



Works shop summary reports 2018-2019

Four workshops were funded during the previous call (2018-2019) and three reports have been received from Caroline leMarechal, Agnetha Hofhuis and Christopher Nichols.

WS_01_LeMarechal

Risks associated with animal botulism and ANIBOTNET final meeting

OBJECTIVE: The aims of the workshop were:

- To discuss the public health risks when considering botulism
- To disseminate the results obtained during the ANIBOTNET project to other European research teams that were not involved in the project and to stakeholders
- To strengthen and enlarge the existing research network



REPORT: Botulism is a neuroparalytic disease caused by botulinum toxins (BoNT), mainly produced by *Clostridium botulinum*. BoNTs affect both humans and animals worldwide. Botulism is included in the B list of zoonosis and zoonotic agents. It is a rare illness but extremely serious

in humans. Outbreaks in animals induce large mortalities and huge economic loss. On a worldwide basis, it is the most significant disease of migratory birds.

In a One Health perspective, the objectives of the workshop were to dedicate a session on risks associated with animal botulism and to allow the enlargement and connection of the existing network to research groups working on human botulism.

A two days' Workshop focused on botulism was held at ANSES in Maisons-Alfort in France from the 28th to 29th of March 2019.

Fifty-eight participants from 14 countries attended the workshop on risks associated with animal botulism. Fifteen oral communications and 27 posters were presented. Five eminent researchers working on *Clostridium botulinum* presented their results during the first half-day. This first session was followed by a session dedicated to anaerobic digestion in biogas plants and potential risks associated to botulism. It was composed of 3 presentations. The second day was dedicated to the dissemination of ANIBOTNET project results and discussion about future projects and publications.

This fruitful workshop was the opportunity to bring together people from very different backgrounds (researchers, PhD students, risk officers and managers, veterinarians, epidemiologists) allowing very constructive discussions on various topics related to botulism.

WS_02_Hofhuis

2nd HEVnet network meeting

OBJECTIVE:

During the second HEVnet meeting, we aimed to:

- 1) consolidate this new network collaboration, and recapitulate HEVnet achievements of the first year;
- 2) exchange ideas on new research activities, funding opportunities, ways to advertise HEVnet, and alignment to existing programmes such as the "EJP One Health" and possibly future initiatives such as "Horizon2020"; identify needs for further harmonization, e.g. HEV detection and subtyping.



REPORT:

Realisation & outputs of aim 1:

- 80% of the invited HEVnet members attended the meeting.
- Participants were encouraged to share their knowledge during the presentations and plenary discussions, and there was time to meet each other in person outside the meeting.

- Preliminary results of analyses with data were shared and discussed.

Realisation & outputs of aim 2:

- Collaborations with other projects were briefly discussed (e.g. JIP1-ORION & OHEJP candidate "BIOPIGEE").
- The network identified the need for several HEVnet working groups, e.g. into:
 - o Harmonisation of the classification and nomenclature of HEV genotypes and subtypes.
 - o WGS and NGS
 - o Extraction methods for HEV detection
 - o Molecular epidemiology of HEV gt3

Realisation & outputs of aim 3:

The RIVM-HEVnet team will commence an online environment (e.g. Google Drive) to facilitate:

- a transparent and clear overview on who is doing what.
- sharing of plans for analysis of HEVnet data, and information on collaborations with other projects (e.g. JIP1-ORION & OHEJP candidate "BIOPIGEE").

initiation of working groups within the HEVnet network, and sharing of laboratory protocols.

WS_04_Nichols Disinfection and foodborne zoonoses: A whole food chain approach

OBJECTIVE: To bring together a group of international experts in the field of disinfection and biocides across the whole food chain. To discuss best practice, emerging threats, solutions and biosecurity. The focus will be on how disinfectants and biocides can best be used to tackle foodborne zoonoses at the farm, during slaughter, during processing and beyond.



REPORT: This workshop on disinfection and foodborne zoonoses successfully brought together a group of international experts to present, discuss and synthesise new concepts relating to disinfection, in addition to providing the opportunity to review more traditional approaches. A range of institutions and nationalities were represented with delegates attending from ten different countries. The international element of the workshop was also reflected in the expert speakers that it attracted, who were drawn from a broad range of disciplines including academia, government research agencies, industry and expert bodies. The agenda ensured the aim of approaching the problem from a 'whole food chain' perspective was achieved, as topics progressed from addressing the principles of microbicides, through disinfectant use in a farm environment and on to such diverse areas as feed mills, hatcheries, aquaculture, abattoirs, food processing and the role of industry and regulation. In addition to this range of well-received presentations, the workshop concluded with a panel discussion. The result of which was the identification of knowledge gaps and also prioritisation of the direction of future work on best practice disinfection to tackle foodborne zoonoses across the food chain. Diverse outputs are already being realised from the workshop. The presentations have been circulated to attendees as a learning tool and there are plans for future related workshops to tackle the issue with more focussed stakeholders such as industry and including end-users such as farmers. A follow-up collaboration with the University of Surrey is also in progress to examine the ergonomics of disinfectant use.