



OUTPUTS OF IQLS ASSESSMENT

WORKING GROUP MEETING

Laboratory system governance and leadership

Laboratory structure, organization, and regulation

15 December 2021



OBJECTIVE

This presentation aims at highlighting

- ❑ Outputs
- ❑ Gaps
- ❑ Recommendations

from assessment done by IQLS in the area of ***Laboratory system governance and leadership and Laboratory structure, organization, and regulation***





IQLS[®] SCORING

Laboratory system governance and leadership		59%
Laboratory system coordination mechanism	0%	←
Laboratory policy and strategic plan	63%	
Laboratory services funding	73%	
Veterinary inspection	100%	
Laboratory structure, organization and regulation		62%
Laboratory system structure	33%	←
Reference laboratories organization	79%	
Priority Disease Specific Reference Laboratories	74%	
Regulated diseases and notification	70%	
Laboratory network (s)	43%	←
Specimen referral system	58%	
Laboratory regulation mechanism	73%	



Laboratory system coordination

There is no veterinary laboratory coordinating unit existing in the country to manage and develop the animal health laboratory system in Cambodia

Actually, the veterinary lab system is limited in Cambodia, it includes:

- **NAHPRI** the only reference laboratory
- RUA lab
- PNCA /Prek Leap National College of Agriculture
- Kampong Cham National Institute of Agriculture (KNIA)
- *5 provincial labs to be established under WB support in Siem Reap, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Battambang and Takeo*



Laboratory policy and strategic plan

- There is general national strategic plan that includes veterinary laboratory development however, it does not reflect all priorities and indicators for veterinary laboratory system operation and development.
- **A national veterinary laboratory strategic plan and policy needs to be developed** to make sure they include all new priorities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has launched a five-year strategic plan (2019-2023)



Reference laboratories organization

- In spite of the fact that **there is no reference laboratory designated for priority diseases**, the NAHPRI has the capacity and tests for most of priority diseases in the country.
- There is a lack of testing for some priority diseases (Anthrax, Tularemia, Yersinia spp., CCHF, West Nile) due to absence or minimal distribution of these diseases in the country.
- However there is an official document defining the system and procedures for the designation of a national reference laboratory. For example, IPC is officially designated as reference laboratory in the country for HPAI.



Specimen referral system

- **There is no national integrated specimen referral and transport system existing in the country.**
- There is no designated national entity in charge of coordinating specimen referral systems, or national policies or guidelines on specimen referral and transport.
- However, there is a training program and a manual on handling and packaging specimens and capabilities do exist at central level to pack and ship samples internationally as per IATA requirements.
- *This will be addressed by the NTS component of SEALAB project*



Laboratory regulation mechanisms

- **No regulatory body exists in the country for veterinary / food safety laboratory services.**
- However, private or public veterinary / food safety laboratory require registration in order to operate.
- In addition, laboratory registration, professionals licensing and surveillance system mechanisms is not well-established.
- But, do private laboratories operate out of NAHPRI?



National quality infrastructure, standards and accreditation

There is no national or international laboratory quality management standard officially endorsed or adopted in Cambodia.

However, there is a national quality management certification bodies (as per ISO 9001) existing in the country,

In general, to effectively implement QMS it is necessary to establish:

- National standards body (development of national standards or endorsement of international standards),
- National policies, laws, regulations, and standards,
- National metrology institute and testing/calibration laboratories,
- Inspection bodies,
- Certification/accreditation bodies,
- EQA/PT providers,
- Training institutions,



International Health Regulations and One health Approach

- There is a sensitization program for veterinary laboratory staff on the IHR, in particular concerning the PHEIC.
- However, there is no official guideline in the country stating the role of veterinary/ food safety laboratories regarding IHR compliance.



MAIN GAPS

- Need of a national laboratory strategic plan
- Absence of national veterinary laboratory coordinating unit
- Absence of national veterinary laboratory quality policy, program, and action plan
- No national veterinary tiered laboratory network and there are no standards/ minimum activities packages (physical infrastructure, building requirements, equipment, testing methodologies and human resources) defined for each level
- No official designation of veterinary reference laboratory for priority diseases
- There is no national integrated specimen referral and transport system



RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations

- Establish national veterinary laboratory coordinating unit
- Develop and adopt reference laboratory regulatory document for priority diseases in Cambodia
- Develop and implement a program for animal disease surveillance and response (ADSR) for main notifiable/reportable priority diseases in the country including reference laboratory function
- Develop laboratory case definition for notifiable/reportable priority diseases in the country (including revision/development of SOPs)
- Develop regulations to mandate participation of veterinary laboratories in national or international EQA programs



Recommendations to be addressed by SEALAB

1. Develop a national laboratory strategic plan prioritizing all aspects
2. Define and formally adopt tiered levels for the veterinary laboratory network (physical infrastructure, building requirements, equipment, testing methodologies and human resources) for central and provincial level
3. In collaboration with MoH establish a national integrated specimen referral and transport system
4. Develop national veterinary laboratory quality policy, program, and actions to strengthen laboratory quality management system





THANK YOU!