

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
*Address of laboratory:	3-1-5 Kannondai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0856, Japan
*Tel:	+81-29 838 83 33
*E-mail address:	iwamaru.yoshifumi549@naro.go.jp
Website:	https://www.naro.go.jp/english/laboratory/niah/index.html
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Ken KATSUDA (Director-General) National Institute of Animal Health, NARO
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:	Yoshifumi IWAMARU (Head of Virus Group)
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Research agency

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 WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
PRNP genotyping	No	657	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
WB tests for TSE surveillance	Yes	657	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

No

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

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

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

No

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

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

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:

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

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

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https://www.maff.go.jp/j/syouan/douei/katiku_yobo/livestock_surveillance/r5.html

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

Yoshifumi Iwamaru - - JAPAN

Yes

a) Technical visit : 0

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

d) Internships (> 1 month) 8

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
D	ARGENTINA	1
D	COLOMBIA	1
D	ETHIOPIA	1
D	MONGOLIA	1
D	PHILIPPINES	2
D	SRI LANKA	2

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO/IEC 17025:2017	PDF	ISO17025認定証(動衛研)20250204.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Western Blot	Japan Accreditation Board

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

Yes

Biosafety Committee for managing pathogens is in place. We have biosafety procedures and comply with national regulations. We have annual biosafety educational program.

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?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHP 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 WOAHP Ref. Labs/ organising WOAHP Ref Lab
BSE Rapid Tissue Test (PT0124)	participant	12	-

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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?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant WOA Reference Laboratories
TSE diagnosis	To improve PMCA method	OIE Ref Lab for CWD, Korea(REP. OF)

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?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
A proficiency test for TSE diagnosis	ORGANIZER	1	WB test	JAPAN,

A proficiency test for TSE diagnosis

ORGANIZER

1

WB test

JAPAN,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
ad hoc Group meetings	online	To assess BSE risk status of members

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Since the countermeasures against BSE have worked so well, the BSE prevalence drastically decreased and stays low worldwide.

Nowadays only several BSE cases were reported. Particularly, in the Asia and Oceania region, no BSE case has been reported except for Japan. Under these circumstances, simply we did not have chance to carry out the international diagnostic activity nor supply of reference material. We predict that this situation will not change suddenly.