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# 2011 OIE Twinning Feedback Workshop: Outlining the recommendations

**Regional Seminar on the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme:  
Concepts and Perspectives  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
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# OIE Laboratory Twinning feedback workshop

- 30 – 31 March 2011
- OIE headquarters, Paris
- Experts from Parent and Candidate labs
- Donors
- International organisations
- Objectives: Share experiences to improve the effectiveness
- <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/laboratory-twinning/workshop-2011/>



## Topics discussed in the workshop

- Identifying needs for capacity building
- Overcoming barriers and obstacles
- Communication and networking
- Maintaining benefits beyond the twinning project



# Recommendations: Identifying needs for capacity building

## □ Livestock diseases

- High livestock density (>100 heads/sq. km)
- Low laboratory capacities (<25 diseases)
- High share of agriculture in GDP (>10%)
- Low livestock export (<1 000 000 heads/yr)
- Regions in need – Africa and S.Asia
- Some already exist but could be increased

# Recommendations: Identifying needs for capacity building

## □ Aquatic diseases

- High fish production (>250 000 tons/yr)
- Moderate fish export (<1 000 000 tons/yr)
- Low laboratory capacity (<5 disease)
- Regions identified – S.America, S.Asia and Africa (Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, S.Africa)
- Very twinning projects exist

# Recommendations: Identifying needs for capacity building

## ☐ Bee diseases

- Regions not able to comply with the international standards for organic honey and wax export
  
- Regions: Developing countries

## Recommendations: Overcoming barriers and obstacles

- ❑ Problem in sending and receiving samples
  - Specifically for twinning a MTA signed by the two OIE Delegates
  
- ❑ Candidate labs have no direct access to twinning project funds
  - Direct allotment of travelling allowance and reagents may help CL

# Recommendations:

## Overcoming barriers and obstacles

- ❑ Responsible expert on twinning contract may change
  - OIE may consider validating alternative competent experts
  
- ❑ Universal, recurrent and foreseeable barriers
  - Posting of key issues, risks and solutions in OIE website or twinning manual



## Recommendations: Communication

- ❑ Contact prior to the start of the project
  - Pre twinning visits for project formulation; funds could be claimed once approved
  
- ❑ Individuals who understand both twinning partners facilitate smooth implementation
  - Interpreters/mediators could play a significant role

## Recommendations: Communication

- Effective communication is needed to achieve target
  - Maximise communication by calls, visits and informal meetings
  
- Reporting process may help in approach and streamlining
  - Proforma templates for reporting provided by OIE

## Recommendations: Networking

- ❑ A clear strategy to relate twinning to regional networks is desirable. OIE, FAO and IAEA could support regional networks
  - Through existing platforms, conferences and regional meetings
  
- ❑ Regular forum to share experiences between twinning labs is beneficial. Potential to build networks between labs

## Recommendations: Networking

- ❑ OIE regional/sub regional offices could play a role in coordination of twinning projects and facilitating links between CL and other labs in the region
- Regional offices could promote twinning programmes and raise regional profile of CL

## Recommendations:

### Maintaining momentum beyond twinning

- Performance standards of CL should be maintained/further improved
- Train the trainers, increase accountability, concentrating on regional level
- Technical sustainability; proficiency testing; common publications; regional workshops; personal contacts

## Recommendations:

### Maintaining momentum beyond twinning

- ❑ Performance indicators could be useful to ascertain the status of CL
  - Guidance on performance indicator in the twinning manual
  
- ❑ Provision of resources to CL for sustainability. Support of the national authorities is critical for CL beyond twinning

## Recommendations:

### Maintaining momentum beyond twinning

- Candidate labs through the transition phase
  - Recognition and advertisement in the region for receiving diagnostic samples
  - Logistic, financial and legal issues need to be analysed
  - Joint actions with twinning partner to secure grants with the support of OIE
  - Joint scientific activities
  - CL visibility increased in meetings

## Recommendations:

### Maintaining momentum beyond twinning

- ❑ Maintenance of equipment and building essential for effective operation. Needed upgrades should be sustainable
  - OIE twinning can fund a consultant to study sustainable third party investments
  
- ❑ Increasing the sense of ownership of the overall capacity building process
  - Important factors for sustainability to be put in initial project proposal



# Conclusions

- Candidate labs must be able to send/receive samples
- Pre-twinning meetings would be useful
- OIE Regional Offices should promote more twinings, and the profile and visibility of Candidate Laboratories
- Candidate Laboratories in the 'transition phase' should be recognised in the region so that they can provide technical advice and diagnostic services to other countries
- Veterinary Services must be committed to the long term support of the Candidate Laboratory

**Thank you for your  
attention**

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