World Organisation for Animal Health

Kingsley Amoako - - CANADA

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

***Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:**	Anthrax
***Address of laboratory:**	
***Tel:**	+14033825505
***E-mail address:**	kingsley.amoako@inspection.gc.ca
Website:	
***Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):**	Dr. Kingsley Amoako
***Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:**	Dr. Kingsley Amoako, Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency Lethbridge Laboratory
***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)

No

Nil

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?

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient WOAH Member Countries	Country of recipients
Culture Media and reagents for molecular diagnosis of anthrax	Anthrax culture and molecular diagnosis	Provided	Nil	Several lyophilized vials	1	NIGERIA,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

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?

No

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

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

Yes

Name of the WOAH Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
NIGERIA	Provided expert advice on anthrax outbreak and lab capacity building for anthrax diagnosis	Conference calls and visit to the Anthrax Reference Lab in Canada.
GHANA	Provided expert advice on lab capacity building for anthrax diagnosis.	Conference calls and emails.
THE NETHERLANDS	Provided expert advice on disinfection of anthrax samples	Through emails correspondence.
CANADA	Was consulted by Environment and Climate Change Canada for advice on antibody detection kits for Anthrax	Conference calls and emails.

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: Application of Genomics and bioinformatics tools for the diagnostics of anthrax.

Relevance for WOAH Disease Control, Capacity Building, Facilitation of international collaboration,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Manual,

Field Epidemiology and Surveillance, Diagnostics,

Animal Category Terrestrial,

Disease:

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases)

If any, please specify relevance for Codes or Manual, chapter and title

(e.g. Terrestrial Manual Chapter 2.3.5 - Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture)

Answer:

Notes:

Answer:

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):

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

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

Yes

a) Technical visit : 3

b) Seminars : 3

c) Hands-on training courses: 3

d) Internships (>1 month) 0

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
A	NIGERIA	3
B	NIGERIA	3
C	NIGERIA	3

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO17025	PDF	asb_soa_15366_scope_v6_2023-10-13.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Anthrax testing program suspended	Standards Council of Canada

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

Yes

(See Manual of Diagnostic Tests and vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4)

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

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

No

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

No

nil

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAH 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 WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

Nil

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Consulted by WOAH	Conference call and MOU signed	Lab twinning project with the National Veterinary Research Institute in Nigeria to help build lab capacity for anthrax diagnostics.
Consulted by WOAH	Email and conference call	Consulted to lead discussions on developing a case definition for Anthrax

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Yes

The Lethbridge WOAH Reference laboratory for Anthrax remains active in providing scientific advice and support to other member WOAH labs around the world. The high level of scrutiny on issues related to anthrax as a bioterrorism agent makes moving anthrax samples from one lab to the Reference lab or vice versa a huge challenge and this imposes a significant limitation on international collaboration and diagnostic testing activity. The CFIA is committed to maintaining and enhancing the WOAH Reference Laboratory for Anthrax even though there is currently no diagnostic testing at the Reference lab. The key goal of the lab is to continue to provide support for WOAH member labs in developing countries as part of our international strategic support for work with anthrax. As part of this, the Ref. lab will like to highlight the successful training provided to three staff from the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) in Nigeria at the Reference Lab here in Canada on lab capacity building for anthrax diagnostics. The Ref. lab will continue to explore opportunities to share knowledge and best practices for anthrax diagnostics to enhance the capacity to be able to address anthrax disease outbreaks and also strategies for biothreat reduction. Furthermore, consultations are still ongoing with other Canadian Federal government stakeholders including the Environment Climate Change Canada, Public Health Agency Canada and Department of Defense to determine areas of potential collaboration to enhance the activities of the Reference lab. In 2025, the WOAH Reference lab for Anthrax in Lethbridge, Canada continued to provide technical advice for WOAH member labs remotely as indicated in this Annual Report. The Reference lab continued to support the Ghana Veterinary Services Directorate and the NVRI in Nigeria in building capacity for diagnostic work with anthrax.

The Lethbridge WOAH Reference Lab for Anthrax worked with the NVRI to successfully develop a WOAH twinning project. A report indicating the success of this twinning project has been submitted to WOAH. The other WOAH member Labs in developing countries will benefit from twinning with the WOAH Anthrax Reference lab in Lethbridge Canada and the Ref. lab will continue to support these labs to build capacity for anthrax diagnostics as has been done with Ghana and Nigeria.

The WOAH Reference lab for anthrax continues to lead the project on High-consequence pathogens detection which is funded by the Canadian Safety and Security

Program (CSSP) under the leadership of Dr. Chad Laing. One of the pathogens of interest in the project is Bacillus anthracis. This project is exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence for front-line laboratories in preparing for high-consequence pathogens detection to reduce their risk.