



**The 12th Regional Steering Committee
GF-TADs For Africa:
Eswatini – 11-13 March 2025**

**SADC Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostic
Subcommittee Network Report**



Environmental Factors influencing the performance of the Laboratory Diagnostics SC.

- The SADC/LTC Veterinary Diagnostic SC managed to hold the last Virtual Meeting in November 2021 – No other meetings were held to date. The same with the SADC Epidemiology SC.
- Most of the issues which will be reported in this SADC Diagnostic SC Report needs updates from member countries.
- Need for physical meetings/more interactive/More time to physically discuss diagnostic issues/Physical Networking.
- Sample flow remains low with more than 75% of regional animal disease diagnosis being clinical (less than 15% Laboratory confirmed)
- General improvement in the ISO17025 Standard awareness and adoption of its policies and procedures in most SADC laboratories. Most laboratories moving from ISO17025 – 2005 version to 2017 version



Current Regional Laboratory Diagnostic Capacity

- Almost all SADC National Laboratories have capacity to screen most endemic transboundary and zoonotic diseases using bacterial culture methods and serology
- Lesotho is establishing 2 and Botswana 3 satellite laboratories as from 2022 (*need for current updates*)
- More than 7 SADC National Laboratories have capacity to confirm selected animal diseases using PCR and other DNA/RNA based diagnostic methods (4 of them using Real-time PCR) (*Need for updates*)
- Establishment of WOAHA Initiated National Veterinary Networks at MS level to ensure comprehensive all-inclusive laboratory diagnostic data/outputs (*Govern & Private labs + Commodity based labs e.g Wildlife, Poultry Labs*) are reported to WOAHA (*MS to give updates*)

SADC Laboratory Twinning Initiatives

- WOAHA Twinning – MS encouraged to identify suitable programs for WOAHA approval (*MS updates*)
- Botswana and Germany' Frederick Leoffler Institute twinning in Rabies diagnosis (*Botswana update*)
- Zimbabwe and Namibia twinning in Residue Testing capacity building under the IAEA RAF0050 project – Completed, equipment received, Received and Training CAM 2, LCMS
- Tanzania calling for twinning with any willing SADC member state in PPR diagnosis (*Tanzania update*)



Current Regional Initiatives in Laboratory Diagnostics and Animal Health Research

- ERFAN/WOAH Regional Network in collaboration with Istituto Zooprofilattico, Tramo, Italy (7 SADC countries)
- Zimbabwe has established the “National Bull Centre and Semen Processing Laboratory” jointly funded by IAEA and Government of Zimbabwe.
- ERFAN supporting 7 Working groups (Brucellosis - Zim, Animal Welfare - SA, Food Safety – Namibia, RVF, CBPP-Botswana, TSE) (*Need for current updates*)
- ERFAN assisting former WOAH Twinning projects attain SADC/WOAH Reference Centers in their different field of expertise (Trichenella – Tanzania, Animal Welfare – SA, Brucellosis – Zimbabwe, Food Safety – Namibia) (*Need for current updates*)



Major confirmed transboundary, zoonotic and other diseases of economic importance

- Member countries need to present updated data to the SC at least twice a year
- Hence the need for a SC physical meeting for physical presentations/questions and discussions/Resolutions and Recommendations



Adoption and Implementation of ISO 17025 Management System

- Shift from SANAS to SADCAS by most SADC National Laboratories
- Tanzania was ready for the initial assessment of 10 tests by SADCAS in November 2023 (*Need for Country update*)
- Gradual increase of scope of accreditation by MS with Botswana having the highest number of accredited tests (47 tests) (*Need for current update*)
- Other SADC national laboratories gradually adopting the ISO17025 Policies and Procedures in their laboratories – Now at different stages – from System Development to Ready for SADCAS Assessment.



Adoption and Implementation of Laboratory Information Management Systems

- ▶ Five SADC Member States now using SILAB Laboratory Information Management System
- ▶ Some National Laboratories upgrading the system and decentralising it to provincial/regional laboratories (*Need for Country updates*)
- ▶ Inter-operability with LIMS still a big problem
- ▶ Need to expand SILAB to other private veterinary laboratories under the the WOAHI initiative of establishing National Veterinary Laboratory Network (*Need for Country updates*)



Embracing the “One Health Concept in Diagnostics and Research

- Most SADC member States have implemented “One Health” concepts in the diagnosis and control of Rabies, HPAI and AMR/AMU (*Need for current updates*)
- AMR/AMU Support – AGISAR, ICARS and Fleming fund – Situational Analysis and Implementation plan documents produced, WGs formed and implementation of plan activities ongoing in most SADC countries (*Need for Country updates*)
- Need to upgrade the AMR/AMU Management and Implementation Structure to be a comprehensive “One Health” Structure which will manage all other OH domains covering zoonoses, environment, residues etc (*Need for Country updates*)



Recommendations and Resolutions for LTC adoption

- National Laboratories encouraged to identify Twinning Projects for them to improve their diagnostic capacities
- MS encouraged to join and support the WOA/ERFAN initiative which can assist in both capacity building and adoption of the ISO 17025 International standard
- Establishment of the WOA/ERFAN recommended National Veterinary Laboratory Networks composed of Govern & Private labs + Commodity based labs e.g Wildlife, Poultry Labs.
- There is need to resuscitate SC physical meetings to enhance efficient implementation of its planned activities under its regional mandate



THANK YOU

