

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

This report has been submitted: 14 février 2026 23:54

LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:	Classical swine fever
*Address of laboratory:	1015 Arlington Street Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3E 3M4. Canada.
*Tel:	+12047892089
*E-mail address:	aruna.ambagala@inspection.gc.ca
Website:	https://inspection.canada.ca/science-and-research/our-laboratories/ncfad-winnipeg/eng/1549576575939/1549576643836
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Kathleen Hooper-McGrevy
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:	Dr. Aruna Ambagala - Research Scientist
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAH Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
ELISA	Yes	108	48
NPLA	Yes	4	24
Direct diagnostic tests			
Real-time qPCR	Yes	1008	420
Virus isolation	Yes	0	78
Whole genome sequencing	Yes	0	6

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
Spleen Swabs for Detection of Classical Swine Fever Virus	PMID: 40872277. PMCID: PMC12389663. DOI: 10.3390/pathogens14080767

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHP Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHP Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHP Members?

Yes

Name of WOAHP Member Country seeking assistance	Date	Which diagnostic test used	No. samples received for provision of diagnostic support	No. samples received for provision of confirmatory diagnoses
GUATEMALA	2025-05-18	CSF-PCR	38	38
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	2025-07-13	CSF-PCR	124	124
TOGO	2025-06-20	CSF-PCR	138	138
MOZAMBIQUE	2025-06-20	CSF-PCR	14	14
NIGERIA	2025-06-20	CSF-PCR	10	10
HONDURAS	2025-05-18	CSF-PCR, CSF-NPLA	24	24
ECUADOR	2025-04-11	CSF-PCR, CSF-NPLA, CSF-ELISA	78	78

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHP Member?

Yes

Name of the WOAHP Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
ECUADOR	Diagnostic support	Virtually
BRAZIL	Diagnostic support	Virtually
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Diagnostic support	Virtually
GUATEMALA	Diagnostic support	Virtually
HONDURAS	Diagnostic support	Virtually
CUBA	Research collaboration	Virtually

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHP Members other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAHP Member Countries involved other than your country
Characterization of CSFV Strains from Brazil	3 years and ongoing	Molecular characterization and pathotyping of CSFV strains from Brazil	Laboratório Federal de Defesa Agropecuária (LFDA-MG) - Federal Laboratory for Agriculture Defense Secretaria de Defesa Agropecuária Agriculture Defense Secretary Ministério da Agricultura e Pecuária Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	BRAZIL
Post-licensing evaluation of		To evaluate the potential of	Departamento de Salud Animal,	

Aruna Ambagala - - CANADA

Porvac® subunit vaccine against classical swine fever in two pig genetic development farms in Cuba	2 years	Porvac®, a second-generation subunit vaccine, for elimination of CSF from endemic regions	Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología, Apdo 6162, La Habana 10600, Cuba.	CUBA
Molecular characterization of classical swine fever virus isolates from Ecuador: The path to eradication	2 years	To conduct detailed molecular epidemiological study to understand the evolution of CSFV over the last four years.	Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoosanitario - Agrocalidad Eloy Alfaro y Federico González Suárez. Av. Interoceánica Km. 14 1/2, Sector La Granja, CP: 170903, 170184, Quito, Ecuador	ECUADOR
Safety Study of the HERBAVACTM CSF Green Marker Classical Swine Fever Vaccine	1 year	To determine if the HERBAVACTM CSF Green Marker vaccine is safe for us	BioApplications Inc., Gangseo-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea	KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S. REP. OF)

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

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

No

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

1

Evaluation of Spleen Swabs for Sensitive and High-Throughput Detection of Classical Swine Fever Virus.
Hochman O, Goonewardene K, Chung CJ, Ambagala A.
Pathogens. 2025 Aug 3;14(8):767. doi: 10.3390/pathogens14080767.

b) International conferences:

3

1. *ASF and CSF Early Detection in swine processing fluids - September 20-23, Allen D. Lemam Swine Conference, 2025, St. Paul River Centre, Saint Paul, MN, USA*
2. *Oral Fluid for the Early Detection of African and Classical Swine Fever - December 2, 2025, APHIS Swine Stakeholder Oral Fluid Meeting, Ames, IA, USA (Presented Virtually)*
3. *Enhancing ASF/CSF Surveillance through Laboratory Diagnostics Advances, Best Practices, and the Role of Reference Laboratories - September 23-24, 2025. 6th Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Transboundary Swine Diseases (SGE-TSD), of the GF-TADs for the Americas, Panama City, Panama*

c) National conferences:

2

1. *African & Classical Swine Fever: What Swine Veterinarians Need to Know- November 7, 2025, Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians (OASV) annual conference 19th Annual Fall Conference, Guelph, Ontario, Canada (Presented Virtually)*
2. *Processing Fluid for Detection of ASF and CSF in Breeding Herds- Ongoing ASF Discussions Between CFIA PPB, SB, and OP - October 6, 2025. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (Presented Virtually)*

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

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHP Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	See attached	NCFAD SSC Accreditation Information_asb_soa_15579_scope_v7_2024-03-01_en.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
RRT-PCR	Standards Council of Canada
Conventional PCR	Standards Council of Canada
Sequencing	Standards Council of Canada
Virus Isolation	Standards Council of Canada
NPLA	Standards Council of Canada
ELISA	Standards Council of Canada

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

The Government of Canada's Canadian Biosafety Standard (CBS) requires that a biosecurity plan be in place for facilities that handle infectious agents. This plan details the aspects the facility has in place for the prevention of theft, misuse or intentional release of pathogens. The National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) Biosecurity Plan addresses the requirements that are outlined in Section 4.1.8 of the CBS 3rd Edition, and security requirements detailed in Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC)'s Physical Security Standard for the NCFAD at the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCCHAH) The NCFAD Biosecurity Plan deals with all biological pathogens, including Risk Group 2, but its focus is on those in Risk Groups 3 and 4, which pose the greatest biosecurity risk. This plan includes details on the risk assessment of biological agents, physical protection of the facility, personnel suitability/reliability, information management, pathogen accountability and inventory, and incident and emergency response measures. Work areas covered include diagnostic and research laboratory spaces in Containment Level 3 (CL3), a large animal CL3-Ag zone including post mortem suite, and higher containment laboratories, namely restricted zoonotic CL3 and CL4 labs. CL4 space includes a CL4 large animal zone. The NCFAD Biosecurity Plan will be reviewed biennially by the Director and/or Laboratory Executive Director (LED). Ad hoc review will take place in response to incident review outcomes and related document updates such as the Biosecurity Risk Assessment or Threat Risk Assessment.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

Yes

Title of event	Date	location	Role (speaker, presenting poster, short communications)	Title of the work presented
Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Transboundary Swine Diseases (SGE-TSD), of the GF-TADs for the Americas	2025-09-22	Panama City, Panama	Speaker	Enhancing ASF/CSF Surveillance through Laboratory Diagnostics Advances, Best Practices, and the Role of Reference Laboratories

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Aruna Ambagala - - CANADA

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOA Ref. Labs/ organising WOA Ref Lab
ILCT	Participant	Not known	Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

We will organize inter-laboratory proficiency testing (molecular and serology) for ASF and CSF with regional laboratories in the Americas in 2026

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Review of WOA Standards	Virtually	Update WOA Terrestrial Manual CSF chapter 3.8.3

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

No