



The new EU reference laboratory for Foot-and-mouth disease: overview of activities conducted during the first three years

Labib Bakkali Kassimi

► To cite this version:

Labib Bakkali Kassimi. The new EU reference laboratory for Foot-and-mouth disease: overview of activities conducted during the first three years. Global Foot-and-Mouth (F M D) Research Alliance (G F R A), Nov 2021, Virtual Conference, Argentina. anses-04526339

HAL Id: anses-04526339

<https://anses.hal.science/anses-04526339>

Submitted on 29 Mar 2024

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THE NEW EU REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE: OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS



Introduction

The new EURL for FMD was appointed on the 1st of January 2019 as a consortium between the Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) in France and Sciensano in Belgium. The EURL activities are conducted at Anses by the Biology of Picornaviruses Team (BioPic) of the virology unit of the Animal Health Laboratory and at Sciensano by the service for Exotic viruses and particular diseases.

Main activities of the EURL

EURL website implementation



The EURL has set up a website to share information with its network

(<http://eurl-fmd.anses.fr>)

Support to EU MS and NRLs

- Production of diagnostic reagents
- Provision of diagnostic reagents
- Provision of training
- Provision of diagnostic services

Support to EU Commission

Provide scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission

Conducting annual Inter-laboratory proficiency testing & scientific workshop



- The EURL organizes the ILPT annually for his network

- Participants: 26 EU member states, 5 candidate countries supported by the EURL and 7 neighboring countries supported by the EuFMD.
- ILPT for the detection and characterization of FMDV/SVDV and for the detection of FMDV/SVDV antibodies.



- First annual scientific workshop on October 2019 at Anses in France
- EURL WS edition 2020 & 2021 were held online
- More than 70 participants from 38 countries

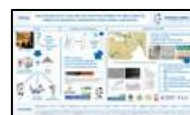
Improving FMD diagnosis



(See Cindy Bernelin-Cottet et al. presentation)



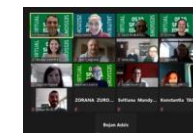
(See Souheyla Benfrid et al. poster)



(See Aurore Romey et al. poster)

- Development of a rt-RT-PCR triplex method for pan-serotype FMDV detection
- Development of a rt-RT-PCR for the specific detection of the A/AFRICA/G-IV FMDV lineage
- Development of a protocol for cost-effective shipment of FMDV suspected samples using LFD

Collaborating with international organizations (OIE/FAO/EuFMD)



- Contributing to the global monitoring and control of FMD by characterization of circulating FMDV strains and providing diagnostic services
- Participating to improvement of laboratory diagnostic capacity through training
- Participating to workshops, meetings, working groups and Ad Hoc Groups