

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2025

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CENTRE INFORMATION

*Title of WOAH Collaborating Centre	Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health
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*Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	PhD Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle, Associated research and Head of epidemiology group.
*Name of the writer:	Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle

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 WOAH

Category	Title of activity	Scope
Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment, (true)	Development of distance learning modules.	As part of our collaboration with OMSA, we are developing four distance learning modules. on emergency and disaster management. These modules will be added to the e-learning catalog on the OMSA training portal. Versions will be available in English, Spanish, and French.
Training, capacity building (true)	Dr. Lillianne Ganges is an expert at the WOAH Reference Laboratory for Classical Swine Fever at the Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA)-Animal Health Research Center (CReSA) in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Renata López Rodríguez and Dr. Fernanda Gómez Cardoso, who work at the WOAH Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease at the Federal Agricultural Defense Laboratory (LFDA-SP) in São Paulo, Brazil, visited CENSA.	A scientific visit to CENSA was conducted to train virology specialists on topics related to updates on the main diseases affecting pigs, as well as on molecular diagnostic systems approved by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Staff were also trained on the accreditation of molecular tests for the diagnosis of the classical swine fever virus (CSF). There was an exchange between the doctors and the CENSA virology group. Additionally, Dr. Ana María Acevedo Beiras visited the reference laboratory to receive training on updates to the primary diseases affecting birds, as well as on molecular diagnostic systems approved by OMSA. She also received training on the accreditation of molecular tests for diagnosing the AI virus and Newcastle disease. The entire quality management system for the accreditation of diagnostic tests was strengthened.
Zoonoses (true)	Prioritize zoonotic diseases in Cuba.	An exercise in prioritisation based on expert criteria was developed and carried out with the aim of identifying priority zoonoses in Cuba, in order to build capacity, stratify risks and design and implement an integrated surveillance system based on the One Health approach. The exercise is carried out using the "One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritisation (OHZDP)" tool, which was developed by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and promoted by the WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
		Avian influenza and Newcastle disease: Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) of the United Kingdom and WOAH Reference

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Diagnosis, biotechnology and laboratory (true)	The virology laboratory is participating in four interlaboratory trials organized by WHO reference laboratories.	Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Virus. Classical Swine Fever Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) Animal Health Research Center (CReSA) Barcelona, Spain, WOA Reference Laboratory for Classical Swine Fever. African Swine Fever: The Animal Health Research Center (CISA-INIA/CSIC) in Spain is the EU and FAO Reference Laboratory for ASF (EURL) and the ASF EURL/FAO.
Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment (true)	The PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Disease).	A framework of activities and concepts is currently being developed.
Zoonoses (true)	Entomology workshop	Identification of arthropod vectors of diseases of public health, animal health and zoonotic importance for Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean). Trinidad and Tobago
Disaster Preparedness and Response (true)	Remote assistance and participation in virtual meetings related to the preparedness and post-disaster response and needs assessment to the impact of hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and Cuba.	Improved Veterinary Services readiness to deal with animal welfare issues during catastrophic events.

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 WOAHP?

No

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

Yes

Name of WOAHP CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
Biological threat reduction (IIAD)	USA	Asia y el Pacífico	Consortium for Development Distance Learning Modules On Emergency Management
Veterinary training and capacity building IZSAM	Italy	Oriente Medio	Consortium for Development Distance Learning Modules On Emergency Management
Continuing education and capacity building for Veterinarians (CNVZ)	Tunisia	África	Consortium for Development Distance Learning Modules On Emergency Management
Training of Official Veterinarians (Europe)	France	Europa	Consortium for Development Distance Learning Modules On Emergency Management
Regional Training Center for Veterinary Services in the Americas (CRESVet).	Argentina	América	Consortium for Development Distance Learning Modules On Emergency Management

TOR 4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

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

Yes

Name of WOAHC CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET)	Caribe	Americas	Development of tools for emergency management and response. Risk communication and network coordination.
Development and production of vaccines, pharmaceutical products, and diagnostic devices for veterinary use through biotechnology	Cuba	Americas	Development of a vaccine for avian influenza.
The WOAHC Reference Laboratory for Classical Swine Fever is located at the Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA), Animal Health Research Centre (CReSA), in Barcelona, Spain.	Spain	Europe	Training and interlaboratory tests.
The WOAHC Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease is located at the Federal Agricultural Defense Laboratory (LFDA-SP) in São Paulo, Brazil.	Brazil	Americas	Training of personnel in the accreditation of molecular tests for diagnosing the AI virus and Newcastle disease.
The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) of the United Kingdom is a WOAHC Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and the Newcastle disease virus.	UK	Europe	Interlaboratory tests.
CISA-INIA/CSIC Animal Health Research Center in Spain, EU and FAO Reference Laboratory for ASF (EURL)/ASF EURL/ASF FAO	Spain	Europe	Interlaboratory tests.
The International Centre for Agricultural Research in Development (CIRAD)	Guadeloupe	Americas	Training and scientific research in entomology and One Health approach
French Institute for Research and Development (IRD)	France	Europe	Internationalization of education, training and development of educational material
VetAgroSup	France	Europe	Development an International One Health Master and materials as educational capsule. Training and research fellow about risk assessment on ASF.
			Development an International

National Autonomous University of Mexico (El Dorado Laboratory)	Mexico	Americas	One Health Master and materials as educational capsule and training.
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TOR 6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Name of expert	Kind of consultancy	Subject
Dr. Pastor Alfonso Zamora	XXV Meeting of the Heads of Veterinary Services of CARICOM Trinidad and Tobago, 2025.	He actively participated in discussions on the topics covered at both meetings (see the attached agendas). As Head of the CaribVET Epidemiology Technical Working Group, He presented the group's activities and coordinated the presentations of the disaster and wildlife subgroups. He also reported on the progress of ARCAL and PREZODE.
Dr. Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle	2nd Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on New World Screwworm, GF-TADs of the Americas. October 9, 2025 – Virtual format, 9:00–11:00 AM (Panama Time)	She participated in discussions on the topics covered at meetings (see the attached agendas).

TOR 7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

Yes

Advice and development of prioritization exercises for zoonotic diseases in Cuba for the design and implementation of an integrated surveillance system for early warning.

Reports for decision-makers in ministries of public health, animal health, and civil defense on scientific evidence to improve avian influenza surveillance in Cuba with a One Health approach.

Preparedness and response actions for the impacts of Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and Cuba as part of a regional multisectoral and multidisciplinary team.

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

Yes

a) Technical visit : 0

b) Seminars : 1

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

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	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION COURSE Disaster risk reduction and climate change. Disaster risk reduction integrated with climate change adaptation. Cuba's experience. Disaster hazard, vulnerability, and risk studies from a One Health perspective. Multi-risk analysis and One Health for disaster risk reduction. Risk communication in disaster reduction. The World Organization for Animal Health and disaster risk reduction.	Cuba	43

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?

No

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:

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Marie-Jeanne Guenin, Caribbean One Health community of practice ("Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle"), Séverine Thys, Eric M.C. Etter. 2025. "Strengthening one health in the future of the Caribbean through a regional community of practice". One Health, Volume 21, 2025, 101152, ISSN 2352-7714, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2025.101152>

Microfluidic PCR and network analysis reveals complex tick-borne pathogen interactions in the tropics. Cristian Díaz-Corona, Lisset Roblejo-Arias, Elianne Piloto-Sardiñas, Adrian A. Díaz Sánchez, Angélique Foucault-Simonin, Clemence Galon, Alejandra Wu-Chuang, Lourdes Mateos-Hernández, Zbigniew Zajac, Joanna Kulisz, Aneta Wozniak, Maria Karla Castro Montes de Oca, Dasiel Obregón, Sara

Moutailler, Belkis Corona González, Alejandro Cabezas-Cruz. *Parasites and Vectors*. (2024) 17:5. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-023-06098-0>

Abuin-Denis, L., Piloto-Sardiñas, E., Maître, A., Wu-Chuang, A., Mateos-Hernández, L., Obregon, D., Corona-González, B., Fogaça, A.C., Palinauskas, V., Aželytė, J., Rodríguez-Mallon, A., Cabezas-Cruz, A., Exploring the impact of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* on colonization resistance of *Ixodes scapularis* microbiota using network node manipulation. *Current Research in Parasitology and Vector-Borne Diseases*. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crvbd.2024.100177>

Martínez-Burnes, J.; Barrios-García, H.; Carvajal-de la Fuente, V.; Corona-González, B.; Obregón Alvarez, D.; Romero-Salas, D. *Viral Diseases in Water Buffalo (Bubalus bubalis): New Insights and Perspectives*. *Animals* 2024, 14, 845. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14060845>

Piloto-Sardiñas, E., Abuin-Denis, Maitre, A., Foucault-Simonin, A., Corona-González, B., Díaz-Corona, C., Roblejo-Arias, L., Mateos-Hernández, L., Marrero-Perera, R., Obregon, D., Svobodová, K., Wu-Chuang, A., & Cabezas-Cruz, A. (2024). Dynamic nesting of *Anaplasma marginale* in the microbial communities of *Rhipicephalus microplus*. *Ecology and Evolution*, 14, e11228. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11228>

b) International conferences:

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• 11th International Symposium on Avian Influenza, June 23-26, 2025. Saint John, Newfoundland, Canada. Poster presentation: *Modelling Avian Influenza Virus Transmission at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface in Cuba*. Authors: Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle.

• OFFLU (WOAH-FAO Expertise on Animal Influenza) Meeting. At the venue of 11th International Symposium on Avian Influenza St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Attending as an observer Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle.

• 11th Ticks and tick borne diseases Conference.

c) National conferences:

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• I International One Health Congress. Cuba Health 2025 Convention.

Keynote lecture: "Case study: Integrated surveillance of avian influenza." Author: Dr. C. Pastor Alfonso Zamora.

Integrated Surveillance Panel, First One Health Congress. Participants: Dr. C. Pastor Alfonso Zamora and Dr. C. Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle, CENSA. "Modeling the transmission of avian influenza virus at the wildlife, livestock, and human interface in Cuba." Authors: Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle.

• II International Workshop on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, Cuba. January 20-21, 2025. Participants: Dr. Alfonso Zamora, Dr. Damarys de las Nieves Montano Valle, Rosa Elena Hernández Fillor, Ms. C. CENSA

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

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Prizes received this year:

• 2024. National Awards of the Cuban Academy of Science. Title: *Early warning of avian influenza risks at the wildlife, livestock, and human interface*. Author: <https://www.academiaciencias.cu/es/premios>

• 2024. PRINCIPAL'S Research Awards 2024. Hurricane and Earthquake Alleviation Research (HEAR) Award. The University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad y Tobago. Hurricane and Earthquake Alleviation Research (HEAR) Award. Project: *Regional coordination for disaster preparedness and mitigation activities to relieve animal suffering and safeguard the agricultural and livestock sector*. Co-author: <https://sta.uwi.edu/researchawards/2024-awardees/>

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

Expand networks with centres specialising in the same or related areas in the Caribbean region. Strengthen Cuba's capacity to diagnose and monitor priority diseases. Train professionals in the animal, plant and human health sectors on related topics.

12. Additional comments regarding your report:

This report may be missing some relevant information, as it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Alfonso Zamora, leader of this collaborating center, on May 31st, 2025.