

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2025

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CENTRE INFORMATION

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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 WOA

Category	Title of activity	Scope
Disease control (true)	Assistance in revision of FMD chapter in WOA Terrestrial Manual and evaluation of impact on the Code chapter	updated WOA Terrestrial Manual
Epidemiology, surveillance, risk assessment, (true)	- Characterization of FMD virus strains from Nigeria - Expert advice for detection and diagnosis of FMD and for control, vaccination and eradication during an outbreak	- provide better insight in circulating field strains to assist outbreak investigations and support selection of diagnostic tests and vaccines in case of an outbreak - science-based expertise and advice during an outbreak of FMD
Training, capacity building (true)	- presentations during the annual workshop of the European Union Reference laboratory for FMD; the annual WOA/FAO FMD reference laboratory network; the Global foot-and-mouth disease research alliance scientific meeting - training for field veterinarians, official veterinarians and national stakeholders in EU Member States	provide updates on the epidemiological situation of FMD, particularly in the European neighbourhood, and on laboratory testing and vaccination to help EU Member States and third countries with their capacity building and preparedness

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Diagnosis, biotechnology and laboratory (true)	- validation of a triplex real time RT-PCR for the detection of Senecavirus A - evaluate disinfection procedures (to be) used in national laboratories - production of post-vaccination sera for recent outbreak strains to include in proficiency tests and for QA/QC of diagnostic tests - participation in the FMD proficiency tests organised by the EURL and WRL	- ensure the availability of high quality diagnostic tests and reagents in case of an outbreak - to help national laboratories with their capacity building and preparedness
Vaccines (true)	- in vivo production of post vaccination serum and in vitro evaluation of FMD vaccine potency and cross-protection (vaccine-matching) - advising the authorities on vaccine usage in case of an outbreak	guarantee that potent, well-matched 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 WOA?H Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
other partners of the WOA?H/FAO Reference Laboratory network, which consist of 16 core members and 6 affiliated members (see https://www.foot-and-mouth.org)	- core members in France, The Netherlands, Italy, UK, Russian Federation, China, Republic of Korea, Thailand, India, Botswana, South Africa, Argentina, PAHO/WHO, USA and Canada - affiliated members in Türkiye, Australia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal	África América Asia y el Pacífico Europa Oriente Medio	- WOA?H/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network - Vaccine matching - International proficiency tests - Post vaccination monitoring - Virus and genome 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 WOA?H Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose

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WOAH Reference Laboratory for Lumpy Skin disease	Belgium	Europe	- information exchange on epidemiology - preparedness and capacity building - exchange of samples - optimization of NGS technology
WOAH Reference Laboratory for Sheep pox and Goat pox	Belgium	Europe	- information exchange on epidemiology - preparedness and capacity building - exchange of samples - optimization of NGS technology
IAEA (international atomic energy agency)	Austria	Europe	exchange in knowledge and expertise

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
Nick De Regge	representative of WOA?H CC	WOAH regional workshop on LSD and other TADs control in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, Philippines, 7-11/07/2025
- David Lefebvre - Anne-Sophie Bultinck	representative of WOA?H CC	WOAH-FAO FMD Reference laboratory network meeting, Istanbul, Türkiye, 23-24/10/2025
Nick De Regge	representative of WOA?H CC	EuFMD ExCom meeting, 16/10/2025, online
Nick De Regge	representative of WOA?H CC	Standing Technical Committee meeting EuFMD, Berlin, Germany, 20-21/11/2025
- Nick De Regge - Andy Haegeman	representative of WOA?H CC	EuFMD SEE meeting, 30/01/2025, online
David Lefebvre	representative of WOA?H CC	EuFMD ExCom meeting, 12/03/2025, online

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 FMD reference virus and serum to France
- provision of expert advice to various stakeholders in EU Member states and in the European neighborhood in relation to FMD outbreaks
- provision of expert advice to the European Commission in relation to FMD outbreaks

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

Yes

- a) Technical visit : 0
- b) Seminars : 210
- 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
B	Epidemiology of FMD and the role of the EURL FMD – "Prevention and control of foot-and-mouth disease"	Poland	30
B	Epidemiology and diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease	Belgium	80
B	Update on foot-and-mouth disease, a persisting threat for Europe	Belgium	100

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?

No

TOR 9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

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

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

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several manuscripts on vesicular diseases are in preparation

b) International conferences:

3

poster presentations at GFRA Scientific meeting 2025:

- *In vitro assessment of the cellular and humoral immune response induced by a FMDV SAT2 ERITREA 98 vaccine in cattle against homologous and heterologous FMDV strains*
- *Continued circulation of foot-and-mouth disease virus topotypes O/EA-3, A/AFRICA/G-IV and SAT2/VII in Nigeria*
- *Exploring the guinea pig model in the putative persistent phase of infection with foot-and-mouth disease virus*

c) National conferences:

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poster presentation at the 13th Annual BELVIR (Belgian Society for Virology) Symposium: In vitro assessment of the humoral and cellular immune response induced by an FMDV SAT2 ERITREA 98 vaccine against homologous and heterologous FMDV strains

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

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11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?
Evaluation of different optimization techniques for FMD virus VP1 and whole genome sequencing

12. Additional comments regarding your report:
not applicable