

OIE Reference Laboratory Reports Activities

Activities in 2021

This report has been submitted : 2022-01-18 00:17:01

Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated OIE Reference Laboratory:	Anthrax
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Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Kingsley Amoako
Name (including Title and Position) of OIE Reference Expert:	Dr. Kingsley Amoako
Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

ToR 1: To use, promote and disseminate diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

No

ToR 2: To develop reference material in accordance with OIE requirements, and implement and promote the application of OIE Standards. To store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or disease.

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by the OIE?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (non OIE-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to OIE Member Countries?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to OIE Member Countries?

No

ToR 3: To develop, standardise and validate, according to OIE Standards, new procedures for diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

ToR 4: To provide diagnostic testing facilities, and, where appropriate, scientific and technical advice on disease control measures to OIE Member Countries

8. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other OIE Member Countries?

No

9. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an OIE Member Country?

Yes

Name of the OIE Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
FINLAND	Technical questions about anthrax diagnostics in dead animals	Email communication
ARGENTINA	Diagnostics of anthrax from bone marrow samples of dead animals	Email communication

ToR 5: To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories, centres or organisations

10. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with OIE Member Countries other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	OIE Member Countries involved other than your country
Anthrax Biological Threat reduction in Ghana	2018-2022	To help build capacity at the Ghana veterinary services directorate for anthrax diagnostics.	Ghana veterinary services, Pong Tamale Lab. Directorate	GHANA

ToR 6: To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases

11. Did your Laboratory collect epizootiological data relevant to international disease control?

No

If the answer is no, please provide a brief explanation of the situation:

Reports of anthrax cases world wide was collected from ProMED.

12. Did your laboratory disseminate epizootiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

If the answer is no, please provide a brief explanation of the situation:

No data disseminated.

**13. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory?
(Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category)**

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals: 0

b) International conferences: 0

c) National conferences: 0

d) Other:
(Provide website address or link to appropriate information) 0

***ToR 7: To provide scientific and technical training for personnel from OIE Member Countries
To recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE Standards***

14. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other OIE Member Countries?

Yes

a) Technical visits: 0

b) Seminars: 1

c) Hands-on training courses: 0

d) Internships (>1 month): 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
Trouble shooting and discussion on BSL 3 lab best practices	Ghana	2

ToR 8: To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity relevant for the pathogen and the disease concerned

15. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)
ISO/IEC17025	ASB_CTF_15366-CFIA-Certificate_v2_2020-08-07.pdf

16. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Laboratory Procedures for the isolation and identification of Bacillus anthracis	ISO/IEC17025

17. Does your laboratory maintain a “biorisk management system” for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

(See Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4)

ToR 9: To organise and participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE

18. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

19. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

ToR 10: To 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

20. Did your laboratory exchange information with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

21. Was your laboratory involved in maintaining a network with OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease by organising or participating in proficiency tests?

No

22. Did your laboratory collaborate with other OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

ToR 11: To organise inter-laboratory proficiency testing with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same pathogens and diseases to ensure equivalence of results

23. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease?

No

Note: See Interlaboratory test comparisons in: Laboratory Proficiency Testing at: <http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/proficiency-testing> see point 1.3

ToR 12: To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE

24. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE?

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
The OIE Biological Standards Commission sent me and Ginger Harvey (the OIE Expert from the USA) a request to include a new capsule stain method in the Terrestrial Manual chapter on anthrax as it is quicker to make and thus more readily available and convenient. This was completed and submitted in December 2021.	N/A	Request to update Chapter 3.1.1 Anthrax to include a new easier to produce Bacillus anthracis capsule stain.

25. Additional comments regarding your report:

The year 2021 has been another challenging one with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This has imposed restrictions on some of the activities of the Anthrax Reference Lab such as travel and provision of hands-on training. The COVID situation may also have slowed down anthrax work in other laboratories and this may have contributed to the overall reduction in international activities related to anthrax. There are no reported anthrax outbreaks in Canada in 2021. The OIE Reference Lab here at the CFIA Lethbridge Lab continues to provide technical advice for OIE member labs remotely. The Reference lab continues to support the Veterinary Services

Lab in Pong Tamale in Ghana in building capacity for diagnostic work with anthrax. The OIE Reference lab team was due to travel to Ghana to provide hands-on training on Anthrax in 2021 but this was not possible due to the travel restrictions in place for federal government employees by the government of Canada as a result of the ongoing pandemic. However, the Pong Tamale Lab is currently continuing the testing for Human COVID-19 and it is good to see that the training, equipment, PPEs and supplies provided to the team in Ghana in 2019 for anthrax detection enabled the team to become a test site for Human COVID-19 testing. It is anticipated that the training of the veterinary lab staff in Ghana for anthrax detection will be completed when the COVID-19 situation improves.