sample exchange - international proficiency testing BTV and AHS
WOAH RL Lumpy skin disease OVI, Onderstepoort South-Africa	South-Africa	Africa	capripox virus sample exchange - vaccine testing
The Kimron Veterinary Institute, Bet, Dagan, Israel	Israël	Middle East	virus and sample exchange BEFV - in vitro vaccine quality control

TOR 6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH?

Yes

Name of expert	Kind of consultancy	Subject
David Lefebvre	representative of WOAH CC	responsible for working group that revised the FMD chapter of the terrestrial manual and assessed the impact on the code chapter
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAH CC	EuFMD Executive committee meeting: March 12th
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAH CC	EuFMD Executive committee meeting: October 28th



--

Nick De Regge	representative of WOAHC	EuFMD SCISAR meeting March
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAHC	EuFMD SCISAR meeting July
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAHC	EuFMD SCISAR meeting November
David Lefebvre	representative of WOAHC	WOAH-FAO FMD ref lab network meeting; 25-27 September, Rome
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAHC	WOAH general session; May; Paris
Nick De Regge	representative of WOAHC	FAO-WOAH meeting on TAD vaccination; 23-25 September, Rome

TOR 7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

Yes

- provision of capripox virus reference material to Croatia and UK
- provision of expert advice to Northern-African countries in relation to the LSDV outbreaks
- provision of expert advice to the European Commission concerning FMD vaccines

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHC, to personnel from WOAHC Members?

Yes

- a) Technical visit : 0
- b) Seminars : 3
- c) Hands-on training courses: 1
- d) Internships (>1 month) : 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Content	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
--	---------	---	---

--

C	training in LSDV IPMA	North-Macedonia	2
B	FAO VLC course on SPPV	multiple European countries	50
B	FAO VLC course on LSDV for Asia	multiple Asian countries	50
B	FAO VLC course on LSDV for North-Africa	multiple northern-African countries	120

TOR 8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOA?H?

Yes

National/International	Title of event	Co-organiser	Date	Location	No. Participants
Internationally	GFTAD SGE LSDV	GF-TAD, WOA, FAO, EC	2024-02-29	online	25
Internationally	WOAH regional seminar NFP for Vet Labs Asia	WOAH SEA	2024-07-16	online	50
Internationally	WOAH 5th LSDV coordination meeting SEA	WOAH SEA	2024-12-18	online	50

TOR 9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOA?H that may be useful to Members of WOA?H

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

2

Sheeppox virus genome sequences from the European outbreaks in Spain, Bulgaria, and Greece in 2022-2024.

Breman FC, Haegeman A, Philips W, Krešić N, Hoffman S, De Keersmaecker SCJ, Roosens NHC, Agüero M, Villalba R, Miteva A, Ivanova E, Tasioudi KE, Chaintoutis SC, Kirtzalidou A, De Regge N.

Arch Virol. 2024 Oct 30;169(11):234. doi: 10.1007/s00705-024-06165-6.

Lessons Learned from Active Clinical and Laboratory Surveillance during the Sheep Pox Virus Outbreak in Spain, 2022-2023.

Villalba R, Haegeman A, Ruano MJ, Gómez MB, Cano-Gómez C, López-Herranz A, Tejero-Cavero J, Capilla J, Bascuñan MV, De Regge N, Agüero M.

Viruses. 2024 Jun 27;16(7):1034. doi: 10.3390/v16071034.

b) International conferences:

1

EuFMD open session, October, Madrid, presentation Anne-Sophie Bultinck: EXPLORING THE GUINEA PIG MODEL IN THE CONVALESCENT AND PUTATIVE PERSISTENT PHASE OF INFECTION WITH FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VIRUS

c) National conferences:

0

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

0

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

evaluation of the use of WGS for vaccine quality control

12. Additional comments regarding your report:

n.a.