

CLIMADE AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES – WEEK 8

Host: Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)

Date: April 04, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Facilitators: Dr Eduan Wilkinson, Dr Monika Moir, and Dr Houriiyah Tegally

Attendance/ No. of Participants: 71

Start time: 12:06 p.m. (SAST)

Purpose of the meeting

Analysis and classification tools for Rift Valley Fever Virus

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and update by Dr Monika Moir.
2. Presentation: Genomic Classification for Rift Valley Fever Virus by Dr John Juma from the International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya.
3. Questions and Discussion

Discussion points and questions

1. Welcome and introductions by Dr Monika Moir
2. Dr John Juma presented Genomic Classification for Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV) that covered:
 - Background and Current RVF outbreaks.
 - Lineage assignment of RVFV and the lack of available genomic data.
 - Setting up the lineage assignment tool using the genomic data from NCBI, Highlighting the lack of genomic data available in Africa for RVFV.
 - RVFV lineage circulation in Africa, with lineage C dominating most of Africa and the middle east regions.
 - Dr John Juma discussed how the team had evaluated the tool on the command line and on Genome Detective.

- The tools can be used for lineage assignment, characterizing and tracking circulating RVFV for genomic surveillance.
 - Recombinant sequences based on literature were excluded during the development of the tool.
 - Future plans regarding updating of the tool once there are more genomes available to help refine the assignment and classification.
 - The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya are currently sequencing and performing routine RVFV surveillance and has collaborated with countries such as Rwanda and Burundi for RVFV sequencing.
 - The tool can be used for both short and long reads (input files).
 - Dr Monika Moir requested a tutorial on how to use the RVF assignment tool.
3. ILRI collaboration requests and enquiries can be directed to Dr J.Juma (J.Juma@cgiar.org) or Dr Samuel O Oyola (s.oyola@cgiar.org)
 4. Future discussions on sharing protocols for vector- host sequencing.

Adjournment and Closing points.

1. Dr Monika Moir adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m. (SAST).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Submitted by: Yajna Ramphal

Approved By: Monika Moir