



D7.3 Short-term visit programme report



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D7.3
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National Veterinary Institute



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China Animal Disease Control Center



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Introduction

This task aims to bring together interested European and Chinese scholars, researchers and other stakeholders identified in the project. Four short-term academic visits will be organized under LinkTADs framework between EU member states and China in order to deepen the knowledge about each other's organisations, regarding aspects such as research interests, conditions and goals. The short-term visits will serve as bases for establishing further collaboration activities.

Between the 6th and 14th of April, three researchers from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC; Drs Guillaume Fournié, Bryony Jones and Timothée Vergne) visited the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) in Qingdao (China) under the LinkTADs short-term visit programme.

Guillaume Fournié is currently involved in several epidemiology projects focusing on avian influenza (AI), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), and the role of live animal trade in the global spread of animal and zoonotic diseases.

Bryony Jones is a veterinary epidemiologist working on the epidemiology and socio-economic impact of PPR in the Afar Region of Ethiopia.

Timothée Vergne is working on the surveillance and the transmission of animal infectious diseases with a particular interest on African swine fever (ASF) and AI.

The specific objectives of that short-term visit were:

- To contribute to the LinkTADs epidemiology workshop organised by CAHEC;
- To visit the CAHEC laboratory and exchange research interests with scientists from CAHEC;
- To assist CAHEC and RVC to deliver the FETPV training.

Specific activities

LinkTADs epidemiology workshop

On the 9th and 10th of April, CAEHC organised the first LinkTADs epidemiology workshop under work package 3 (WP3). The aim of the workshop was to propose collaborations between EU and Chinese partners and to set up new research projects aimed to fill the main knowledge gaps on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) and transboundary animal diseases (TADs) identified as priorities to both the EU and China by LinkTADs partners. The three RVC scientists participated actively in seven different discussion groups as follows:

- Guillaume Fournié: AI, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), ASF and PPR
- Bryony Jones: AI, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), bovine tuberculosis (bTB) and PPR
- Timothée Vergne: classical swine fever (CSF), AMR, bTB and PPR.

During the workshop, RVC scientists had numerous opportunities to interact with Chinese scientists from CAHEC but also from other Chinese research institutes such as the Chinese Animal Disease Control Centre (CADC) from Beijing, the veterinary research institutes of Harbin and Shanghai from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), and the Agricultural University of Huazhong (HZAU).

As a main outcome of the workshop, research project proposals were developed. The RVC scientists were particularly involved in those on AI, PPR and CSF.

Visit of the CAHEC laboratory and exchange of research interests

On the 13th April, a meeting was held in CAHEC to further discuss the AIV and PPR epidemiological situation in China, and potential collaborations between RVC and CAHEC. Kang Jingli, Li Yin, Li Lin, Jiang Wenming (CAHEC), Timothée Vergne, Bryony Jones and Guillaume Fournié (RVC) attended the meeting. Jiang Wenming gave a presentation about current virological research being conducted on AIVs in CAHEC, and Li Lin gave an overview of the epidemiology of PPR in China. Bryony Jones and Guillaume Fournié presented the work conducted at the RVC on PPR and AIVs, respectively. CAHEC researchers were very interested in methods that have been used by RVC researchers to analyse and model the networks shaped by the commercial movements of live animals. The possibility to organise training on

mathematical modelling and network modelling in China, as well as to develop joint research projects to apply these tools on data collected by CAHEC was discussed.

Assisting CAHEC and the RVC in delivering the FETPV

On the 7th and 8th of April, Timothée Vergne taught epidemiology to the 3rd Chinese FETPV cohort at CAHEC together with Professor Javier Guitian (RVC). During these two days, he had the opportunity to visit the CAHEC facilities and exchange experience and research interests with the FETPV trainees and various scientists of CAHEC, such as Drs Wang Youming, Kang Jingli and Li Yin. On the 9th of April, trainees of the FETPV were invited to join and participate to the LinkTADs workshop (group discussions on AMR and PRRS).

Conclusions

During this short-visit, the development of joint research projects on a range of animal and zoonotic diseases was discussed. Further discussions between CAHEC and RVC will continue in order to explore the possibility (i) to organise advanced training in China on epidemiological methods, and (ii) for the RVC to provide support for the analysis of data collected by CAHEC (especially regarding the commercial movements of small ruminants and live poultry, and their impact for the spread and maintenance of PPRV and AIVs, respectively).