EPIZONE

Network on epizootic disease diagnosis and control

EPIZONE is a Network of Excellence comprising 17 institutes of veterinary science, health and agronomy, the FAO and one SME specialised in dissemination of knowledge via Internet. It brings together 12 countries, including over 350 acknowledged experts in animal disease.

The project focus on research in four areas: diagnostics, intervention strategies, epidemiology & surveillance, as well as risk assessment to enhance preparedness, prevention, control and detection of epizootics (infectious diseases that affect agriculture and aquaculture animals, resulting in economic losses along the whole animal production chain and causing food safety issues and public health concerns), through improved collaboration between these centres of research excellence.

The involvement of China and of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) give the network a global dimension and ensure that its findings can reach any veterinary scientist or farmer who could benefit from them. The tools apply to tropical epizootics as well as those of more temperate climates.

Benefits of epizone primarily concern stakeholders throughout the food supply chain but also the agriculture administrations and biotechnology companies.

Partners maintain networks worldwide, therewith linked to epizone, and most have (inter)national reference -laboratory based tasks for control of epizootics.

The project works to generate a worldwide network of institutes making expertise readily available and spreading excellence.

Given the network structure, the technical resources and the scientific excellence, epizone assures strategically driven state-of-the-art research of world-reknown quality.

Background

Epizootic diseases are infectious diseases that affect large numbers of farm and aquaculture animals. Foot-and-mouth, swine fever and avian flu are among the most well known of these animal epidemics.

They spread rapidly through herds and flocks causing public alarm and significant losses. Nearly everyone in the food supply chain is affected, from producers to consumers, as well as administrators and scientists.

Outbreaks in Europe have had enormous social and economic impact and need to be addressed across the whole production chain of animal-related food.

Effective communication and networking, mobilising the efforts of the top scientists in this field, will be essential to the detection and control of epizootic diseases.

European Research Area

Objectives

The objective of EPIZONE is to improve research on preparedness, prevention, detection, and control of epizootics by improvement of excellence through collaboration.

Results / Impact

Project under execution.

EPIZONE is expected to have the following long-term socio-economic impact:

- Its vertical integration of expertise will support the EU's fork-to-farm approach to food safety;
- It will improve the health of Europe's citizens by producing more quality meat and poultry products;
- It will improve the health and welfare of Europe's farm animals and reduce culling of healthy animals;
- It will minimise economic losses throughout the food chain;
- It will increase public confidence in farm produce.

For more information, please visit the website: http://www.epizone-eu.net

Or contact the project coordinator:

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Partners:
Central Institute for Animal Disease Control (NL), Friedrich-Loeffer Institute (DE), Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory (UK), Veterinary Laboratories Agency (UK), Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (FR), National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of denmark (DK), Statens Veterinarmedicinska Anstalt (SE), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (FR), Centre of Animal Health, National Institute for Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (ES), Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IT), Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute CAAS (China), National Veterinary Research Institute (PL), FMD Institute Ankara (Turkey), Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, VAR-CODA-CERVA (BE), Hannover Veterinary School (DE), Istituto Zooprofilatico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna Brescia (IT), Harbin Veterinary Research Institute CAAS (China), FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (IT), Digital Value Internet Professionals (NL)