

Terms of Reference for the OIE/FAO Network for Foot-and-mouth Disease Reference Laboratories

Purpose:

Safeguarding the international trade of animals or their derived products requires an efficient global surveillance for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) including constantly updated information on antigenic and genetic characteristics of FMD virus (FMDV) involved in current outbreaks. The exchange of FMDV isolates and data relating to them is also desirable for the development and selection of vaccines and other tools for surveillance and control of FMD, as well as for harmonisation of such approaches. The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for improving the capacities and collaboration between FMD Reference Laboratories.

Objectives:

1. To gather, generate, analyse and make available laboratory information on the global occurrence and spread of FMD and on the characterisation of FMD viruses.
2. To provide recommendations on vaccine strain selection for implementation of control schemes and for vaccine antigen reserves.
3. To offer expertise to OIE, FAO and Member Countries to assist in the control of FMD.
4. To harmonise approaches to the characterisation of FMD viruses.
5. To increase the competence of reference laboratories, to identify constraints to the functioning of the network and to propose solutions.

Membership:

The Network will consist of the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories for FMD, currently:

Pirbright Laboratory, Institute for Animal Health
Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: (44) 1483 232441 Fax: (44) 1483 232448
Email: david.paton@bbsrc.ac.uk

OIE Regional Reference Laboratory for the Sub-Saharan continent,
Broadhurst Industrial Site, Lejara Road, Private Bag 0031, Gaborone
BOTSWANA
Tel: (267) 391.27.11 Fax: (267) 395.67.98
Telex: 2535 BD
Email: gmatlho@bvi.co.bw

Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa OPS/OMS
Av. President Kennedy 7778, Sao Bento, Duque de Caxias, ZC 20054-40 Rio de Janeiro
BRAZIL
Tel: (55.21) 36.61.90.56 Fax: (55.21) 36.61.90.01
Email: ibergerman@panaftosa.ops-oms.org

Federal Governmental Institute, Centre for Animal Health, FGI-ARRIAH
600900 Vladimir, Yur'evets
RUSSIA
Tel: (7.0922) 26.0.14 Fax: (7.0922) 24.38.75
Email: mail@arriah.ru

FAO FMD Reference Laboratory,
Exotic Animal Health,
ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute,
Private Bag X05
0110 Onderstepoort
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel: 27-12-5299592 Fax: 27-12-5299595
Email: VoslooW@arc.agric.za

FAO FMD Reference Laboratory,
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab,
Plum Island Animal Disease Center, USDA, APHIS, VS, NVSL
P.O. Box 848
Greenport, NY 11944
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tel: (631) 323-3322/3256 Fax: (631) 323-3366
Email: samia.a.metwally@aphis.usda.gov

Other laboratories may be invited by OIE/FAO to join or contribute to the network according to need and progress with the development of coordination procedures. The following laboratories are currently participating in the activities of the Network as observers.

National FMD Laboratory, Lanzhou Veterinary Laboratory, Gansu, China
Xujiaping 11, Lanzhou, Gansu, 730046
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Tel: +86-931-8342515 Fax: +86-931-8340977
Email: yinhong@public.lz.gs.cn; ttbdcn@public.lz.gs.cn

Indian Centre for Agricultural Research,
Mukteswar, Nainital (Uttarakhand), 263 138
INDIA
Phone: 05942-286004; Fax: 05942-286307
Email: pattnaikb@gmail.com

Regional Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease in the South East (RRL),
Department of Livestock Development, Pakchong,
THAILAND
Email: wilaifmd@loxinfo.co.th

The network will:

1. Meet at least annually to review progress and to agree plans of the network.
2. Develop processes based on best practices to achieve equivalence in FMD laboratory outputs.
3. Collect, characterise (antigenically and genetically), archive and safeguard FMD viruses representing the global diversity of strains.
4. Agree a memorandum of understanding for exchange of materials and information and if necessary a materials/information transfer agreement.
5. Develop a web-based tool for the network to share and make available laboratory information including vaccine matching results, as close to real time as possible.
6. Provide an annual network report to OIE/FAO.
7. Facilitate training and scientific exchange on FMD laboratory activities.
8. Identify research requirements and where appropriate develop joint research projects, for example on validation of diagnostic methods.
9. Maintain a database of FMD laboratory experts and their field of expertise.

Coordination:

A secretariat is needed to organise the annual meeting and reporting, to establish and maintain the web-based network tool and to facilitate the implementation of the agreed plan of work. The secretariat will be provided by one of the network laboratories and the head of this reference laboratory will act as network secretary to coordinate network activities. The Pirbright Laboratory will provide the secretariat for the first three year period.

Steering Committee:

It is proposed that a Steering Committee should be established comprising OIE, FAO and a representative of each participating laboratory, with the Network Secretariat in attendance, chaired by OIE.

The terms of reference for the steering committee

1. Review priorities, organisational relationships and progress of the Network
2. Seek funding for Network activities.
3. Provide logistical support.
4. Resolve disagreements between network members