

**OIE RECOGNITION OF MEMBER
COUNTRY DISEASE STATUS
&
ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL NATIONAL
CONTROL PROGRAMMES**

SUPPORT OF OIE REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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THE ROLE OF OIE REFERENCE LABORATORIES

**ARC: ONDERSTEPSPOORT VETERINARY
RESEARCH**





ARC: ONDERSTEPOORT VETERINARY RESEARCH



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Excellence in Research and Development



ARC- OVR

Designated Reference laboratories:

- African Horse Sickness
- African Swine Fever
- Blue Tongue
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Lumpy Skin Disease
- Rabies
- Rift Valley Fever
- Sheep and Goat Pox



Activities of reference laboratories

- To function as a centre of expertise for a designated disease
- To store and distribute biological reference material for diagnosis and control of a disease
- To develop new procedures for diagnosis and control of a disease
- Coordination of scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories and/or organisations
- Publication and dissemination of any information which could be useful to member countries



Activities of reference laboratories

- To gather, process, analyse and disseminate epidemiological data
- To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE
- Provision of scientific and technical training for personnel from member countries
- Provision of diagnostic testing facilities to member countries



Terms of Reference (OIE Reference Laboratories)

1. Use, promote and disseminate diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards.

2. Recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE Standards

3. Develop reference material in accordance with OIE requirements, and implement and promote the application of OIE Standards.

4. Store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases.



Terms of Reference (OIE Reference Laboratories)

5. Develop, standardise and validate according to OIE Standards new procedures for diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases.

6. Provide diagnostic testing facilities, and, where appropriate, scientific and technical advice on disease control measures to OIE Member Countries.

7. Carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories, centres or organisations.



Terms of Reference (OIE Reference Laboratories)

8. Collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases.

9. Provide scientific and technical training for personnel from OIE Member Countries.

10. Maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity relevant for the pathogen and the disease concerned.

11. Organise and participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE



Terms of Reference (OIE Reference Laboratories)

12. Establish and maintain a network with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease and organise regular inter-laboratory proficiency testing to ensure comparability of results

13. Organise inter-laboratory proficiency testing with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same pathogens and diseases to ensure equivalence of results.

14. Place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE.



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION



- ❑ Reference laboratories have a role to play in generating the following data needed for country evaluation:
 - Risk assessment
 - Surveillance
 - Efficacy of control measures (vaccine coverage & eradication programmes)
 - Research and epidemiological information

- ❑ The Reference Centres can build and improve the competency of veterinary laboratory personnel.

- ❑ Experts based at Reference Laboratories can be at the disposal of both the applying country or the OIE for clarification in case of questions from the OIE adhoc Groups, or, providing information on diagnostic tests



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