

**Third Research Co-ordination Meeting of the FAO/IAEA Coordinated Research Project
D3. 20.20 on “The use of non-structural protein of foot-and-mouth disease virus
(FMDV) to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals”**

The meeting was held in Cebu, Philippines from 5 to 9th July 2004. Its purpose was to discuss the results obtained from different systems to assess antibodies against FMD in vaccinated and infected livestock and plan strategies based on the data for the monitoring of FMD and identification of virus disease in the face of vaccination. The research contract holders delivered country reports that were discussed during their presentations. The Agreement holders presented information on a competitive NSP assay from Geelong and Vienna Veterinary University; as well as a new platform for a test system for diagnosis; experimental results on carrier studies at the World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright; and epidemiological uses of NSP tests. Representatives of all the commercial companies involved in kit supply attended and gave papers. Experts also delivered papers on aspects of NSP testing and wider issues of assay validation; laboratory accreditation and comparative testing of kits from an EU perspective and in a major EU study, which has just been completed.

The meeting concluded that there was enough data to recommend assays as being 'fit for purpose' for many of the epidemiological needs for FMD testing for antibodies. The remaining funds for contract holders were discussed and it was decided that two major aspects should be covered to the end of the CRP in 2004. These were:

- (1) The identification, collection, initial characterization and delivery of large volumes (approximately a minimum of 500mL) antisera (various species) needed for world standards for FMD NSP testing (to be sent to Geelong and Seibersdorf laboratories for irradiation, characterisation and storage). The company Svanova agreed also to take any irradiated sera and lyophilise this free of charge in readiness for inclusion in any standards exercise in future without cost. The TO identified a source of sera produced against tissue culture derived NSP in cattle used to test 'poor' vaccines and the counterpart responsible agreed to collect such sera in future.
- (2) The comparative assessment and validation of the Competition-ELISA developed in the first technical contract with Geelong, Australia with other commercially available kits, the second contract with Geelong will be used to send kits and examine data.

All the presentations and papers were collected electronically. The publication of work in refereed journals from some contract holders was identified and the TO will produce the manuscripts. Agreements to send all data to the technical officer to produce a final report of the CRP were made.

The local organiser Ms. B. Verin and her staff as well as the Philippine veterinary organisation should receive particular thanks for their tremendous organization and generosity in holding and supporting the meeting.

Participants

Research Contract Holders	Agreement Holders
A. Braga (Brazil)	H. Unger (Austria)
K. Dyrting, (Honk Kong,China)	C. Morrissy (Australia)
W. Linchongsubongkoch (Thailand)	L. S. Christensen (Denmark)
C. Sanchez (Colombia)	S. Parida (UK)
A. M. Espinoza (Peru)	
E. Maradei (Argentina)	
M. M. Kyin (Myanmar)	
B. C. Verin (Philippines-local organiser)	
Companies	Experts
C. Egli (Bommeli Diagnostic, Intervet)	A. Dekker
M. Merza (Svanova, Sweden)	A. Colling) (CSIRO, Gellong, Australia
C.E. Jacobs (CEDI Diagnostics, Netherlands)	
A. M. Walfield (United Biomedical Incorporated, UBI-USA).	
Observers	
J.Lubroth (FAO, Rome, Italy)	
K. Sliter (USA mission, Vienna, Austria)	
R. Sodnomdarjaa (Mongolia)	
W. D. Santos	
E. F. Jones	
D. Ounpomma (Thailand)	