

CLIMADE AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES – WEEK 5

Host: Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)

Date: March 07, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

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

Attendance/ No. of Participants: 90

Start time: 12:02 p.m. (SAST)

Purpose of the meeting

- To provide details required for drawing up a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) with one of the regional laboratories in Africa (CERI, ACEGID and ILRI).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome
2. Presentation: Update on questionnaire response by Dr Monika Moir.
3. Presentation: Requirements and details for setting up a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) by Mrs. Suzette Grobler.
4. Setting up a CLIMADE AFRICA dedicated webpage by Dr Eduan Wilkinson and Dr Houriiyah Tegally.

Discussion points and Questions

1. Welcome and agenda briefing – Dr Eduan Wilkinson
2. Update on questionnaire response received from participating laboratories and institutes, highlighting:
 - The provisional list of contributing authors (including the verification of names and affiliations).
 - List of Institute leaders.
 - Arbovirus occurrence and national surveillance programs based on survey response.

- Countries that are currently sequencing arboviruses
 - Countries that have stored arboviral samples.
 - South African National Health Act regulating the import and export of samples.
3. Mrs. Suzette Grobler provided details for a Material Transfer Agreement for samples that will be sent for sequencing at one of the regional laboratories in Africa based on the South African National Health Act #61 of 2003 framework and ethical clearance requirements for the University of Stellenbosch.
 - No samples may be imported without an import permit and should be underpinned by the material transfer agreement that has been negotiated between legal departments of the two institutes.
 - A description of the quantity, sample type, place of origin, research project and potential use of the material should be provided.
 - Finalization of MTA and import permits can take up to a minimum of 2 to 3 months.
 4. Dr Richard Lessels from CERI-KRISP highlighted that templates and regulations for the shipment of samples may vary in each country.
 5. ACEGID and ILRI have been requested to share the MTA requirements for shipment of samples.
 6. Countries that have an existing MTA with CERI for SARS-CoV-2 will require a new MTA to be drawn up for other pathogens.
 7. Whole genome sequencing will be done at regional laboratories, local laboratories are requested to share partial and whole genome sequencing data.
 8. Joana from Angola stated an increase in ZIKA and CHIKV incidences in the country including co-infections and has requested to capacity building training to increase sequencing and genomic surveillance.
 9. Local laboratories are requested to share their sequencing data through public databases such as GenBank and Virus Pathogen Database and Analysis Resource (ViPR)
 10. The setting up of a CLIMADE AFRICA webpage will be discussed in the next CLIMADE AFRICA meeting.
 11. International Bioinformatics & Virus Evolution & Molecular Epidemiology (VEME) and SARS-CoV- 2 Workshop and Training hosted by CERI were discussed.
 - VEME will take place in August 2023
 - Applications are now open and will close on April 1, 2023.
 - Institutes are limited to one participant per module.

- Fellowships and seats for African participants are available.
- Applications for the SARS-CoV-2 Workshop in April closed March 7, 2023.

Adjournment and Closing points.

1. Request for laboratories and research institutes to complete the questionnaire.
2. Dr Eduan Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 13:01 p.m. (SAST).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Agenda: An update on the results from the phylogenetics and transmission dynamics of all the viruses in Africa presented by Dr Houriiyah Tegally.

Submitted by: Yajna Ramphal

Approved By: