

Enhancing Research for Africa Network
ERFAN Project
Activity REPORT
YEAR 2022

This document has been drafted by the Secretariat. January 2023

SUMMARY

This document contains the activities implemented in 2022 by the ERFA Network. The fruitful and inclusive collaboration between all network partners is emphasised, on the basis of which the results would not have been achieved.

All activities, including training, research and working groups meetings, were planned and managed in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratories (RL) and the Collaborating Centres (CC), established at the Partner Institutions. The ERFAN initiatives were previously discussed and negotiated with the WOAHP Sub-Regional Representations in Tunis and Gaborone.

In brief, administrative support was provided to the WOAHP Headquarters, a dissemination and communication strategy was developed, one regional meeting was coordinated, 10 WGs online meetings and 7 WGs face-to face meetings were organised; 7 research projects, including doctoral and master's projects, were encouraged and supported in drafting and implementation; 8 (online/in presence) training courses were organised; 13 "Dialogues" were uploaded on the ERFAN website in asynchronous mode.

ACTIVITIES IN 2022

A. Support to WOAHP Department 'Engagement and Investment'- Paris office

- Preparation and submission of the third progress report, including descriptive report and financial-accounting report, May 2022;
- Preparation of the project extension request for a period of 12 months;
- Preparation of the concept note "Enhancing Research for Africa Network-Phase II, submitted to WOAHP for funding, June 2022;
- Preparation of the revised Work Plan for the period 2022-2024;
- Organisation and participation in the meeting "ERFAN budget and work plan revision 2022/2024" organised by the Secretariat, with the participation of Ingrid Contreras Arias, Resource Mobilisation and Grants Management Officer, WOAHP Paris, October 2022.

B. Communication and dissemination of results

- **Web site:** Website restyling, management and updating. Publication of news and funding opportunities for research and development. Design of new sections and insertion of new content. Design of new e-Learning platform "ERFAN Dialogues", preparation and insertion of content;
- **YouTube:** new multimedia content integration;
- **Facebook:** profile management;
- **Instagram:** profile management;
- **Newsletter:** content customisation graphics and management;
- Support to the "Communication and Press Office" Unit in creating a new digital communication strategy;

- Development of data collection tools for the activity's evaluation. In particular, organisation and management of interviews, collection of video/photographic material (South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Namibia).

C. Regional meeting

- Organisation and management of the partner academic institutions meeting - North Africa, within the framework of the 4th Euro-Africa Partnership, in cooperation with the University of Teramo, UNIDROIT, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the Diocese of Teramo. Participants: 25. 8 Faculties of Veterinary Medicine. 7 African countries and Italy.

D. Online Working Groups Meetings

- "Food Hygiene"- WG North Africa / « Sécurité sanitaire des aliments » - GT Afrique du Nord, January 2022;
- "TSE"- WG North Africa / « Encéphalopathies spongiformes transmissibles » - GT Afrique du Nord, January 2022;
- "Vector Borne Diseases" – WG North Africa / « Maladies à transmission vectorielle » - GT Afrique du Nord, January 2022;
- "TSE" - WG Southern Africa, February 2022;
- "Anthrax" – WG Southern Africa, February 2022;
- "Brucellosis" – WG Southern Africa, February 2022;
- "Project design for international development cooperation" – WG Southern Africa, February 2022;
- "Conception des projets Afrique du Nord" - GT Afrique du Nord, February 2022;
- "Animal Welfare" - WG Southern Africa, March 2022;
- "CBPP and other Mycoplasmosis" - WG Southern Africa, February 2022.

E. In Presence Working Group Meeting

- "Bovine Tuberculosis" – WG Southern Africa, Onderstepoort, South Africa, May 2022. Participants: 10. Countries involved: 2;
- "Animal Welfare" – WG Southern Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, June 2022. Countries: 10 Participants, 6 African countries and Italy; 9 veterinary institution and WOAHC for AW;
- "Anthrax" – WGs Southern and Northern Africa, Lusaka, July 2022. Countries: 26 Participants; 10 African countries and Italy; 12 veterinary institution;
- "CBPP" – WGs Southern and Northern Africa, Lusaka, July 2022. 26 Participants; 10 African countries and Italy; 12 veterinary institution and n° 2 WOAHC for PPCB;
- "Food Hygiene" – WGs Southern and Northern Africa, Windhoek, October 2022. 26 Participants; 10 African countries and Italy; 18 veterinary institution and WOAHC for FH;
- "Brucellosis" – WGs Southern and Northern Africa, Teramo, September 2022. Participants: 25; 13 African countries and Italy; 16 veterinary institution and WOAHC for Brucellosis;
- "Bovine Tuberculosis" – WG Northern Africa, Tunis, December 2022. Participants: 7; 2 countries involved, 3 Institutions.

F. Project management

- Technical, administrative and logistical support within the research project (SSRP) "*Baseline study on Listeria monocytogenes, Salmonella spp. and Klebsiella pneumoniae prevalence and*

AMR in RTE meat products and environmental samples in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia”, with WOAHC for FH scientific support – **LISAK**;

- Technical, administrative and logistical support within the research project (SSRP) “*Isolation and characterization of Listeria monocytogenes from ready - to eat meat, frozen raw broiler chicken, swabs from chicken slaughterhouses and milk products (cheese and ice cream) in Khartoum state*”, with WOAHC for FH scientific support – **LIMOS**;
- Technical, administrative and logistical support to IZSPB, to Ethiopian Public Health Institute and to Gondar University within the research project (PhD) “*Epidemiology of Anthrax in selected regions of Ethiopia: investigation on human, animal and environmental interface*”;
- Technical, administrative and logistical support to Istituto Zooprofilattico of Teramo-WOAHC RL for Brucellosis, at the University of Pretoria and the National Animal Health Diagnostic Institute Centre (AHIC) of Sebeta, Ethiopia, within the research project (PhD) “*Seroprevalence and characterization of Brucellosis in Ethiopia and risk assessment of human in pastoral regions*”;
- Administrative support to WOAHC RL on TSE, IZSPLV and to Pretoria University within research project (PhD) “*TSE study in South Africa*”;
- Technical, administrative and logistical support to Botswana Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL), to Tanzanian Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA), to Pretoria University and to CBPP WOAHC RLs in Gaborone and Teramo within research project (Master) “*AMR in strains of Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides in Tanzania*”;
- Technical, administrative and logistical support to TVLA-Tanzania, LCV-Mozambique, CVRI-Zambia, CVL-Zimbabwe and WOAHC RL Brucellosis IZSTE within research project (SSRP) “*Brucellosis surveillance in Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe*” – **BSA**.

G. Online training courses

- “Detection of *Listeria* spp. and *Listeria monocytogenes*, in food matrices, food producing environments and animals, according to ISO 11920-1:2017”, in collaboration with the WOAHC Collaborating Centre (CC) for Food Safety for Animal Production at IZSTE, February-March 2022;
- “How write a scientific paper”, March 2022;
- “*Listeria monocytogenes* deep typing: from the wet to the dry-lab activities”, in collaboration with the CC WOAHC for Food Safety for Animal Production at the IZSTE, February/March 2022;
- “Introduction to NGS and Bioinformatics”, in collaboration with Bioinformatics IZSTE Unit and with the IZSTE 'Molecular Biology and Omics Technologies' Department, February/March 2022;
- “Detection of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from different matrices, AMR and NGS”, in collaboration with CC WOAHC for Food Safety for animal production at IZSTE, February/March 2022;
- “*Mycoplasma* spp. isolation & AMR detection”, in collaboration with RL WOAHC for Agalactiae c/o IZSSI, March 2022;
- “RT-PCR. Sequencing and genetic investigations”, in collaboration with IZSSI, April 2022.

H. In presence training courses

- Organisation and management of the training course “Detection and characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Salmonella* spp. and Food Hygiene”, Central Veterinary Laboratory, Windhoek, Namibia, October 2022. Participants: 26; 10 African countries and Italy; 18 veterinary institutions and WOAHC CC for FH;

- Italian-Tunisian Training programme on “Transmissible Spongiform encephalopathie”, in Rome and Turin, in collaboration with the National School of Veterinary Medicine, Sidi Thabet, University of Manouba, Tunisia; with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d’Aosta and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (from May 22 to 17 June 2022);
- Italian-Ethiopian training programme on “Bovine Tuberculosis”, in Naples, in collaboration with the Animal health Institute and with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Mezzogiorno (from 3 to 14 July 2022).

I. Asynchronous training courses

- Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia; Overview of the disease;
- Writing a scientific paper;
- Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control;
- Covid pandemic: the importance of veterinary cooperation;
- Analyse des Norovirus et virus de l'Hépatite A dans les denrées agro-alimentaires
- Q fever: monitoring and investigation in animals and humans living in rural areas in Africa;
- Recherche documentaire;
- RT-PCR & further Biomolecular Investigations;
- Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication plan;
- *Mycoplasma* spp. isolation and AMR detection (MIC);
- Contagious agalactia and other emerging mycoplasma diseases of ruminants;
- ELISA and Latex Agglutination Test procedures for serological diagnosis of Abs against *Mycoplasma agalactiae*;
- Introduction to NGS and Bioinformatics.

J. Support for partners/project proposals

- N° 43 SOPs and Work schemes shared with partners using the ERFAN website;
- Technical and administrative support to production of reference materials (positive sera), produced by ERFAN partners for serological diagnosis of CBPP and Brucellosis;
- Technical and administrative support to Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory, WOAHL for CBPP for conducting serological ring test on PPCB;
- Administrative support to the IZS Teramo Department of "Virology", WOAHL for WND for performing serological ring tests and PCR on WND.

K. Scouting di call for proposals, grant and procurement

- Scouting and mapping of opportunities through research on the main international and national call publication platforms;
- Drawing up the monitoring plan for calls for proposals and grants on a weekly basis;
- Weekly updating of the "Call for proposal" section within the ERFAN website.

Scientific Coordinator
Dr Massimo Scacchia

