

Regional Training Seminar for WOAH National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (cycle III)

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REGIONAL LABORATORY NETWORKS

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REGIONAL LABORATORY NETWORKS

- Laboratory networking system connects multiple laboratory instruments and systems, enabling data sharing, remote control, and centralized management for improved efficiency and collaboration
- Networks facilitate information sharing , resource optimization ,and standardized practices to enhance public health and safety
- 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)

Disease Surveillance and outbreaks response

- Laboratory networks play a crucial role in detecting and tracking infectious diseases, enabling timely public health interventions and outbreak control
- Almost all SADC National Laboratories have capacity to screen most endemic transboundary and zoonotic diseases using bacterial culture methods and serology

Quality Assurance and Standardization

- Laboratory networking promotes the use of standardized procedures, quality control measures, and proficiency testing to ensure the reliability and accuracy of laboratory results
- Adoption and implementation of the ISO 17025 Quality management system by Member states will ensure quality assurance in testing laboratories
- Currently National Laboratories in the SADC region are at different stages of implementation. Some have been assessed and accredited by SADCAS e.g Botswana, Zimbabwe and Tanzania to mention a few.

- Inter-laboratory testing and proficiency testing promotes regional networking and collaboration .Zimbabwe and Botswana(Parasitology)
- It helps in capacity building through training and resource sharing.
- It's a good platform for twinning e.g Zimbabwe and Namibia twinning in Residue Testing capacity building under the IAEA RAF0050 project
- Botswana and Germany' Frederick Leoffler Institute twinning in Rabies diagnosis

Information Sharing and Collaboration

- Networks facilitate the exchange of data , knowledge and best practices among participating laboratories.
- Fostering a collaborative environment for scientific advancements and public health improvements
- Adoption and implementation of a laboratory information management system enables information sharing. Five SADC Member States are now using SILAB Laboratory Information Management System

Regulatory Harmonization

- Laboratory networks contribute to the development and implementation of harmonized standards and guidelines for laboratory practices ensuring consistency and reliability across different settings
- The adoption of one health concepts has helped laboratories in the diagnosis and control of diseases like Rabies and Highly pathogenic avian influenza

- Establishment of the WOAHA recommended National Veterinary Laboratory Networks composed of Government and Private laboratories, Commodity based laboratories e.g Wildlife and Poultry Laboratories
- These networks will strengthen the Regional Laboratories networks
- Regional Laboratories network will help National laboratories to improve their diagnostics capacities.

COMESA SPS Laboratories

- Laboratory networking group for COMESA member states was formed in October 2024 after a meeting of MS whose laboratories had been assessed for designation as Reference or Satellite laboratories .
- The COMESA SPS Laboratories is composed of Laboratories from Animal Health , Plant Health, Human Health and Environmental Health
- A whatsapp group was created to enable networking among the SPS Laboratories in COMESA
- Information is being shared through this platform

