

Fostering equitable and inclusive biosafety & biosecurity practices

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Introduction

Biosafety and biosecurity practices are essential for safeguarding public health and the environment, yet equitable and inclusive approaches are frequently neglected, resulting in significant disparities in access to vital resources and information. This abstract examines strategies to foster equity and inclusivity within biosafety and biosecurity practices.

Zimbabwe has since the 80s enacted National Guidelines on Biosafety and Biosecurity which were put under the jurisdiction of the then National Biosafety and Biosecurity Board. Biosafety and Biosecurity issues were not topical then since the laboratory ISO standards did not cover these issues.

Zimbabwe received funding for Antimicrobial Resistance activities from the Fleming Fund, UK and made it possible to formulate the Biosafety and Biosecurity National Guidelines to be implemented under the One Health Platform through the National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe.

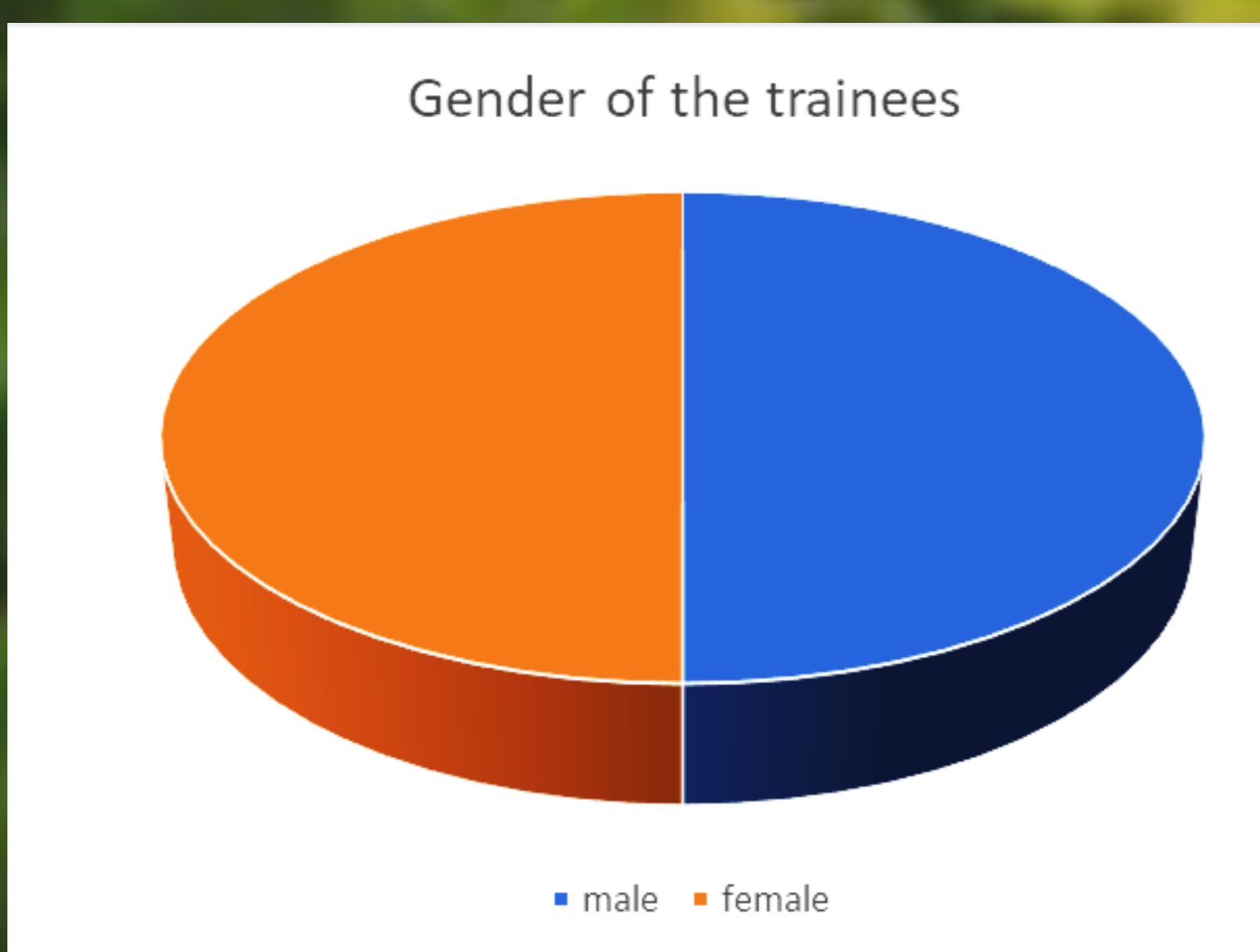
Results

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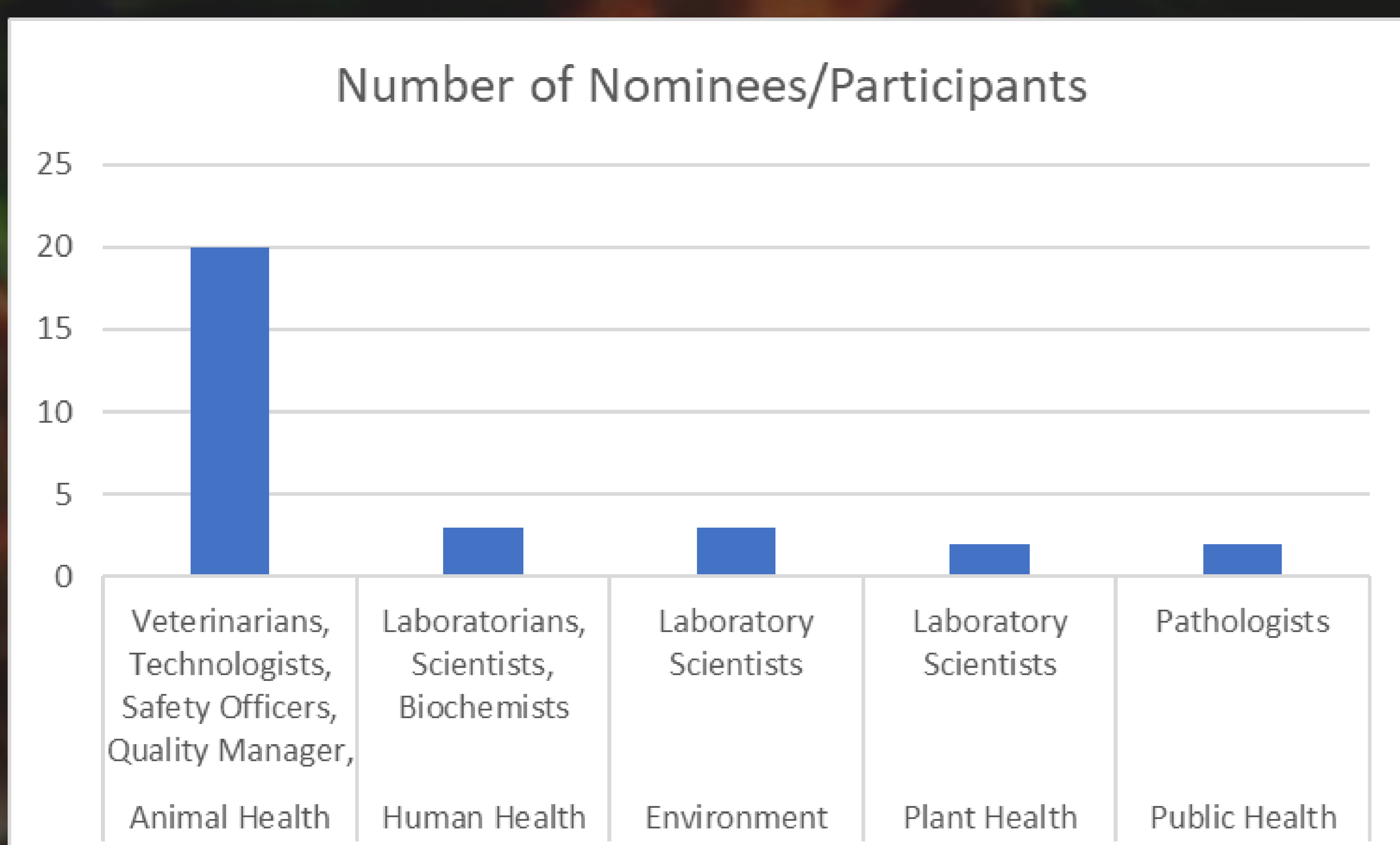
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Gender Inclusivity of the trainees



Participation of stakeholders and target groups



Methodology

- ❖ Training of personnel using a One Health Approach
- ❖ Gender parity
- ❖ Inclusivity: Stakeholder Participation and One Health Approach
- ❖ Level of Education: The qualification of the attendees was from high school level to Masters Degrees.



Recommendation and Future plans

- ❖ Development of Institutional Risk Assessment registers and consistent updating and evaluation of risks identified
- ❖ Development of robust general waste management safety protocols
- ❖ Step down trainings of Biosafety and biosecurity to Provinces and follow-up needs assessment
- ❖ Dashboard establishment for communication of hazards
- ❖ Conduct practical simulation exercises including the top management



Conclusion

- ❖ Building capacity through training and knowledge sharing, particularly in low-resource settings, is crucial for empowering individuals and communities.
- ❖ Additionally, developing culturally appropriate communication strategies ensures that information resonates with diverse audiences.
- ❖ Addressing ethical considerations is paramount to conducting biosafety and biosecurity practices responsibly.
- ❖ By implementing these strategies, we can cultivate a more equitable and inclusive biosafety and biosecurity landscape, ultimately contributing to improved global health outcomes and environmental protection.

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