



# **AFRICAN SWINE FEVER LABORATORY TWINNING PROJECT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PIRBRIGHT INSTITUTE**

3rd Virtual ASF Coordination Meeting

25 August 2021

*"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"*



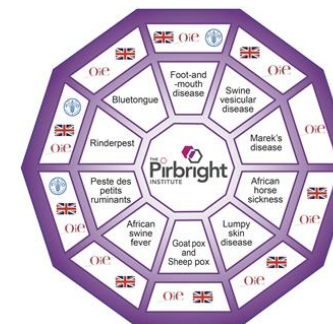


World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health



## ASF Twinning Project

*Building Capacity for African Swine  
Fever (ASF) Diagnostics in the  
Philippines*



*"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"*





# Overall Project Plan Description

- The project will enhance laboratory capacity for diagnosis of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) within the Philippines through training of diagnostic methodologies that are based on OIE standards and guidelines and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Quality Management Standard.
- ADDRL will work towards implementation of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Quality Management Standard.
- The project is intended to build and strengthen the diagnostic capacity for ASFV through the training of the National and the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories
- Length of Project: 2 years (1 January 2021 – 31 December 2022)





# Overall Project Plan Description

## *Project Main activities*

- Training visits between two laboratories
  1. On-site training of ADDRL staffs by Pirbright experts in ASFV diagnostic technique and health, safety, biosafety and Quality Management related to safe handling of ASFV.
  2. ADDRL staffs will attend training course and additional laboratory based trainings at TPI.
  3. TPI experts to visit ADDRL to give advice on disease control (epidemiology, surveillance and control strategies) providing relevant “in-house” training.
- An ASFV sample bank will be established at ADDRL
- Initiation of recognition of ADDRL to become an OIE Reference Laboratory on ASFV diagnosis in Southeast Asia.



# Project objectives

1. Enhance capacity of ADDRL to undertake molecular and serological diagnostics for ASF
2. Develop capacity to perform virus isolation/haemadsorption (HAD) assay and other OIE recognized diagnostics methods for ASF
3. Establish an ASFV bank at ADDRL







# Project objectives

4. Establish and publish collaborative research work on molecular characterization of Philippine ASFV isolates
5. Establish the ability to analyse appropriate ASFV sequence data
6. Establish and maintain a system of QA for ASFV and other diagnostic assays in line with ISO/IEC 17025 standards
7. Develop capacity to evaluate new/commercial diagnostic tests for ASF





# The Pirbright Institute (TPI)

## *(Parent Institute)*

The Pirbright Institute is a world leading centre of excellence in research and surveillance of virus diseases of farm animals and viruses that spread from animals to humans.

- *Working to contain, control and eliminate economically and medically important diseases*
- *Contributing to global food security and health, improving quality of life for animals and people*
- *Combination of highly innovative fundamental and applied bioscience*
- *Approximately 425 staff and students*
- *One site – 30 minute train to London*

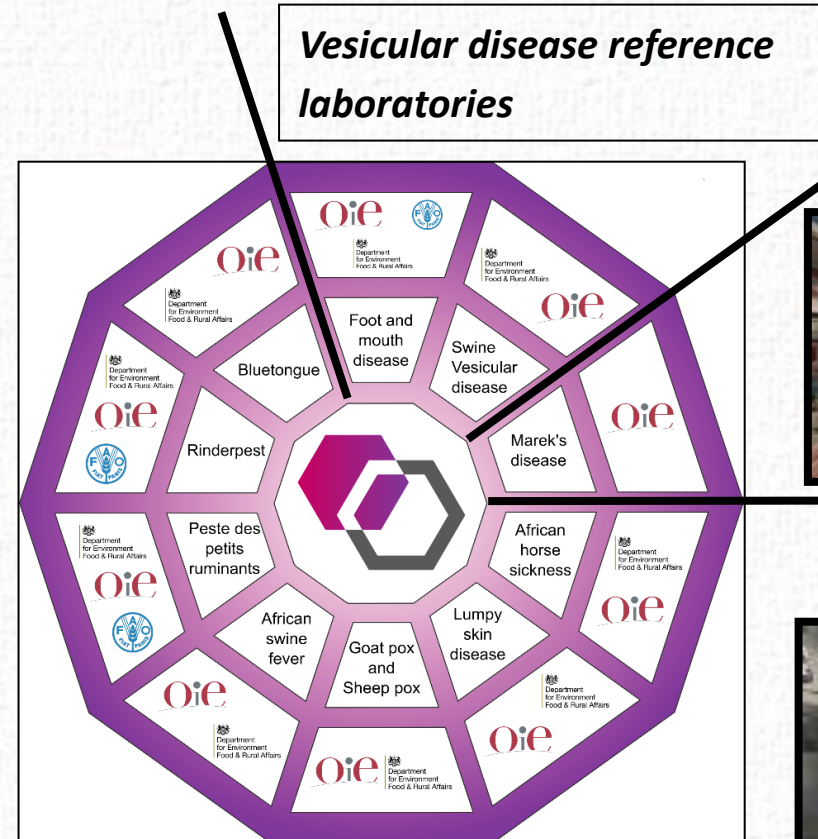
OIE Reference Centre



# Reference Laboratories at TPI



*Non-vesicular disease  
reference laboratories*







# Reference Laboratories at TPI

- Diagnosis/confirmatory testing – 50 samples/year/country
- Technical advice/diagnostic support: ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation
- Real-time PCR, serology, HAD, virus isolation and virus characterisation (NGS pipeline established).
- Support for laboratory contingency planning
- Participation (and supply) of PT panels
- Reagent supply
- Research collaborations leading to high impact scientific publications





# Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL), *Partner Institute*

- Veterinary Laboratory Division-Bureau of Animal Industry
- National and Reference laboratory of the Department of Agriculture
- BSL 2 facility with some BSL 3 practices and features
- Technical lead of 15 Regional Laboratories
- Located in Quezon City, Manila







# Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL), *Partner Institute*

## Services:

- Diagnostic services
- Laboratory trainings for DA veterinary diagnostic laboratory
- Technical assistance to regional and other government and private diagnostic laboratories
- Accreditation of government and Non-government veterinary diagnostic laboratories
- Support in registration of diagnostic kits (kit validation)
- Research collaboration
- On the job trainings for veterinary students



# Project activities

- Kick off virtual meeting - June 10, 2021







# Project activities

- Kick off virtual meeting - June 10, 2021

## Attendees

- Dr. Ronello Abila, OIE Sub Regional Representative for SEA
- Dr. Karma Rinzin, OIE, Regional Animal Health Coordinator
- Dr. Mariana Marana, OIE Laboratory Twinning Coordinator
- Dr Carrie Batten – Head of NVRL, The Pirbright Institute (TPI)
- Dr Linda Dixon – OIE ASFV expert
- Dr Chris Netherton – ASFV vaccinology expert
- Dr. Reildrin Morales - Officer-In-Charge, Director, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
- Dr. Edna Felipe - Officer-In-Charge, Chief, Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD-BAI)
- Dr. Rachel Azul - Head, Animal Disease Diagnosis & Reference Lab (ADDRL-VLD)
- Dr. Sam Castro- Head, BAI ASFV Task Force
- Other TPI and BAI personnel involved in the project

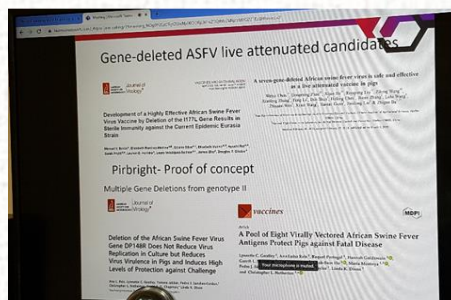


# Project activities

- Kick off virtual meeting - June 10, 2021

## Aims:

- Introduction of partner institutions- TPI and ADDRL
- TPI shared current information on ASFV
- OIE reported ASFV situation in the region
- BAI reported ASFV situation in the Philippines
- Discussed the twinning project workplan and how to push through with the planned activities under the current constraints







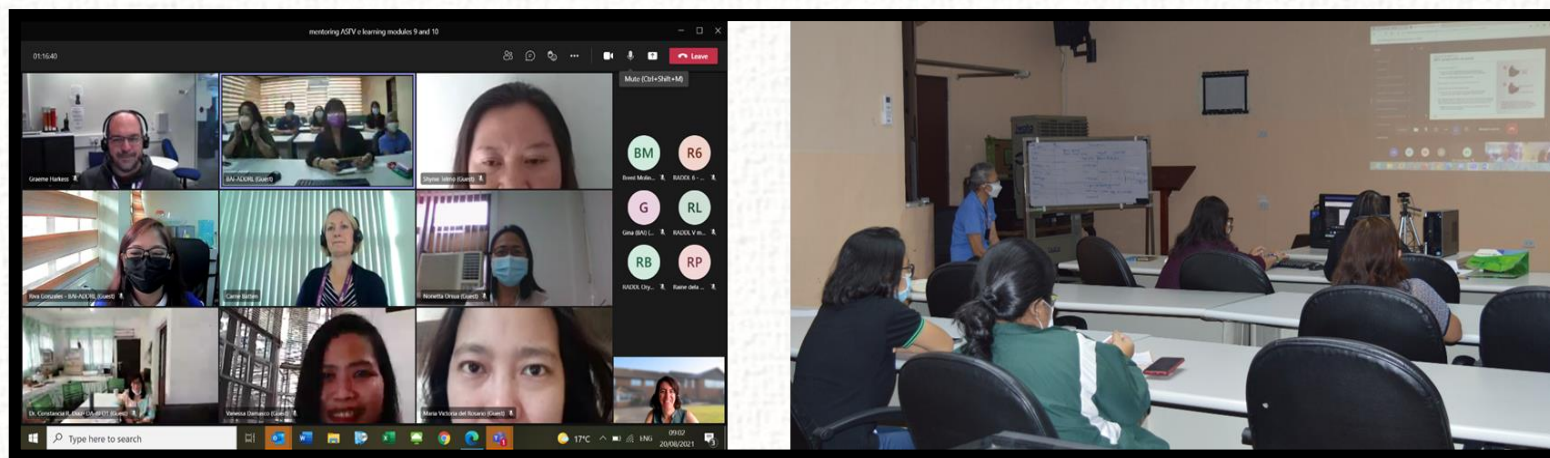
# Project activities

## 2. ASF E-Learning Course

**Duration:** July 19 to August 24, 2021

**Mechanics:** Consisted of 10 modules on ASFV, with mentoring sessions for every batch of module sets

**Participants:** 31 technical staff from BAI and the 15 RADDLs







# Project Workplan

## Activity 1

Gap analysis (might be addressed remotely)

Training 1 : ASFV Training course at Pirbright

( depends on the COVID 19 pandemic situation)

## Activity 2

Shipping of laboratory & ASFV reference materials to ADDRL

## Activity 3

OIE ASFV expert and research group leader visit to ADDRL

(might schedule Gap analysis during this time)

Training 2: ASFV molecular techniques training for ADDRL & RADDLs

## Activity 4

Sample bank establishment at ADDRL





# Project Workplan

## Activity 5

Determination of VI & sequencing capabilities of ADDRL

## Activity 6

Work towards recommendations outlined in gap analysis

Training 3: ASFV sequencing at Pirbright

Training 4: QA and Health, safety and biosafety at BAI

## Activity 7

Final workshop

## Activity 8

Shipping of ASFV proficiency panels to ADDRL

## Activity 9

Initiation of accreditation process of ASFV tests

# Thank you for your attention.



Edna A. Felipe, DVM  
Presenter

*"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"*

