



OIE TWINNING PROGRAMME: A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE
FROM BOTSWANA (Botswana National Veterinary
Laboratory)

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INTRODUCTION

- ✘ Became aware of the OIE twinning programme in 2007. This was communicated to SADC subcommittee for Veterinary Laboratories by OIE-SRR
- ✘ Used the published list of OIE reference laboratories to select the laboratories dealing in the field of interest and contacted them by email.



INTRODUCTION CONT'D

- ✘ IZS acknowledged the email and later they arranged a visit to our lab to appreciate the needs and help in the design of the twinning project
- ✘ The project was launched in 2008 following a preparatory meeting in Italy, Teramo
- ✘ Another project was conceptualised in 2008 and we approached the Veterinary Laboratory Agency of UK to assist. Like IZS, they sent an expert to do a study of our needs before design of project



INTRODUCTION CONT'D

- ✘ Another project was conceptualised in 2009 and is in its final stages before implementation.
- ✘ The projects are all aimed at developing BNVL capabilities either to be a reference laboratory or to improve our capabilities to OIE standards.



SCOPE OF TWINNING PROJECTS

- ✘ Improving or building capacity in a specific area: Trichinellosis
- ✘ Improving capacity for a group of diseases: AI & NCD
- ✘ Reaching OIE reference Laboratory status: CBPP for the region
- ✘ Attain OIE standards only in a specific area of work: AI



ROLE PLAYED BY PARENT LABORATORIES

- ✘ Parent OIE reference Laboratory and the designated expert(s) are the driving force, to ensure the success of the Twinning agreement
- ✘ Expert at parent lab is the Project manager
- ✘ Parent lab submits agreed (with candidate lab) project proposal to OIE Central Bureau in Paris
- ✘ Parent lab is responsible for implementation and use of financial resources support Twinning project



ROLE OF CANDIDATE LABORATORY

- ✘ Must be fully committed to improving its capacity and expertise
- ✘ Owns the end result that is being achieved by the partnership
- ✘ Expert is nominated to be the project leader for the candidate lab activities



OIE

- ✘ OIE Central Bureau provides support and coordination for the twinning programme
- ✘ Ensures the application for financial and technical controls outlined in the mutual agreement of the participating laboratories
- ✘ OIE World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare provides financial support for the OIE Twinning programme



REPORTING TO OIE

- ✘ This is done by the parent laboratory and submitted to OIE Scientific and Technical dept
 - + Interim report: within first year of the project
 - + Annual report: within 1 month of the end of year of project start date
 - + Final report: on completion of project. To be jointly prepared by parent and candidate labs
 - + Post-project review: 6 – 12 months after project closure



BNVL PROJECTS

- ✘ CBPP project
- ✘ Avian Influenza & Newcastle project
- ✘ Trichinellosis project



CBPP PROJECT

- × Objectives:
 - + Production of reagents for the serological testing;
 - + Isolation and identification procedures of the aetiological agent
 - + Disease pathology and differential diagnosis;
 - + Conducting epidemiological surveillance



CBPP CONT'D

- × The diagnostic procedures are being standardised and validated according to the OIE standards
- × BNVL will acquire status of Reference laboratory, and will lead to a more even geographical distribution of expertise and provision of scientific support to neighbouring countries.



CBPP CONT'D

- × The project scheduled for a period 17months but was extended to 24months.
- × The project closes in June 2010



AVIAN INFLUENZA AND NEWCASTLE DISEASE

- × Objectives:
 - + To develop a laboratory contingency plan for AI and NCD
 - + Identify key areas to strengthen capacity building at BNVL
 - + Transfer tests, skills and reagents in order to provide a robust diagnostic/virus confirmatory capabilities
 - + Produce key diagnostic reagents to support testing



AI AND NCD CONT'D

- × Project scheduled for 21 months, to end 30th September 2010



TRICHINELLOSIS

- × The twinning project will establish scientific and technological expertise at BNVL through
 - + Training of laboratory personnel
 - + Training of slaughterhouse personnel to collect muscles from target animals for the detection of *Trichinella* infection by training the trainer
 - + Dissemination and publication of information on *Trichinella* in Botswana and neighbouring countries



TRICHINELLOSIS CONT'D

- ✘ The project is being finalised for implementation this year.
- ✘ The period of implementation has not yet been scheduled.



BNVL EXPERIENCES

- ✘ Commitment from both parent and candidate laboratories is mandatory if the project will have to deliver the desired results
- ✘ Level of research engaged in is critical to becoming an OIE reference laboratory, especially the publications made on the subject
- ✘ Availability of resources, including the equipments needed to carryout added functions very crucial. Support from principals very critical



BNVL EXPERIENCES CONT'D

- ✘ Change of leadership at OIE delegate and laboratory level creates loss of momentum when it occurs
- ✘ Economic down turn globally, tended to affect developing countries more and in turn risked the implementation of the projects negatively
- ✘ Poor service delivery by suppliers of services and consumables directly impacted negatively to the project progress
- ✘ Lack of competent equipment maintenance companies created a draw back.



CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

- ✘ Limited financial resources to support newly acquired skills and technologies and adopting them to the candidate laboratory a challenge
- ✘ OIE Twinning project(s) do not provide support for making available the necessary equipment(s) to candidate laboratories to build capacity, instead funds are provided to the already established parent labs



CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES CONT'D

- ✘ Absence of specific diseases in a candidate country also brings about challenges of acquiring the materials; developing countries tend to send materials to labs in Europe more than they could send to sister labs in Africa
- ✘ Stability of technical staff in the country/candidate laboratory remain a challenge, especially that candidate laboratory is a public institution and wages are set by government. To set retention packages is not easy
- ✘ Redeployment of team members in the twinning project without their replacement also acts against the intended objectives



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✘ Maintain adequate support to candidate by OIE delegate in terms of:
 - + Staff complement, avoid deploying staff away from the project (before its closure)
 - + Financial resources
 - + Facilitation of scientific research
- ✘ OIE to make it possible for candidate laboratory to access funds that will assist in the implementation of the Twinning, and not limit the funds only to the parent laboratory



REFERENCES

- × BNVL records and reports
- × OIE Twinning Laboratories: A guide to OIE Laboratory Twinning Projects
- × Personal communication



- × **THANK YOU**
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× **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
ARE WELCOME**